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THE U.S. GRAND LODGE OF
ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS



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O in M, S in M, IVv e.n.

From the Grand Master

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

Fraternal salutations, Brothers and Sisters. It is my pleasure to present to you the first issue of *Agape*. When I was appointed by the Frater Superior to assume responsibility for the U.S. Grand Lodge as a corporate entity subordinate to OTO International Headquarters, I decided to drop the epithet “Agape” for our Grand Lodge. I did this for a number of reasons, but one of the more important ones was that I wanted to emphasize the fact that the U.S. Grand Lodge encompasses the entire country, and has no more precise physical location itself; which was, in my mind, implied by the possession of a specific name. The name Agape, though, is itself an important part of the heritage of our Grand Lodge, and this newsletter seemed the perfect opportunity to recover it.

The first OTO Lodge in the US was named Agape, as was the first Lodge in North America. The first Grand Lodge in the USA was named Thelema, which has the same numeration as Agape. Agape is a Greek word meaning “love.” There are several other words for love in Greek: eros, philia, etc., but Agape is the word used long ago by the early Christians to mean the sort of love that is freely shared between brothers and sisters, the love which bonded them together in mystic union in the Body of Christ, to use their quaint terminology. It is the same love which is the First Matter of our Fraternity, the mortar which cements the Building Stones of the O.T.O. Temple. We hope it will prove to be an appropriate and auspicious name for our newsletter.

One of the functions of this newsletter (but not the only function) will be to provide you with updates and clarifications on U.S. Grand Lodge policy matters. For reference, we recommend that you keep a copy of each issue in the binder that contains your *U.S. Camp, Oasis and Lodge Master’s Handbook*.

As most of you know, we only recently obtained Crowley’s 1913 “Constitution of the M.:M.:M.:,” though we had long suspected that such a document existed. This document sheds considerable light on the constitutional development of the OTO. There are two 1906 OTO Constitutions in existence, one published in German and dated June 21, 1906, the other published in English and dated January 21, 1906. The two documents have little in common, but the English version is strikingly similar to the 1913 M.:M.:M.: Constitution, and appears to have used that document as a model. Based on printing style and quality, the English version would appear, in fact, to have been published considerably later than the German version, despite the earlier date. It would seem that Reuss revised the 1906 Constitution some time between 1912 and 1914, using the 1913 M.:M.:M.:

Constitution as a model, and back-dated it to January 1906. We do not know whether Crowley was the exclusive author of the 1913 M.:M.:M.: Constitution, or whether Crowley and Reuss collaborated on it.

The discovery of the M.:M.:M.: Constitution clarified a few aspects of Liber 194 with respect to the Supreme Grand Council, the succession to the office of National Grand Master General, and a few other issues. The Bylaws of the US Grand Lodge have been revised accordingly. The most important changes are as follows:

1. *The Executive and the Supreme Grand Council.* Henceforth, the National Grand Master General, the Grand Treasurer General, and the Grand Secretary General compose a body called “the Executive Council,” or simply “the Executive,” which is the Board of Directors of the corporate entity. These three officers are *ex officio* members of the Supreme Grand Council, which consists of nine members appointed from among the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the VII^o by the National Grand Master General. The Supreme Grand Council governs the Lover Triad, as the Electoral College governs the Man of Earth Triad. As the closest thing we have to an episcopal synod, the Supreme Grand Council will assume the responsibility of assisting qualified E.G.C. bishops to achieve ministerial status in their State. The Grand Secretary General and Grand Treasurer General, if they are not initiate members of the VII^o, become honorary members of the VII^o upon taking their oath of office.
2. *X^o Succession.* The X^o has the responsibility to designate his or her successor, which designation is subject to veto by the Frater Superior (FS). In default of such a designation, the Executive is called upon to designate a successor, again subject to veto by the FS. The Frater Superior has 31 days to approve or veto the designation upon receiving proper notice from the X^o or the Executive. If the FS vetos the designation, the X^o, or the Executive, have 31 days to notify the FS of an alternate successor. If a successor has not been designated by either the outgoing X^o or the Executive, and approved by the FS within 93 days after the office of X^o

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National Grand Master General becomes vacant, the FS must designate a successor and formally appoint and install him or her within 31 days. The Deputy National Grand Master General assumes the administrative duties of the National Grand Master General until the new National Grand Master General takes office.

