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Sol in Virgo

Sky's Embrace

The Official Publication of Horizon Oasis O.T.O.

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ON KNOWING ALEISTER CROWLEY PERSONALLY

by Hymenaeus Alpha 777

Originally Published in the O.T.O. Newsletter Vol.2 No. 7/8 May 1979

Bill Heidrick has asked me to tell you what it was like to be under the Magickal Instruction of Aleister Crowley personally. Unfortunately this is impossible, much as I would personally like to accommodate him... and you. After all, if one cannot discuss the Secret of the IXth Degree (with its well-known "secret ingredient") except under Seal, how much less can one get into the doctrine of the Golden Pyramid of Atlantis? (What has been published by A. C. himself can be discussed — if you want some idea, take a look at the Crown of The Fool in the Thoth Tarot deck and remember the ancient adage: "The Universe is held in the Mind of God." Add the ideas of computer programming, the tanmantras and what people really mean when they say they are "maintaining.") What are the real words signified by A.'. A.'? How does one charge a set of Abramelin squares written in Enochian? And Why? And why you shouldn't! The mystery of the Virgin Man — reflect on your biblical "Woman clothed with the Sun" and reread your Kabbalah Denudata, the "Twelve Stars for her Crown" being the twelve cranial nerves of the cerebellum in the activated Psychic Body. Why should the ancient curse be, "May Choronzon burn the back of your neck!" — I'll give you a clue: the Visudha Chakra, or Da'ath in the activated Psychic Body. Or the nature of the Boat of the Sun.

It is impossible to discuss these things, except under Seal, of course, because of:

1. The Fourth Rule of the Sphinx — Silence!
2. The Magickal Penalty for the Violation of an Oath.
3. The danger... not to me, to you!

I would not care to have the karma of a Lou Culling who published certain (inaccurate) books on sex Magick. That is like handing a lighted stick of dynamite to a child for a fire cracker, or throw-

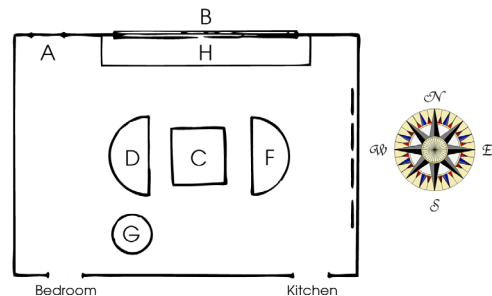
ing acid tabs to teenagers like sugar cubes to pissants. The only thing I can think of worse from a Thelemic point of view is telepathic hypnosis. You will notice that Crowley was never so irresponsible.

It has occurred to me that I am one of the few people left alive who knew Aleister Crowley at the last three places he lived: 93 Jermyn Street; The Bell Inn, Aston Clinton, Bucks, north of London; and Netherwood, the Ridge, Hastings.

So let's meet Aleister Crowley.

As I said in a previous rap (Vol. I, #4 of the O.T.O. Newsletter), 93 Jermyn Street is just off Picadilly Circus in London. As best memory serves, it is the bottom flat of a several story apartment house facing North.

This is what the interior looked like:



A is the door leading in off the street. B was a large window that lighted the place very well during the day, but at night had a black "black-out" shade on it so that no light could be seen by the German bombers we could hear patrolling overhead. C was the chess table. D and F were two comfortable chairs facing the table. I always sat in D and Crowley always sat in F. G was the round turn-table full of books down at my right — where I picked up the I Ching book with the Crowley paintings for covers. H was the two-tiered open bookcase on the North wall over under the window. The letter H itself is

about where I found the volume of Abramelin squares. It was on the top shelf. I signifies four framed line drawings in typical Crowley style that I can only describe as being "mildly erotic." They were certainly not obscene. Unfortunately the only one I can remember with any clarity was the one on the left. It featured a young lady looking down with great delight at what looked like an overgrown bush, with Crowley in oriental garb looking over her right shoulder, and the caption read something to the effect about how wonderful it was to know this young woman because "she has the world's largest cunt!" Unfortunately these drawings did not survive to be shipped to Germer after Crowley's death. I can only presume that they were ripped off.

