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From the Grand Master

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

Welcome to the second issue of *Agape* and the new common year of 1998 (Anno Ordinis 880). I hope that all of you had a glorious Southern Solstice, and that those of you so inclined had a joyful old-time Caesarmas. Anno IVvi promises to be an interesting year, as both “Year of the Tiger” and “Year of the Lovers.” The Quartermaster, with help from the new East Coast Assistant Quartermaster, has issued an impressive new catalog of supplies for U.S. initiators and local bodies. The revised degree study guides for the Man of Earth Triad are finally completed, and are included in the catalog. It is unclear at this point how the new dues schedule will affect U.S. Grand Lodge. USGL receives from International Headquarters (IHQ) a 50% “dues concession” on all dues collected within the U.S.A. from 0° - VII° initiates. Costs for preparation and distribution of the Magical Link and Oriflamme, and costs for the management of the Crowley Estate (restoration and expansion of the archives, protection of the Crowley copyrights, and editing and publishing of Crowley’s works) are borne by IHQ. USGL’s principal financial obligation is to cover all costs of administering the Order within the U.S.A., including this newsletter and the Grand Lodge web site, Grand Lodge initiations and temple equipment, telephone expenses, copying and postage for official correspondence and documents such as charters, rituals, and handbooks, and expenses pertaining to official Grand Lodge governing body meetings. A significant proportion of these expenses are covered out of pocket by individual Grand Lodge officers, and reimbursed by the Grand Lodge treasury at a later date. After they have completed a year in office, the dues of Grand Lodge officers are suspended for the duration of their term in office (thanks to a recent policy decision by IHQ); but officers currently receive no other compensation for their considerable contributions of time and effort to the Order. Currently, the dues concession received from IHQ barely covers our operating costs. Future projects such as the establishment of official profess houses and the development and administration of instructional programs, such as for E.G.C. clergy, will require considerably more revenue; possibly more than even the new dues schedule will provide. There is, of course, a chance that the new dues schedule will result in *less* money for the Order. By the end of this new year, we should have a better idea of how Order finances will influence the future of our Grand Lodge.

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius



From The Grand Secretary General

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

Peace, Tolerance, Truth, Salutation on All Points of Triangle;
Respect to the Order.

To All Whom it may Concern, Greetings and Health.

I have been asked by the Grand Master General to fill the shoes left by Frater K.Z. to do his will and further his education. I would like to first thank Frater K.Z. for his service as Grand Secretary General and to the Order as a whole. I am learning my respective duties as they relate to the governing of the Order and the new United States Corporation daily. If I may be frank with my Brothers and Sisters, I took this job reluctantly. Being a schoolteacher, a husband, a dad of 2 wonderful grownup kids, a grandfather or 2 magical granddaughters (so far!), and Lodgemaster of the very active 93 Lodge, I felt I already had a full plate. I wasn’t anxious to take on another big job. In short, I have a Life! I felt the Grand Master, Sabazius, wanted me to do this job for him. After 2 divinations, one by myself and another by a Sister in the Order whose divinatory prescience I have come to respect, I felt that the organizational skills I have acquired over the years, plus the call to rise to the occasion and serve left me no other choice! Don’t you hate when that happens?! Divination is, indeed, a two-edged sword!

Here’s a little bit of background on myself. I’m 46 years old. I’ve been married to my lovely wife Karen for 15 years. I have a B.A. in Philosophy and an Elementary Teaching Credential. I love the O.T.O. and have served the Order for 20 years. (Hey, Beta! Where’s my gold watch!) I was initiated Minerval in the Order in 1978 by Lon Duquette at Heru-Ra-Ha Lodge in Southern California. In 1980 I received both a charter to initiate to III° and a charter to open 93 Camp in Laguna Beach, California from Caliph and Supreme and Holy King Hymenaeus Alpha, ‘warlord’ Grady McMurtry. We subsequently moved to San Clemente and had our charter upgraded to 93 Lodge. My wife, Soror Sa Ra and I have been performing the E.G.C. Mass regularly since Chinese

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THE FRANKIST ECSTATICS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

“Uno avulso non deficit alter.” - Virgil

By T Allen Greenfield

New Year 1983. (That's longer than we've been married!) Together we have performed 70 Minervals, 49 I^o, 24 II^o, 22 III^o, 21 IV^o, 21 P.:I.:., and 12 K.:E.:W.: initiations. We have also been performing the Rites of Eleusis for 18 years. I am currently initiated to VI^o but have been bestowed an Honorary VII^o with position of Grand Secretary General.

