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The circle of the horizon is the earth and sky's embrace

SKY'S EMBRACE

A Publication of Horizon Lodge, OTO



DAUGHTERS OF FORTITUDE by Orlee Andromedae, www.motherofabominations.com

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Horizon Lodge is a local body of Ordo Templi Orientis, the Order of Oriental Templars, or Order of the Temple of the East. We are located in Seattle, Washington.

The O.T.O is a hierarchical, fraternal membership organization. Our mission is to effect and promote the doctrines and practices of the philosophical and religious system known as Thelema, with particular emphasis on cultivating the ideals of individual liberty, self-discipline, self-knowledge, and universal brotherhood. To this end, we conduct sacramental and initiatory rites, offer guidance and instruction to our members and organize social and educational events.

For more information, visit our web site at <http://seattle-oto.org/>

From the Editor

In this Spring 2018 issue of *Sky's Embrace*, we are pleased once again to present the artwork of Orlee Andromedae.

Horizon Lodge continues to host a variety of lectures, classes, discussion groups, and rituals, including regular performance of the Gnostic Mass, open to the public. See our calendar at <http://seattle-oto.org/calendar/> for details. Frater Entelecheia's "Easter Ritual," a rite of rebirth and rededication to the Great Work, was performed in March of 2018 at the Horizon Lodge Temple; here we present the complete text.

Mark Dalton reviews a Japanese movie series of occult interest and with an unexpected connection to Thelema

as well as modern Wicca. Also, the pages of this issue are graced with a poem by Don Houvener.

Of special note is a project, described in these pages, by Scott Wilde to reproduce, in a form readily available, Aleister Crowley's monumental "Review of Scientific Illuminism," *The Equinox*. Although this is a foundational work of Thelema, presenting Crowley's magical system in its entirety, prices for a full set have ranged from nearly \$1000 for a used set, to \$2000, placing it out of reach of many serious students, while online versions have been of poor quality. This new presentation of high-quality reproductions available online and a high-quality but affordable hardcover print edition, is of historical importance.

RELEASED BY HORIZON LODGE O.T.O.

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An Easter Ritual

BY FRATER ENTELECHEIA

Performed at Horizon Ordo Templi Orientis

Seattle, Washington

Sol in 0° Aries : Luna in 10° Taurus : V iv

(20 March 2018, 7:22 PM e.v.)

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Nature (or Isis): A ritualist dressed in white and armed with a sword

Perfection (or Nephthys): A ritualist dressed in black and armed with a lance

Christ: Literally “The Anointed One,” a sublime being

WORKS CITED AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS:

Class A Texts:

Liber Cheth vel Vallum Abigni sub figurâ CLVI (Liber CLVI)

Liber Cordis Cincti Serpente sub figurâ םׁןׁן (Liber LXV)

Liber Liberi vel Lapidis Lazuli Adumbratio Kabbalae Aegyptiorum sub figurâ VII (Liber VII)

Liber Tzaddi vel Hamvs Hermeticvs svb figurâ XC (Liber XC)

Other Texts:

The Gospel According to Mark (Mark)

Liber XV O.T.O. Ecclesiae Gnosticæ Catholicæ Canon Missæ (Liber XV)

Liber DCCXI Energized Enthusiasm: A Note on Theurgy (Liber DCCXI)

Liber Resh vel Helios sub figurâ CC (Liber CC)

Liber Samekh Theurgia Goetia Summa Congressus Cum Daemone sub figurâ DCCC (Liber DCCC)

Even as a man ascending a steep mountain is lost to sight of his friends in the valley, so must the adept seem. They shall say: He is lost in the clouds. But he shall rejoice in the sunlight above them, and come to the eternal snows.

—Liber Porta Lucis sub figurâ X

For the beautiful is directly attended with a feeling of the furtherance of life, and is thus compatible with charms and a playful imagination. On the other hand, the feeling of the sublime is a pleasure that arises indirectly, being brought about by the feeling of a momentary check to the vital forces followed at once by a discharge all the more powerful, and so it is an emotion that seems to be no sport, but dead earnest in the affairs of the imagination.

—Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment

We fall up.

—Martin Heidegger, “On the Way to Language”

Now I the Son of Man arise
And follow—dead where Asar lies!