3. *Lodge Bylaws.* The following clause was added: “Each Lodge has the right to conduct its own affairs according to its own Bylaws, provided that its acts and Bylaws are not contrary to the letter or the spirit of these Bylaws. The Bylaws of all Lodges must be submitted for approval to the Electoral College pursuant to section 5.03, and are null and void unless approved by both the Electoral College and the National Grand Master General.”

There has been one other significant change in recent months. Grand Lodge would like to thank Frater K.Z. for his exemplary service as our first G.S.G., and wish him well. We now welcome Frater Io Pan, formerly the Master of 93 Lodge, as our new Grand Secretary General, and wish him luck!

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius 

Announcement

This announcement is from the International Treasurer General on behalf of OTO International Headquarters and the U.S. Grand Lodge.

After most of a decade at the same amounts, the dues and initiation fees schedule for OTO is going to change. As of January 1, 1998 e.v., the following dues and fees will apply to initiations and dues anniversaries on or after that date. Associate membership dues continue at \$10.00 per year. Continuing balances, either credit or debit, in member’s accounts will be under the old dues rate schedule if dated before the first day of 1998 e.v.

New O.T.O. Dues Schedule effective January 1, 1998 e.v.:

Degree	Dues	Fees
Minerval	\$ 36.00	\$ 36.00
I	36.00	36.00
II	72.00	36.00
III	108.00	72.00
IV	144.00	100.00
P.I.	“	31.00
K.E.W.	“	20.00
V	180.00	120.00
K.R.E.	“	60.00
VI	216.00	120.00
G.I.C.	“	60.00
P.R.S.	“	60.00
VII	252.00	60.00 per subdegree
VIII	288.00	210.00
IX	324.00	300.00

Dues for most partial degrees carry continuing renewal and anniversary dates from the most recent Roman numeral full degree initiation. E.g., there are no additional dues for P.I. or K.E.W., just continuation of IVth degree dues.

The dues have been raised to \$3 times the degree number, per

month. The fees have been adjusted more dynamically in an effort to cover the actual costs of the initiations. Although an initiating body can waive or decrease the fees, the dues are constant unless varied by direct resolution of the OTO International Supreme Council. Initiating OTO bodies may also add a surcharge, but such a surcharge should be optional for out of town candidates unless travel expenses for an initiator must be met. These new initiation fee amounts are intended to include additions to regalia for the candidate. Local initiators will be expected to provide such things as aprons and “jewels” to candidates out of these fees, when the ritual calls for investing the candidate with such regalia. Robes and swords are not necessarily included.

OTO members will note that most of the degree annual dues have gone up considerably. Although the numerical base amounts for the highest degrees have apparently gone down, in practical terms they have not for most members of those degrees. The old practice was to limit dues over \$150 annually to no more than \$150 or 1.5% of taxable income; whichever was higher, up to the base amount for the degree. This meant that a very few members from VIIth through IXth paid substantially more than these new annual dues. However, owing to income adjustments, most members in those degrees paid between \$150 and \$200 per year. The 1.5% rule will cease when these new dues go into effect 1/1/98 e.v.

Why these increases? Inflation since 1919 e.v., when Minerval dues were \$5 per year, is such that these new dues amounts are still only a fraction of what they were in Crowley’s day. Membership dues in other organizations frequently are three times as expensive in the 1990’s as they were in the 1970’s. Expenses for OTO publications, postage, phone, legal services and other central operations have been going up.

Questions from initiators or local OTO groups on dues or fees can be emailed to the Treasurer General at: heidrick@well.com.

From The Grand Treasurer General

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

Greetings! I am very excited to serve the U.S. membership of the O.T.O. in my new capacity as Grand Treasurer General of U.S. Grand Lodge. But first, I would like to thank my predecessor, Soror L.W.U., for her devoted service as G.T.G. before me, and for her continuing service as Assistant Treasurer.