Initially, my duties are to serve the Supreme and Holy King, Sabazius, as his executive secretary. He's a extraordinary guy, and he rolls his eyes when I use my Sicilian accent and call him 'Supreme and Holy King or your Holiness.' I am honored to serve such a modest and intelligent man who is so dedicated to our Order. Presently, I am overwhelmed with organizing my office of the GSG. Thank the Gods for e-mail! I'm also the keeper and mailer of our Rituals. For the present anything else pertaining to the Man of Earth Triad, ie. inquiries about Crowley, the O.T.O., and initiations, I'm forwarding to the Electoral College. And hey, don't send ME your dues! I'll cash it and put it in my pocket. I need the money. (Just kidding!) Send your dues to the Grand TREASURER General. I find I don't know many of the answers to your questions. But, I'm open to learn. My philosophy is delegate, delegate, delegate. I'm looking for good help. Remember, before Enlightenment, chop wood and carry water. After Enlightenment, chop wood and carry water. My Brothers and Sisters: It's a level playing field and each of us is a STAR! As far as I'm concerned, if you wish to push on to a higher degree in the Order, demonstrate SERVICE and pay your dues.

By the way, I have a sometimes irreverent, provocative, and double entendre sense of humor. If you're not sure how to take my responses - don't be offended, just 'rattle my cage' and ask for plain English. I really don't mean to offend. I'm rather a bohemian kind of guy, thus the motto IO PAN! I don't think there's anything so common about common sense. Perception is Creative! I'm a very slow learner with my Mercury retrograde in Virgo, but once I comprehend the nuts and bolts-boy can I teach them! Having 4 planets, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus in Virgo, I'm somewhat reclusive and will probably return your calls at another time.

Regarding my own personal vision or dream for the Order; I'd like to see the preceptorios of the Templars, today's O.T.O., restored internationally to its original glory. Fantasy: I'd love to live in one of those old stone preceptorios with a temple, initiation quarters, a library, lots of personal space, and an ashram on the grounds. I would love to replace the current pedagogy of education in our country with a more Thelemic one.

My oath requires me to execute the policies of the Supreme and Holy King, uphold the Sacred Principles of the Order, duly guard the security of the private affairs of the members of the Order, and endeavor to find and train a suitable successor. So Brothers and Sisters . . . Uncle IO Pan wants you!

Love is the Law, Love under will.

In the Bonds of the Order
Doug James, Frater IO Pan
U. S. Grand Secretary General



A century before the European Enlightenment produced the conditions in which modern European Judaism arose, the ghetto world of the Jews of Europe and Asia Minor was wracked by a messianic fervor virtually unknown today outside Judaic intellectual circles. The influence of the Qabalism of the late medieval period reached a final flowering in the works of Isaac Luria and other mystics of the 1600s. An outright messianic movement developed around the person of one Shabbetai Tzvi (1626-76 EV) and his prophet, Nathan of Gaza. This movement was shattered when, faced with martyrdom or conversion, the would-be messiah Tzvi chose conversion to Islam. Nathan became a Roman Catholic, and the movement largely collapsed, though some followed Tzvi into conversion, and there is down to the present time an Islamic sect in Turkey that follows Tzvi's teachings.

In recent years there has been some effort made among Jewish revisionist historians to more-or-less rehabilitate Shabbetai Tzvi as a kind of protoZionist leader. It is certainly true that the messianic movement's collapse led in the 1700s to the development of the mystical-ecstatic Chassidic Judaism. Under the leadership of Israel Baal Shem Tov, this has been far more widely accepted as a legitimate Jewish religious trend. Scholars of the stature of the late existentialist Martin Buber have done much to establish the legitimacy of Chassidic thought and practice. It has nonetheless continued as a movement to have both a Qabalistic and messianic undertone, as witnessed by the messianic expectations centered on the Lubovicher Rebbe that reached a peak shortly before his recent death.

At approximately the same time that Chassidic Judaism was developing, another trend which for many years was almost lost to history was bubbling up in the Ghettoes of Eastern Europe in the wake of the Tzvi messianic expectations. Indeed, most older English-language sources relegate this rather substantial movement to a footnote, usually couched in the most unflattering terms. This was a sect known as the Zoharists or Frankists, after Jacob Frank (1726-91 EV), originally named Jacob Leibowicz¹. Like the Chassidim, the Zoharists were deeply steeped in Qabala and magick and ecstatic religious expression. Like the followers of Tzvi, they were also messianic. Unique to the Frankists was a doctrine of salvation through sexual ecstasy that had not characterized these other tendencies. Indeed, the Zoharists anticipated the sexual magick that emerged a century and more later under the influence of such luminaries as P.B. Randolph, Max Theon and, ultimately, Aleister Crowley. There is a bare chance, in fact, that the Zoharists may have influenced these later exponents of sexual spirituality.