—Liber Pyramidos

And as regards the most lordly kind of our soul, we must conceive of it in this wise: we declare that God has given to each of us, as his daemon, that kind of soul which is housed in the top of our body and which raises us—seeing that we are not an earthly but a heavenly plant—up from earth towards our kindred in the heaven. And herein we speak most truly; for it is by suspending our head and root from that region whence the substance of our soul first came that the Divine Power keeps upright our whole body.

—Plato, Timaeus

ACT ONE: THE PILGRIMAGE

Nature and Perfection enter the foyer from the temple at exactly 7:22 PM. They stand before the crowd in the pose of rejoicing (HAI), i.e., Shu supporting the sky, facing west.

NATURE:

Hail unto thee, who art Tum in thy setting!

PERFECTION:

Even unto thee, who art Tum in thy joy!

NATURE:

Who travelst over the heavens in thy bark at the downgoing of the Sun!

PERFECTION:

Tahuti standeth in his splendor at the prow!

NATURE:

And Ra-Hoor abideth at the helm!

NATURE and PERFECTION *in unison*:

Hail unto thee from the abodes of the day! [*Liber CC, 3*]

They give the Sign of Silence.

NATURE:

I am the Heart; and the Snake is entwined
About the invisible core of the mind.

PERFECTION:

Rise, O my snake! It is now is the hour
Of the hooded and holy ineffable flower.

NATURE:

Rise, O my snake, into brilliance of bloom
On the corpse of Osiris afloat in the tomb!

PERFECTION:

O heart of my mother, my sister, mine own,
Thou art given to Nile, to the terror Typhon!

NATURE:

Ah me! but the glory of ravening storm
Enswathes thee and wraps thee in frenzy of form.

PERFECTION:

Be still, O my soul! that the spell may dissolve
As the wands are upraised, and the æons revolve.

NATURE:

Behold! in my beauty how joyous Thou art,
O Snake that caresses the crown of mine heart!

PERFECTION:

Behold! we are one, and the tempest of years
Goes down to the dusk, and the Beetle appears.

NATURE:

O Beetle! the drone of Thy dolorous note
Be ever the trance of this tremulous throat!

PERFECTION:

I await the awaking! The summons on high

NATURE and PERFECTION *in unison*:

From the Lord Adonai, from the Lord Adonai! [*Liber LXV, I:1*]

NATURE:

Where is now the Master? [*Liber LXV II:35*]

PERFECTION:

He is dead. He is dead! He is shamed! He is wedded! But the Master shall have had his reward. [*Liber LXV II:35-36*]

NATURE:

How many days has it been?

PERFECTION:

Two whole days have passed since the death and burial of the Master.

NATURE:

What is the custom?

PERFECTION:

That we should make our way to the place of burial to anoint his body. For as it is said, "And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. [*Mark 16:1*]"

NATURE:

The stone will be heavy. How shall we move it?

PERFECTION:

We will use the magic taught to us by the Master.

NATURE:

Come then. The Sun has set. If we are quick, we may arrive at the tomb by the midnight hour of the Sun.

NATURE leads the congregation into the temple, followed by PERFECTION.

ACT TWO: THE ANOINTING

Dim light in the temple as congregation is admitted. In the west is a tomb covered with four veils: citrine, russet, olive, and black. Before the tomb are two pillars on top of which is a burning cauldron. In the east, the veil is drawn over the dais. After all are seated, NATURE and PERFECTION enter. They make five circumambulations of the temple, deosil, to symbolize the passing of five hours. Lights go out, temple only lit by fire in cauldrons. They face north in the sign of Auramoath:

NATURE:

Hail unto thee, who art Khephra in thy hiding!

PERFECTION:

Even unto thee, who art Khephra in thy silence!

NATURE:

Who travelst over the heavens in thy bark at the midnight hour of the Sun!

PERFECTION:

Tahuti standeth in his splendor at the prow!

NATURE:

And Ra-Hoor abideth at the helm!

NATURE and PERFECTION *in unison*:

Hail unto thee from the abodes of the evening! [*Liber CC, 4*]

They give the Sign of Silence.

NATURE and PERFECTION examine the tomb in the west. Nature attempts to remove the stone covering from the tomb but cannot.

NATURE:

Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? [*Mark 16:3*]

PERFECTION:

Let us try the magic taught to us by the Master.