The task of accounting for the membership and operations of the U.S. O.T.O. is an enormous one, and so my duties are being phased in gradually over time. For this reason, until you officially hear otherwise, **all U.S. G.T.G. transactions** (dues payments, red books, etc.) should continue to be sent to the International Treasurer General at:

Ordo Templi Orientis
P.O. Box 430
Fairfax, CA 94978

In the meantime, I would like to hear from you. The office of the Grand Treasurer General not only serves the corporate and governing interests of the O.T.O., but also the local bodies and individual members. You can send e-mail to me at “usgtg@dnai.com”, call at (310) 216-5666, or write to me at:

U.S. Grand Treasurer General
Ordo Templi Orientis
P.O. Box 45139
Los Angeles, CA 90045-0139

If your local body publishes a newsletter or journal, please send it to me at this address (per Order policy on publications as given in the *Magical Link*).

Also, we are in the process of streamlining our address tracking procedures for the Order. If you **change your address**, please send prompt notice to me at the above address. You should also send notice to the International Treasurer General at the Fairfax address, and notify your local body as well. (Note that the Electoral College must process local body address changes.)

I look forward to working with you!

Love is the law, love under will.

Vere Chappell
Frater Semper Lucem Quaero
U.S. Grand Treasurer General

O.T.O. U.S. National Conference: A Review

Being a Minerval for just a few months I approached going to the National Conference with a certain amount of hesitation. I knew that this experience would likely shape my experience and perception of O.T.O. and my decision whether or not to go further with the Order.

As we pulled into the Hilton, cars were streaming in from the Gnostic Mass, which we had arrived too late to attend, but which I heard later had been attended by 130 people. One of the first people I recognized was Lon Duquette in one of the arriving cars smiling from ear to ear, the very image of joviality. From that moment on as I began to meet the assembled Thelemites my apprehensions vanished in an endless stream of encounters with some of the most gracious and welcoming people I can recall meeting. After we checked into our room and cleaned up we descended to the Ball Room for the Opening Ceremonies and formal dinner. Accustomed to over a decade of pagan events I was at first a little put off by the idea of a 'black tie preferred' dinner. This notion was swept away as I gazed around the room at the 150 or so smiling faces done up in their own renditions of their "Sunday best." What better way to honor each other and ourselves than to dress in our finest apparel in a luxury Hotel? This was going to be something special and unique, possibly a once in a life time event.

Here I was, surrounded by what might have been the largest gathering of O.T.O. members ever assembled. And I felt then that to be counted among this company could only be considered a great honor, and I was filled with pride at the thought of it. Though I might be only an honored guest for now, there was no doubt in my mind that I would go to the next step without hesitation. The fact during the entire weekend not once did the fact that I was a Minerval so much as come up made me feel even more welcome.

The Opening Ceremonies commenced with a powerfully performed Star Ruby and a variety of dramatic rituals from a variety of sources some familiar, some not, but each performed with intensity and fervor that carried through the hall like electricity. You could have heard a pin drop in that room such was the attention being given to what was going on.

The introduction speech by Soror Nebethetepet, Treasurer of Black Sun Oasis and the addresses by Frater H.K., President of the Electoral College and Grand Master General Sabazius were duly inspiring and the crowd literally leapt to their feet as Sabazius led a stirring Thelemic Will before we fell to a perfectly prepared dinner.

After dinner we mingled over drinks and an endless string of stories, jokes and introductions. I would have not minded mingling until I had met every single person there, but alas the cash bar finally closed, perhaps for the best, and people slowly thinned out. The evening ended for me sitting among a crowd of Thelemites mingling with other hotel patrons who were there

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apparently attending some kind of golf convention, in the Hilton's Karoke bar. We sat sipping drinks and laughing at the sublime absurdity of this unlikely possibility. Somehow it was perfect. Saturdays lecture schedule had three concurrent lectures occurring simultaneously throughout the day and more than once I wished I could have been in two places at once. My head was still humming from the drinks and encounters of the night before, I sat in on a workshop led by Lon Duquette titled "The Paradox of Thelemic Leadership." Lon was in what appeared to be his usual good humor and entertained us with some of his observations on O.T.O. body leadership.

Next I attended a Patrick King's workshop on the Tarot. Patrick gave us a fascinating talk based on his own experiences in his studies of the Tarot. The talk was filled with insight into the structure of the Qabala and how it can be applied to virtually every creative act from reading the cards to writing a book or making a chair.