I met Lady Frieda here, and also Dr. Louis Wilkinson. It is my impression that he was a medical doctor, but as a British author he wrote under the name of Louis Marlowe. I can't tell you what the kitchen and bedroom looked like, as I was never in either of them, but the bedroom looked pleasant and sunny enough from the living room. It is the place where a German bomb blew in the back windows one night, and, as Crowley said, if he had been home at the time he would have been killed. Crowley had an idea that he could divine a person's character rather quickly by the way he played chess. A right side opening (usually King's Pawn) meant a fast, slashing, rather reckless attack. A left side opening (usually Queen's Pawn, unless one is going in for Hyper-Modern theory where anything is possible) meant a slow, leisurely, intellectual game — and person. I tend to the right side, myself. Apparently Crowley liked that. Anyway, after about the third meeting, he said, "You are obviously IXth Degree material," and handed me the papers. It was here he told me about "my chess game," as he put it — a story he loved to tell. It was a "blind-fold" game (one in which the player does not see the board). Anyway, he went to bed with the lady of his choice at the time, while his chess opponent sat at the board within easy talking distance, but where Crowley couldn't see it. The idea was to see if Crowley could achieve climax and call "Mate!" at the same time. As he said with great delight, "I did it!"

It was also here that I asked him for help with my Motto (see previous O.T.O. Newsletter), and that the incident of the British school-boys happened. I am so used to reading freak-out accounts about how Crowley was supposedly such a bad-ass, that I was a little taken aback recently to

Continued on Page 4



"THE CIRCLE OF THE
HORIZON IS THE EARTH
AND SKY'S EMBRACE"

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HORIZON OASIS O.T.O.
<http://www.seattle-oto.org>
1423 10TH AVE
SEATTLE, WA 98122

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT
bopgun23@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sea-oto/>
<http://www.cafeshops.com/horizonoasis>
http://www.livejournal.com/community/horizon_oasis/

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read an article in which someone was trying to make him out a kindly old gentleman. Well, he certainly could be kind enough, if it struck him that way, but so far as I could tell he remained irascible to the end. Anyway, it is a habit in England for school-boys to go around in small groups at Xmas time and sing carols at your front door, and, as has been said, "they will not go away until they are paid!" Well, they did that time. Go away, that is, without being paid. We were sitting there at 93 Jermyn Street playing chess and rapping one wintery afternoon just before Xmas of '43 e.v. when we heard this raucous noise at the door. Crowley said, "I wonder what that is," in some annoyance, and went and opened the door. Here were four English school-boys bawling away. Crowley flew into a temper, slammed the door, and came storming back into the room raging, "TO THE LIONS WITH THEM! TO THE LIONS WITH THEM!" Of course if they had been singing "Oh little house of Boleskine," as someone was at a recent Crowleymas party, he might have felt differently.

Of course, it was here at Jermyn Street that Crowley gave me his (typically Crowley) view of the people of the Mediterranean. "All those people can think of is fucking!" is the way he put it — his own succinct way.

It was also here that we took off one day for lunch at some posh London restaurant. I had gotten into town in the morning, amazingly enough, or maybe I had spent the night (being a red blooded American boy) with one of the whores from Picadilly Circus (wars are fought on the unexpended virility of young men... personally, I never found any shortage of young women to help them get rid of their problem), and he decided to celebrate by treating me to a fine lunch. It was in a hotel, the Savoy, as I recall, but don't hold me to it; I remember that the doorman wore his British Army combat ribbons on his doorman's uniform. With the barrage balloons flying and all that, wartime London could be a rather exciting place. Sometime I must tell you about the Red Berets of Ord Wingate's Burma Drop, and the British Officer Club circuit. But anyway...