Perfection performs the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram. With each divine name vibrated, Nature is able to remove one of the four veils covering the tomb.

NATURE:

It worked! I have removed the stone!

Examining the corpse.

But this is strange. I see no wounds on the body of the Master. Yet was he not slain by his enemies?

PERFECTION:

It is a thing I could not reveal until now. The Master said, "My own soul bites into itself, like a scorpion ringed with fire." [*Liber VII, III:41*] And then he took his own life.

NATURE:

But why?

PERFECTION:

He used to say, “Thou hast health; slay thyself in the fervour of thine abandonment unto Our Lady.” [*Liber CLVI, 9*]
... Come. Let us anoint the Master’s corpse the way we were taught.

Perfection breathes on the nostrils of the corpse.

Every breath, every word, every thought, every deed is an act of love with Thee. [*Liber VII V:22*]

NATURE:

Then was the countenance of all time darkened, and the true light shone forth. [*Liber VII IV:25*]

Nature flashes a light (ignites a small piece of flash paper) in the face of the corpse.

PERFECTION:

Adonai spake yet again with V.V.V.V.V. and said:

Whispers this next part in the ear of the corpse so that it is inaudible to the congregants:

The earth is ripe for vintage; let us eat of her grapes, and be drunken thereon. [*Liber LXV I:50*]

NATURE:

I remember a certain holy day in the dusk of the year, in the dusk of the Equinox of Osiris, when first I beheld Thee visibly; when first the dreadful issue was fought out; when the Ibis-headed One charmed away the strife. [*Liber VII VII:15*]

NATURE kisses the corpse.

“I remember Thy first kiss, even as a maiden should. Nor in the dark byways was there another: Thy kisses abide.”
[*Liber VII VII:16*]

PERFECTION:

PERFECTION presents the lance to the corpse.

These loosen the swathings of the corpse; these unbind the feet of Osiris, so that the flaming God may rage through the firmament with his fantastic spear. [*Liber VII VII:3*]

NATURE:

With a piece of charcoal, draws “666” on the shroud of the corpse.

For this the covenant of resurrection. [*Liber XV*]

PERFECTION:

The body is weary and the soul is sore weary and sleep weighs down their eyelids; yet ever abides the sure consciousness of ecstasy, unknown, yet known in that its being is certain. O Lord, be my helper, and bring me to the bliss of the Beloved! [*Liber LXV, IV:29*]

NATURE:

I came to the house of the Beloved, and the wine was like fire that flieth with green wings through the world of waters. I felt the red lips of nature... [*Liber LXV, IV:30-31*]

PERFECTION:

...and the black lips of perfection. [*Liber LXV IV:31*]

NATURE:

Like sisters they fondled me their little brother; they decked me out as a bride; they mounted me for Thy bridal chamber. [*Liber LXV IV:31*]

They replace the veils on the tomb but this time with the reverse sides up, which are emerald green. Upon each is one of four Hebrew letters: Aleph, Dalet, Nun, and Yod.

PERFECTION:

And the Lord Adonai is about it on all sides like a Thunderbolt, and a Pylon, and a Snake, and a Phallus, and in the midst thereof he is like the Woman that jetteth out the milk of the stars from her paps; yea, the milk of the stars from her paps. [*Liber LXV, V:65*]¹

NATURE:

The moon has set, and the way back is dark. Let us rest here until dawn.

The ritualists put out the fires and go to sleep.

Temple is pitch black.

Atmospheres by György Ligeti plays.

*In the dark, the covering of the tomb is torn away and scattered, and CHRIST comes out and moves into position in front of the tomb.*²

1) A (Thunderbolt, air) + D (Pylon, fire) + N (Snake, water) + I (Phallus, earth) = ADONAI (Lord, Holy Guardian Angel, Augoeides, Daimon, etc.). ADNI adds up to 65. The Star (Heh = 5) introduced in the midst gives us ADHNI, which adds up to 70, the value of Ayin (All-Seeing Eye of Horus, depicted in Atu XVI as the Great Destroyer), attributed to Atu XV, Lord of the Gates of Matter, i.e., Satan, Baphomet, Pan. One is freed from the death of ordinary existence through union with the Angel. From the perspective of the uninitiated, the adept dies to the ordinary world, commits "suicide," i.e., rejects convention, becomes a Monster, etc. The Angel orients the Adept toward that which is most Holy. To the uninitiated, it looks like the Adept is upside down, an inversion of decency, an Antichrist. (Cf. the quote above from Plato's Timaeus.)