My next stop was a panel discussion on the "Direction of the O.T.O." led by Patrick, Vere Chappell, Allen Greenfield, Frater Z.A.X., and Content Knowles. Allen began by giving us his intuitive insights of where he saw O.T.O. being ten years from now, followed by the other panel members insights into such things as what it meant to be a member of a community of Thelemites, and our relationship to the neopagan and non esoteric populations. A question period followed including a memorable questioner asking why Frater Sabazius was sitting in the audience listening rather than instructing us with his vision of the future of O.T.O. The point, at least as I interpreted it was clear; and its implications a kind of initiation in and of itself for me. These panel members were representative of the rest of us there, each one very unique in their own personal ways. Senior representatives to be sure, but the point that clicked in my head was that we were the future of the O.T.O. and the future of O.T.O. in many ways will be exactly what we make of it and ourselves when we return to our communities and respective O.T.O. bodies and continue to live our lives as Thelemites.

After lunch the next event for me was entitled "Meet the Electoral College" led by the current EC President Frater H.K., former President Frater E.A.O.A., and Soror M.A.S. What followed was an honest and sometimes difficult discussion concerning the role of the EC, and how it participates in the important decisions about Charters and other matters. My appreciation of the difficulties of this important body was greatly enhanced. Here were the people who formed the front line in some of the most important decisions of the Order. Despite this responsibility I had every impression that the EC did it's utmost to be fair, informed and impartial.

After getting cleaned up I headed downstairs to meet my companions for dinner in the hotel restaurant. Sure that there could be nothing left to surprise me as I was sitting there listening to the wit and good humor from my dinner companions none other than Frater Sabazius pulled up a chair and joined us for dinner. Finally it was off to the Open Poetry reading. I'm not sure if I can choose between the Frater Hrumachis' rousing guitar version of Midnight Liber Resh, or Content and Matt's Nekam Adonai as the highlight. Truly a memorable evening I won't soon forget.

Sunday morning after breakfast I sat in on the first of a series of workshops on the Man of Earth Degree symbolism. A passionate group of initiators went over nearly every aspect of the Minerval Ritual greatly expanding my appreciation of the depth of symbolism present in this deceptively simple ceremony.

Having to be at work on Monday morning we reluctantly said our good-byes and still more hellos and we set out back on the long

journey home. The return trip seemed to fly by in half the time as we traded stories of our weekend, talked about the future of our Camp, discussed magick and finally on the last leg to stay awake and pass the time we sang every Beatles song we could remember, pulling into Minneapolis around 2AM. Our Magical Mystery Tour to Akron Ohio had come to an end.

Robin, Frater E.t.m.

Secretary Leaping Laughter Camp, Minneapolis, Minnesota



From the Electoral College

Greetings from the Electoral College, and a salute to the editorial staff of Agape, which with its debut issue marks another milestone in the development of the United States OTO. We are in a position to observe - and participate in! - the largest network of Thelemites that has ever existed; and for the most part, it is a group that operates in a truly Thelemic fashion, at least from my point of view. Of course, there are lapses; after all, every one of us is learning the meaning of the Law by trial and error as we go, and the error parts of that equation can certainly be dramatic. For my part, though, I'm much more impressed, even surprised, by the overall success of the Grand Experiment.

Back to the matter at hand, and an introduction: My name is Jeffrey Price, aka Fr. H.K., and at the present I am the president of the United States Electoral College. Serving on the College has been one of the most wonderful and rewarding experiences of my life, mostly because of the opportunity it has afforded me to travel the country and meet so many of you, to observe the variety of shapes and faces that the Order takes in different places, and to share in the enormous talent and diverse brilliance that are represented in our Holy Order.

In the continuing course of this column, I hope to clarify the nature and function of the College. If you have any questions about the College, please write to me (Fr. H.K., U.S. OTO Electoral College, Box 520307, S.L.C., UT 84152-0307; e-mail: JPrice1131@aol.com); I will try to answer any questions of general interest in this column. (Questions of a more limited scope I will answer privately.)

In addition, I will try to provide updates on policy changes as such occur, and when space permits, to offer (or inflict) snippets of my personal and demented philosophy for your general edification.

Love is the law, love under will

Fr. H.K.

ATTENTION BODY MASTERS!

You will be receiving Annual Report forms in the mail by the end of the year. Don't forget to return them to the Electoral College by Feb. 15, 1998 e.v.

For questions, contact the Secretary at:

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