I got the idea that winning the Victoria Cross was a high recommendation for retiring as a doorman for a posh London hotel, but then it was wartime England. Crowley was wearing a knickered tweed suit he had specially ordered and tailored and was so proud of... he loved to show you how efficient it was... all those little pockets and things. It came complete with gravy stains, which can still be seen in photos as late as '45 e.v. from Hastings. Very important in shortage plagued war-time England, but it was very unusual looking. Anyway, as we were walking into the lobby, I was walking on the right, a rather beefy looking Englishman coming out of the Restaurant took one look at him and burst into laughter. I flushed and half turned to my left with something in mind about doing something about it ("You can't laugh at my prophet that way!"), but then I noticed that Crowley was laughing and talking and paying it no never-mind, and I suddenly flashed that it would make a rather silly headline the next day — "BERSERK AMERICAN OFFICER ASSAULTS PEACEFUL BRITISH CITIZEN AT POSH HOTEL!" — so I simmered down and we walked on into the dining room.

The reason this incident sticks in my mind is because of something that happened on the way. We had taken one of those big red double-decker buses and were sitting on the bottom level on the left about half-way. We were sitting there talking, when suddenly Crowley glanced up to the left, said "Pardon me a moment," closed his eyes, made some mystic passes with the fingers of his right hand, and mumbled something unintelligible. Unintelligible to me, anyway. It wasn't until later that I figured out that he had been doing the noon Liber Resh. The thing that is so striking is that he was so quiet about it. To hear some people talk you would think that he would have rushed up to the top deck and shouted it "from the housetops" to all of Greater London. There may have been times where he did, but he didn't do it that day.

To Be Continued...

NOTOCon 2009 Closing Remarks

Unity in Diversity

by Dvgls Jms Blk

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

A while back, I was approached and asked if I would give the closing remarks for NOTOCON. It was suggested that my experiences serving on the Electoral College might provide some interesting insights or perspectives into UNITY as we might experience it in our Holy Order.

Family

I have long held the opinion that one of the functions (from among the many facets) of our Order that Initiates may utilize is that of a Social Laboratory. This is not meant in jest. In contrast to our biological families, as Initiates of Ordo Templi Orientis, we have of our own free will and accord consciously chosen to associate with others who may be in pursuit of self-knowledge through the study and practice of Magick. We are afforded a wonderful opportunity to observe ourselves through the mirrors available in our Sisters and Brothers. I am very pleased and privileged to be able to say that OTO is my Family of Choice.

I was first Initiated into OTO through Horizon Oasis here in the Seattle area and, immediately perceived the sense of UNITY in the common bonds shared by Initiates, the common goal in Thelema to know one's Will and to perform the Great Work, and the palpable feeling of connectedness to the lineage one may find in Communion with Magical Orders and healthy institutions promoting genuine Spirituality.

Travel

The diverse locations of Chartered Bodies of our Order upon the surface of the Earth affords us myriad opportunities to personally experience and celebrate our Unity in our Diversity.

After building a firm foundation through Initiation and Fellowship with my local Sorores et Fratres, I was pleased to broaden my perspectives on our Holy Order through travelling to Local Bodies and Fellowshiping with Brethren in Oregon and California. I discovered that, in the Beauty of diversity, certain transcendental Truths receive due emphasis and are more deeply impressed upon Heart and Mind.

In 1997 the first National OTO Conference was held in Akron Ohio and I availed myself of that opportunity to further broaden my experience of UNITY through fellowship. This was most inspiring in its grand scale exemplification of diversity in Communion.

A few years later, while attending a special OTO event in New York City, I was profoundly struck by the depths of wisdom brought to light (in casual conversation) through the shared insights of Priestesses and Priests who happened to be gathered there from four different geographical regions. As diverse in opinion as were each of us, we were all nevertheless linked in the Bonds of the Order, and marveled in the Unity experienced in the validation of the unique cultural identities of our respective regions.

Shortly following that experience, joining the Electoral College struck me as a natural expansion in pursuit of such opportunities. Taking that leap proved to be truly such an opportunity.

At present the Electoral College meets in person three times per year in different cities where Local Bodies have volunteered to host our meetings. Thus, over the Eleven-year term that one serves on the Electoral College as an Elector, one has the potential possibility of travelling to 33 local bodies in addition to those in their own Valleys. I have found, and continue to find the experience of fellowship with my Sisters and Brothers across the country to be a priceless and immensely enjoyable privilege.