2) CHRIST is a sublime being, an amalgam of not only male and female but of plant, mineral, and animal. One should not be entirely sure what they're looking at when they see CHRIST, and the mind ought to reel a bit. This is symbolic of the experience of nature by a person hitherto "dead" to life and oriented only toward their own prejudices toward being. "In Christian thought, the human being's 'natural state' means what is bestowed upon humans in creation and turned over to their freedom. Left to itself, this 'nature,' through the passions, brings about the total destruction of the human being. For this reason 'nature' must be suppressed. It is in a certain sense what should not be." (Martin Heidegger, "On the Essence and Concept of φύσις.") Also, "For nature herself, more ancient than the ages / And above the gods of East and West, / Has awakened with the clang of a warrior's arms." (Friedrich Hölderlin, "And when on feast day...") Nature in its truest sense is beyond good and evil, beyond determination, even beyond divinity. It is in every way excessive.

ACT THREE: RESURRECTION

At exactly 4:12 (on the recording):

CHRIST:

I am clothed with the body of flesh; I am one with the Eternal and Omnipotent God. [*Liber LXV, 1:53*]

At 4:20 on the recording: a single piercing white light comes on over the tomb, revealing CHRIST in the pose of Osiris Slain.

After 1 second light goes out.

After 5 seconds, light comes back on, revealing CHRIST in the pose of Isis Mourning.

After 1 second light goes out.

After 5 seconds, light comes back on, revealing CHRIST in the pose of Apophis/Typhon.

After 1 second, light goes out.

After 5 seconds, light comes back on, revealing CHRIST in the pose of Osiris Risen.

After 1 second, light goes out.

After a pause, a single white light illuminates CHRIST.

NATURE wakes up, sees CHRIST, and rouses PERFECTION. At 4:47 on the recording:

NATURE and PERFECTION *Shouting chaotically, not in unison:*

EVOE HO, IACCHE! EPELTHON, EPELTHON, EVOE, IAO! [*Liber DCCXI*]

They continue shouting as CHRIST slowly crosses to the East, followed closely by NATURE and PERFECTION, who are working themselves up into a frenzy of ecstasy by now, crawling and writhing as much as walking. When they reach the veil in the East, NATURE and PERFECTION part it, revealing the throne covered in flower petals, moss, and furs. The temple is dark, and the throne is illuminated in rose light. CHRIST ascends the dais, turns and faces west.

CHRIST (*At 5:24 on the recording*):

In the name of the Lord of Initiation! [*Liber XC, 0*]

NATURE and PERFECTION:

Amen! [*Liber XC, 0*]

CHRIST:

I fly and I alight as an hawk: of mother-of-emerald are my mighty-sweeping wings. I swoop down upon the black earth; and it gladdens into green at my coming. [*Liber XC, 1-2*]

Temple is illuminated in emerald green, throne remains rose. NATURE & PERFECTION are worked up into a renewed frenzy.

NATURE and PERFECTION *in unison:*

The end of things is come upon us! [*Liber LXV, V:32*]

CHRIST:

Children of Earth! rejoice! rejoice exceedingly; for your salvation is at hand. [*Liber XC, 3*]

PERFECTION retrieves the lance and places it in the hand of CHRIST who is seated upon the throne. Both ritualists prostrate themselves before CHRIST, draping themselves over the stairs, dais, etc.

CHRIST (*At 6:27 on the recording*):

I am He, the Bornless Spirit, having Sight in the feet; strong and the immortal fire!

I am He, the Truth!

I am He, that hate that evil should be wrought in the world!

I am He, that lighteneth and thundereth!

I am He, from whom is the shower of the life of Earth.

I am He, whose mouth ever flameth!

I am He, the begetter and manifester unto the light.

I am He, the grace of the World!

The heart girt with a serpent is my name! [*Liber DCCC*]

PERFECTION:

O heart that art girt about with the coils of the old serpent, lift up thyself unto the mountain of initiation!

[*Liber LXV*, II:3]

NATURE:

Yea, Than! [*Liber LXV*, III:4]

PERFECTION:

Yea, Theli! [*Liber LXV*, III:4]

NATURE:

Yea, Lilith! [*Liber LXV*, III:4]

CHRIST:

O my children, ye are more beautiful than the flowers: ye must not fade in your season. I love you; I would sprinkle you with the divine dew of immortality. My adepts stand upright; their head above the heavens, their feet below the hells. [*Liber XC*, 40]

CHRIST rises and motions to them to rise, which they do.

NATURE, standing on CHRIST's right, gives the sign of Vir (O), as PERFECTION, standing on CHRIST's left, simultaneously gives the sign of Puer (N). CHRIST gives sign of Mulier (X).¹

ALL in unison:

HAIL UNTO THEE FROM THE ABODES OF THE NIGHT! [*Liber CC*, 1]

CHRIST:

Thus shall equilibrium become perfect. I will aid my disciples; as fast as they acquire this balanced power and joy so faster will I push them. They shall in their turn speak from this Invisible Throne; their words shall illumine the worlds. They shall be masters of majesty and might; they shall be beautiful and joyous; they shall be clothed with victory and splendour; they shall stand upon the firm foundation; the kingdom shall be theirs; yea, the kingdom shall be theirs. In the name of the Lord of Initiation." [*Liber XC*, 42-44]

NATURE and PERFECTION:

AMEN! [*Liber XV*, 44]

NATURE & PERFECTION close the veil over themselves and the throne. Lights out. House lights come up. "I Am the Resurrection" by The Stone Roses plays. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbU7oVz0Uq0>

3) O (70) + N (50) = ON (120, the Rosy Cross, Resurrection, Samekh spelled in full, The Sun in Egyptian, etc.). N + O + X = 210, reduction of duality to unity/negativity, the Great Work, the Night of Pan.

Misa Kuroi: Magical Hero!

MARK DALTON

Folks looking for an entertaining distraction with a fairly well thought out grounding in the occult could do worse (much worse, actually) than looking into the adventures of the 18-year-old Japanese hero, the sorcerer Misa Kuroi. She stars in a series of seven movies (and two Japanese television series) with Eko Eko Azarak in the title. Misa is nobody to mess with...

The title of these movies comes from a version of what has come to be a widely used “witches’ chant.” It goes like this, in its entirety:

Eko Eko Azarak

Eko Eko Zamilak

Eko Eko Cernunnos

Eko Eko Aradia

The first known reference to this chant was in a journal article by JFC Fuller (a name familiar to Thelemites) in 1921. Fuller did not cite a source for his version. Later versions surfaced in the work of Wicca founders Gerald Gardner and Doreen Valiente, and use of the chant in various forms has become common across the varieties of Wiccan practice. As with other magical practitioners, Misa uses this chant to summon up her magical powers, and the screen stories featuring her generally start and end with the chant.

Misa Kuroi’s mission in life is to do battle with harmful demons and psychopathic wizards, and to restore order when nature becomes unbalanced. She has no patience with amateurs who summon forces they cannot control, usually for selfish, often stupid reasons. She is a lonely woman as a result of her work — traveling from town to town and school to school as needed, typically showing up as a student in her modest sailor girl outfit. Her fellow students usually notice her after a while, but nobody can quite remember when this strange girl actually showed up. She stands apart, somewhat aloof, but can and will be a loyal friend to those few kids who are attracted to her cool beauty and no-nonsense approach to life. Misa is not “good” in the usual heroic sense — she is interested in order and balance, and will do what is necessary to achieve it. Misa, like magick itself, is a force of nature, existing beyond simple concepts of good and evil. If Misa reads your cards (she uses the Harris-Crowley deck, of

course!), she never sugarcoats what she sees. How you respond is your own business — even if your response is violent or self-destructive. Bad things often happen when Misa appears on the scene, and it’s not always immediately apparent whether she is the cause or the eventual solution. Sometimes she doesn’t step in until things reach a dire point, because she has little interest in saving people from themselves — her mission is restoring order, repairing rips in the veil, sending demons back to where they belong. As Mr. Spock famously repeated, “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.”