Diversity

At times, in our experiences with the Order we may be reminded to “*learn from the experience, both positive and negative, of other members...*”

Likewise, as we may read in Liber Librae, “The sin which is unpardonable is knowingly and willfully to reject truth, to fear knowledge lest that knowledge pander not to thy prejudices.” I personally believe that active pursuit of knowledge within our Order promotes and reinforces the Unity that we may find, enjoy and share.

Unity can be found manifesting in local bodies thriving, sustainable –providing through wholesome planning for organic succession of Officers and Mastership.

Unity manifests in a sense of belonging on a local scale within a Camp, Oasis or Lodge. It also manifests as a sense of connection with fellow initiates at home or abroad. A sense of feeling welcome and appreciated.

Shared Current

I have often marveled at the phenomenon of standing in the baggage claim area of an airport and having a Sister or Brother whom I have never before met arrive to pick me up, and upon first eye contact we sense the connection.

In service on the Electoral College itself, I have always been deeply impressed with the sense of having a unified goal in service to our Order. With that mutual understanding on the College there is the freedom (in our deliberations) to express our views, offer our unique perspectives and insights and even disagree from a place of Unity, all the while with respect and appreciation.

I have truly enjoyed attendance and participation at this weekend’s events. From the Electoral College meeting to the Joint Governing Bodies meeting, the presentations, and most especially the Fellowship. I hope that you have found this NOTOCON experience to be equally fulfilling and inspiring. I would further like to encourage you

Esoteric Book Conference September 19 & 20

This multi-disciplined conference will feature presentations by contemporary authorities researching and working in esoteric currents for the purpose of education and networking in a unique field of literary, historical and cultural arts. Over a dozen occult publishers and several authors will be in attendance at the two-day conference and on-site book fair. In addition to talks on such subjects as ‘Talismanic Publishing’ and ‘Secret Societies’, the conference also features new Book Releases, author Book Signings and ‘Alchemical Music’ performed by Northwest musicians Eyvind Kang and Jessika Kenney.

There is a renaissance in occult book publishing despite the age of digital media and this stems from the view that occult books are ‘magic objects’ unto themselves. Hundreds of examples of such books can be browsed, discussed and purchased at the Conference.

Founded by Ouroboros Press publisher, William J. Kiesel, Michael Kolson of Night of Pan Books together with Administrator Catamara Rosarium, the Esoteric Book Conference is the first of its kind in the United States.

all to pursue any such opportunities to experience the richness of Fraternal Communion and the Unity of Fellowship accessible to Initiates through participation in similar such events.

- UNITY-
- ACHAD-
- AHEVA-

Love is the law, love under will.

In the Bonds of the Order,

Dvgls Jms Blk
President, Electoral College
OTO USA

An ESOTERIC BOOK FAIR and ART SHOW will be on site allowing education, vending and networking in a unique field of literary, historical and OCCULTURAL ARTS.

OUROBOROS PRESS
 NIGHT OF PAN BOOKS
 FULGUR LIMITED
 XOANON PUBLISHING
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 ARS OBSCURA BOOKBINDING
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 IMMANION PRESS
 ANIMA NOCTURNA
 GOLDEN DAWN TRUST
 STARFIRE PUBLISHING

visit the website for more details

www.esotericbookconference.com



Esoteric Book Conference



The ESOTERIC BOOK CONFERENCE is an international event to bring together AUTHORS, ARTISTS, PUBLISHERS & BOOKMAKERS working in the field of ESOTERICISM. In addition to presentations by notable AUTHORS & SCHOLARS, the conference opens its doors to publishers and booksellers showcasing new & used books as well as rare and hard-to-find ESOTERIC TEXTS.