Misa Kuroi can be easily found on the web. The first three television episodes of “Eko Eko Azarak – the Series” can be watched on You Tube with English subtitles. These episodes are 24 minutes long and give you a quick introduction to the character and her magical world. This series (26 episodes on Japanese TV in 1997) is great fun. Hinako Saeki stars as Misa (she is also the star of the movie “Eko Eko Azarak III: Misa the Dark Angel”), and she is my favorite of the several actresses in the role. I lucked into DVDs of the first seven episodes of the show on Ebay, done with English subtitles as a bootleg project by some enterprising young folks. I’m guessing they got a “cease and desist letter” from the show’s actual producers after subtitling seven episodes. The TV series has never been commercially released on DVD with English subtitles, so I may never see the rest, or the second TV series either (13 more episodes done some years later). The three subtitled episodes on You Tube do look like commercial products however, so maybe someday...

As for the movies, the first three (Eko Eko Azarak: Wizard of Darkness, Eko Eko Azarak II: Return of the Wizard, and the above mentioned Eko Eko Azarak III: Misa the Dark Angel) were re-released as a three-DVD set awhile back, and can still be found for sale on the web. They are also available individually on DVD and can likely be watched online as well. I like all three of these films. The later movies, not so much. Two of them, “Eko Eko Azarak B-Page” and “Eko Eko Azarak R-Page” have not been released with English subtitles, and may never be. I didn’t think “Eko Eko Azarak IV: Awakening” was very good (as one critic said, it was “skewed more towards psychological character study and media satire... the film presents us with a Misa Kuroi who is a far cry from the avenging angel fans know and love”¹). The latest version,

1) Andrew Pragasam, <http://www.thespinningimage.co.uk/cult-films/displaycultfilm.asp?reviewid=3131>. Accessed 20 March 2018.

“Eko Eko Azarak: Misa Kuroi First Episode” was actually written and directed by Shinichi Koga, who created the original graphic novels from which the movies and TV series were derived. I found it to be something of a mess. It looked like he was trying to translate manga directly to the screen (lots of CGI) but for me, as a movie, it was confusing. Neither a good movie nor an engaging story – a disappointment.

I enjoyed the movie “Wonder Woman” which came out last year. Misa Kuroi may be an 18-year-old high school student, but she also has wisdom beyond her years, and the strength and knowledge to get the job done when destructive forces have been unleashed on the material world! Here is the complete oeuvre of Japan’s favorite young sorcerer:

Full length Movies:

Eko Eko Azarak: Wizard of Darkness (1995)

Eko Eko Azarak II: Birth of the Wizard (1996)

Eko Eko Azarak III: Misa The Dark Angel (1998)

Eko Eko Azarak IV: Awakening (2001)

Eko Eko Azarak: R-page (2006)[6]

Eko Eko Azarak: B-page (2006)[6]

Eko Eko Azarak: Kuroi Misa First Episode (2011)

Plus Two TV Shows, in 1997 (26 Episodes) and 2004 (13 Episodes)

Elemental Angel

DON HOUVENER

*She floated soft like thistle down
and whirled with Fairie wings around
an empty heart which beat forlorn
and yearned for love, so long alone.*

*Yet when I looked with keener eye
a flowr'd Crown on her head was spied!
and tiny, cloven feet had she,
in her hands were sheaves of wheat.*

*About Her spun a purple mist
that shewn as a Cup of amethyst
with eyes as black as the Sea at night
the Moon's eclipse and raven's flight.*

*But Oh! The fire of Her hair..
the sunset met wild lightening there
shewn in tresses, red as Mars
braids of sparks and ember Stars.*

*Come my Love, Oh Goddess Fair!
Of Earth and Water, Fire and Air!
To thee my Love, my Spirit flies
forever bound, my heart to thine.*

The Equinox Project

SCOTT WILDE

Arguably Aleister Crowley's most important achievement was the production of his encyclopedia of occultism, *The Equinox*. Yet copies today can run from \$900 to \$2000 for the whole set. In this article, Scott Wilde describes his work producing a high-quality edition that will be readily obtainable.

Vol. 1, No. 1 of a new edition of *The Equinox* based on new digital scans is now available for purchase at most major online book retailers. There are many different editions of *The Equinox*; this one is sold under the title "The Equinox: Keep Silence Edition, Vol. 1, No. 1" and is only available in hardcover (link: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-equinox-aleister-crowley/1128251976?ean=9781642556858>). Subsequent numbers are being prepared and will be available as fast as I can produce them. This print edition is based on the free digital edition available at <https://keepsilence.org/the-equinox>.

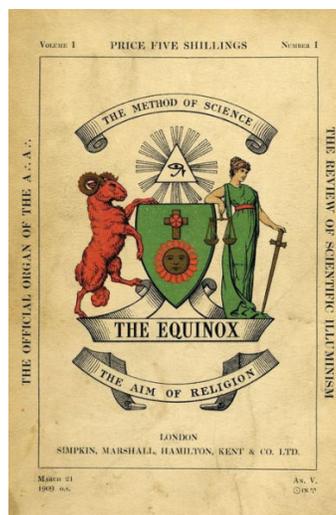
I first became interested in Thelema when I found the ASCII versions of *The Equinox* that Bill Heidrick (with help from Rusty Sporer, and Fr. H.B.) produced and distributed in the days of BBSs (now available at my good friend Robin's site <http://the-equinox.org>). As a teenager in near rural suburban Minnesota, I was amazed to be able to have access to the sort of material that would continue to inspire me even many decades later.

Heidrick's editions, while invaluable, were limited by the technology of the day, most notably he was not able to include the images and diagrams, which are so important to the understanding of the text. To compound the problem, later published editions do not reproduce these diagrams very well, some of which are quite detailed and their low quality makes it impossible to read certain bits of text. The 1972 Weiser edition, being produced from high contrast photographs of the first edition, is very nice and does not have this problem, but it is prohibitively expensive for most people. Further, certain editions, especially the ASCII editions, have many errors in the text itself.

Thus, I am very excited to be able to offer this new edition of *The Equinox*; it is a completing of a circle in a way for me. Since they are photographic scans, the reader will experience what it is like to read the actual pages of *The Equinox*, complete with accurate text and crisp high-resolution images.

To accomplish this I bought a first edition set of *The Equinox* from a collector who says that he bought them decades ago at Atlantis Bookshop in London (he is offering more books for sale over at a Facebook group "Good Books" https://www.facebook.com/groups/167789527292891/?ref=br_rs).

All of the images used to create the PDFs and print books were created by taking scans of these first editions and then digitally enhancing the black ink and removing the paper texture from the background. The images printed in half-tone are run through a special descreening process to remove the moiré patterns so often seen in digital copies, this actually reverses the original process used to print them and can result in quite a bit of detail being recovered.



This print-on-demand copy is a good reader copy; it's printed on #50 paper and the text and diagrams look very nice. If held up to an original, they look almost identical. Even the cover is a close reproduction of the original. I would eventually like to be able to offer a better quality limited edition printed version with better binding and high quality color image reproduction, but that will probably come after I've finished with all the scanning and processing work. My chief goal is to make sure this material is available for free on the internet, second to that is make sure that the print-on-demand edition is always available for cheap. A nice edition is a third, but still worthy, goal.

I'd like to thank Ordo Templi Orientis International, AMeTh Lodge in London, and Horizon Lodge in Seattle for giving me financial assistance for this project. If you'd like to contribute, see the donation page (<https://keepsilence.org/the-equinox/donate.html>), you can get access to the raw scans or even get your name (or the name of your local body) listed in all the online PDFs.

THE MAGICIAN

[TRANSLATED FROM ELIPHAZ LEVI'S VERSION OF THE
FAMOUS HYMN]

O LORD, deliver me from hell's great fear and gloom!
Loose thou my spirit from the larvæ of the tomb!
I seek them in their dread abodes without affright:
On them will I impose my will, the law of light.

I bid the night conceive the glittering hemisphere.
Arise, O sun, arise! O moon, shine white and clear!
I seek them in their dread abodes without affright:
On them will I impose my will, the law of light.

Their faces and their shapes are terrible and strange.
These devils by my might to angels I will change.
These nameless horrors I address without affright:
On them will I impose my will, the law of light.

These are the phantoms pale of mine astonished view,
Yet none but I their blasted beauty can renew;
For to the abyss of hell I plunge without affright:
On them will I impose my will, the law of light.

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Samples of the scans used for the new publication of *The Equinox* Vol. I no. 1.

Previous page: The original cover of the first volume of *The Equinox*.

Upper left: Crowley's translation of a poem by Eliphas Lévi.

Lower left: "The Silent Watcher," illustration to accompany "An Account of A.'A.'", an excerpt from Eckarthausen's *Cloud over the Sanctuary*.