September 19 & 20
 Emerald City

Esoteric Book Conference

September 19 & 20 Seattle Center San Juan Rooms

SATURDAY

DARCY KUNTZ
 GOLDEN DAWN TRUST

RICHARD KACZYNSKI
 THELEMIC SCHOLAR

ROBERT ANSELL
 FULGUR LIMITED

PETER GREY &
 ALKISTIS DIMECH
 SCARLET IMPRINT

IMMANION PRESS

THOMAS KARLSSON
 DRAGON ROUGE

MICHAEL STALEY
 TYPHONIAN ORDER

SUNDAY

DR. AMY HALE
 INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

MICHAEL STALEY
 TYPHONIAN ORDER

BRANDY WILLIAMS
 INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

CHRISTINA OAKLEY HARRINGTON
 TREADWELL'S INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

ROBERT ANSELL
 FULGUR LIMITED

DANIEL SCHULKE
 XOANON PUBLISHING

EYVIND KANG
 & JESSIKA KENNEY
 NORTHWEST MUSICIANS



www.esotericbookconference.com

Horizon Oasis Regular Monthly Events for September 2009

All these events open to the public and held at the Horizon Oasis Temple, 1423 10th Ave, Seattle WA 98122 (except as noted!)

Gnostic Mass

Sept. 12th @ 6PM

Sept. 19th @ 8PM (White Robe)

Sept. 27th @ 6PM

Horizon performs Liber XV, The Gnostic Mass, on the 2nd & 3rd Saturday and 4th Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

Saturday Social

2nd Sat. - Sept. 12th (After Mass)

Drinks, fellowship and cake. Stick around after mass and have some fun!

Horizon Orientation

4th Sun. - Sept. 27th @ 5PM

Orientation is an opportunity for newcomers to be introduced to the basics of O.T.O. and Thelema.

Horizon Monthly Class

4th Tuesday - Coming back in Oct.

Enochian Magic Class

2nd Tuesday - Sept. 8th @ 7PM

A focus on the history, symbolism and practice of the Enochian magic system.

Kundalini Yoga

Every Monday @ 6:30PM

Local instructor Ai offers this class in our space each week, teaching the esoteric yet practical discipline of Kundalini Yoga.

RPG Night

1st & 3rd Thurs. - Sept. 3 & 17 @ 6PM

Join fellow Horizoners for a night

of gaming.

Daughters of Lilith

3rd Friday - Sept. 18th @ 7PM

A monthly women-only gathering hosted by Horizon. All are welcome. E-mail matertiamat@gmail.com for more info.

Offsite Events

Magic in Theory and Practice

1st Sunday - Sept. 6th @ 5PM

Br. Kolson hosts a study of *Magic in Theory and Practice*, Aleister Crowley's "treatise on magic and mysticism for beginners." Contact mkolson@attglobal.net for details.

Garden of Pomegranates Group

On hiatus until further notice.

Schedule correct as of printing date - all events subject to change - visit the Horizon Calendar online @ <http://www.seattle-oto.org/calendar.htm> and the Sea-OTO Yahoo Group @ <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sea-oto/> for the most current information.

Horizon Oasis Calendar

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 Kundalini Yoga 6:30PM	1	2 Anahata Chapter of Rose Croix 5PM V° & above only	3 RPG Night 6PM	4	5
6 Offsite Study Group 5PM Magic in Theory & Practice	7 Kundalini Yoga 6:30PM	8 Enochian Magic Class 7PM	9 Anahata Chapter of Rose Croix 5PM V° & above only	10	11	12 Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 6PM Saturday Social (after Mass)
13	14 Kundalini Yoga 6:30PM	15 Offsite Officers Meeting 7PM Horizon officers and invited guests only	16 Anahata Chapter of Rose Croix 5PM V° & above only	17 RPG Night 6PM	18 Daughters of Lilith 7PM Rental: Dragon Rouge 11PM	19 Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 8PM (White Robe) Esoteric Book Conference @ Seattle Center
20 *** at 3PM Members and guests only Esoteric Book Conference @ Seattle Center	21 Kundalini Yoga 6:30PM	22 Autumnal Equinox	23 Anahata Chapter of Rose Croix 5PM V° & above only	24 Temple Reserved for Anahata Rose Croix All Day	25 Temple Reserved for Anahata Rose Croix All Day	26 Temple Reserved for Anahata Rose Croix All Day
27 Horizon Orientation 5PM Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 6PM	28 Kundalini Yoga 6:30PM	29	30	1 RPG Night 6PM	2	3 OLOTEAS Bunnyslopes Class 10AM (visit www. oloteas.org for more info)

Public Events

Private Events