Lower right: Beginning of *The Temple of Solomon King*, one of Crowley's major works. Originally serialized in *The Equinox*, it has never been published elsewhere.



PREFACE

THE QUESTION

AVE!

There must have been a time in the life of every student of the Mysteries when he has paused whilst reading the work or the life of some well-known Mystic, a moment of perplexity in which, bewildered, he has turned to himself and asked the question: "Is this one telling me the truth?"

Still more so does this strike us when we turn to any commentative work upon Mysticism, such as Récejac's "Bases of the Mystic Knowledge," or William James's "Varieties of Religious Experience." In fact, so much so, that unless we are more than commonly sceptical of the wordy theories which attempt to explain these wordy utterances we are bound to clasp hands with the great school of medical-materialism, which is all but paramount at the present hour, and dismiss all such as have had a glimpse of something we do not see as *détraqués*, degenerates, neuropaths, psychopaths, hypochondriacs, and epileptics.

Well, even if we do, these terms explain very little, and in most cases, especially when applied to mystic states, nothing at all; nevertheless they form an excellent loophole out of which the ignorant may crawl when faced with a difficulty they have not the energy or wit to surmount.

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Babble On

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Man-Being Veiled in Woman-Form

In his explanation of Atu XXI, The Universe, in *The Book of Thoth*, the Master Therion makes a cryptic comment that has puzzled many.¹

In the centre, a wheel of Light initiates the form of the Tree of Life, shewing the ten principal bodies of the solar system. But this Tree is not visible except to those of wholly pure heart.

Brother Lon Milo Duquette expresses his puzzlement in his typical comic fashion: “Crowley ... does mention something we can’t see — at least I can’t see it. ... As if I really needed the Master Therion to tell me I’m not wholly pure of heart! I’m not really surprised I can’t see his damned Tree of Life in the center of this card.”² I too pondered the meaning of Crowley’s Tree of Life remark for many years. I have recently, however, attained to the requisite purity of heart and seen this Tree of Life with my eyes. I can show it to you, too.

First, bear in mind who the author of the puzzle is. When Crowley speaks of a “pure heart,” you know he’s talking about sex, right? He means that Victorian sensibilities would be outraged.

Second, the tag “shewing the ten principal bodies of the solar system” is just a “blind” to throw you off, though it no doubt has some inner meaning; ignore it for now.

Third, take a look at the Smith-Waite deck or the Builders of the Adytum (B.O.T.A.) tarot. Both depict a naked woman with a scarf draped about her so as modestly to conceal her genital area. There was a doctrine current among Golden Dawn initiates that the figure on this atu is in fact female from the waist up and male from the waist down. The scarf is supposed to conceal a penis. Paul Foster Case makes a point of this.³ “Occult tradition says that the scarf ... conceals the fact that this is an androgyne figure.” Crowley was aware of this doctrine, as it is alluded

to in Liber DCCCXIII vel ARARITA 2:10. “I saw the Woman. ... I saw her from the head to the navel a woman, from the navel to the feet of her a man.”

Now that you know what you must be looking for, find the center of the card, to which Crowley’s remark has directed our attention. If you draw lines from the upper right corner to the lower left, and from upper left to lower right, they cross at the woman’s genital area. Unlike the scarf in the Smith-Waite and B.O.T.A. decks, the serpent does not do a good job of preserving the woman’s modesty. Notice that the color is lighter than that of her thighs; this is the “wheel of light” that “initiates the form of the Tree of Life.” It is also the scrotum of the woman’s penis. If you continue to look where the wholly pure of heart would know to look, you can see, running parallel to the woman’s belly, and reaching almost to her breast, the Tree of Life itself, shining brightly, as if made of light. It even has a little head.

You may think I have shown you a mere *trompe l’oeil*, not intended by the artist, but I assure you it is there, and you will never “un-see” it. It is even apparent in the small black-and-white reproduction in Brother Lon’s book.



1 Aleister Crowley [as The Master Therion], *The Book of Thoth, being The Equinox, Volume III no. 5*, O.T.O. London, 1944, p. 119.

2 Lon Milo Duquette, *Understanding Aleister Crowley’s Thoth Tarot*, Weiser, 2003, p. 159.

3 Paul Foster Case, *The Tarot: A Key to the Wisdom of the Ages*, Builders of the Adytum, 1947, p. 198.



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