Frank was born in Galicia in Polish territory, traveled widely, and died in Offenbach, Germany on December 10, 1791 EV. He

¹ The reader may be bewildered by the variation in names; Jacob Frank is variously referred to as Jacob Leibowicz, Jankiew Leibowicz and the more familiar Frank. His birthplace is sometimes given as Podolia, Berezanka or Korolowka. He is reported to have died in Offenbach. Patronized by the Archduchess Maria Theresa, he may indeed have been made a Baron. He was certainly a man of wealth and means to the end of his colorful life.

traveled in the Balkans and got to know the followers of Tzvi, some of whom looked forward to the latter's resurrection. About 1751 he proclaimed himself the Messiah and promulgated a "Higher Torah" — based on the medieval Qabalistic writings of the Sefer Zohar ("Book of Splendour"). Frank maintained that certain elect individuals were above the conventional moral law. He even went so far as to engaged the staid Rabbinical Community of the time in a debate over the value of the ecstatic principles promulgated in the Zohar as opposed to the legalism of the Talmud, which the Zoharists considered blasphemous. Within five years the Rabbinical Judaism had denounced the Zoharists as heretics. The Frankists enjoyed some protection in Roman Catholic circles, ever hopeful of making conversions among the Jews. In a certain sense Frank's critique of the Talmudic Judaism of his time resembled the friction between Jesus and the Pharisees of an earlier era. Frank, who felt that his sect was above restriction, was quick to exploit this protection, and proceeded to promise Baptism of his followers. He was himself baptized in Warsaw with the Polish King, Augustus III, acting as his godfather. But the Frankists continued to practice sexual orgiastic ecstasy as a spiritual sacrament, and soon ran afoul of the Holy Inquisition. Like Count Cagliostro a few years later, Baron Jacob Frank found himself imprisoned by the inquisitors in 1760 EV, at the fortress of Czestochowa. He languished there for 13 years until being freed by the Russian conquest. He relocated to Germany, which then became the seat of the Zoharist movement.

It should be noted, and more than in passing, that Baron Frank's sexual movement among the Jews coincided with the birth and flourishing of the so-called "Hellfire Clubs" of England and France, the Elect Cohens and later Martinists of France, and other communities with similar ideas and practices of sacred sexuality.

Frank lived out his life in the luxury of the nobility, supported by his huge following. Most unusual for the time, Frank was succeeded, upon his death, by his daughter Eve², who continued the Work of the sect until her own passing in 1816 EV.

Be it noted that later in the 19th century another enigmatic Polish Jew, the son of Rabbi Judes Lion Bimstein of Warsaw, came to teach an almost identical sacred sexuality as the Grand Master of the Hermetic Brotherhood of Light. This man was one Louis Maximilian Bimstein, better known as Aia Aziz, and better still as Max Theon. Based in North Africa and France, Theon taught a "fully Tantric" approach to spirituality, according to Sri Aurobindo. He exercised a profound influence upon HB of L Frontal Chief Peter Davidson, who, in turn, was a profound influence upon Papus and other luminaries of the "occult revival". Whether this represents a direct continuity from the Zoharists we may never know. Clearly, Jacob Frank, his daughter Eve and their followers deserve a special place in the history of Western Sexual Occultism comparable to that only now being fully recognized where P.B. Randolph, Peter Davidson and their circle are concerned.

For further reading - MY PEOPLE by Abba Eban (Behrman-Random House, 1968) (section) "False Messiahs" pp. 232-238; THE LEGENDS OF THE BAAL SHEM (translated 1955) and TALES OF RABBI NACHMAN (translated 1956) by Martin Buber; THE HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD OF LUXOR by Godwin, Chanel & Deveney (Weiser, 1995) pp. 293-302; MIRRA THE OCCULTIST by Sujjata Nahar; MAGIC, MYSTICISM, AND HASIDISM by Gedalyah Nigal (1994); DEMYSTIFYING THE MYSTICAL by Chaim Dalfin (1995).

Also see: FRANK, Jacob, (article) Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia

² Frank's daughter was variously called Eve or Eva, depending on source material. She became the object of a devotional subcult herself, with some followers keeping small statues of her in their homes.

ΑΓΑΠΗ

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(1994); Frank, Jacob, (article) Encyclopaedia Britannica (1995); Frank, Jacob (article) Webster's New Biographical Dictionary (1983); FRANK, JACOB, (article) The Encyclopedia of Jewish Knowledge (Behrman's, 1938); Most general and especially Jewish references have either an article under Frank's name, or some mention in an article on 'false messiahs' or specifically Shabbetai Tzvi. Take note that there is a lot of nonsense in reference to the Zoharists, and many usually reliable sources will either repeat without variation the assertions of earlier sources, or fall into sectarian vilification. One would do well to sort through the many short references, and compare consistencies and inconsistencies.



From The Initiation Secretaries

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

With the beginning of the new vulgar year, the Thelemic one rapidly drawing to a close, and the newly proclaimed dues structure in place, now seems a good time to make a general reminder of procedures and what not.

ATTENTION LOCAL BODY MASTERS,
INITIATORS, AND LOCAL BODY OFFICERS:

Application Forms:

Remember to make sure that all applications forms you use are a version dated Spring IViv or later. The applications should be postmarked at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed date of initiation (with the exception of a First Degree taken with in thirty days of the Minerval). All sponsors should print their civil name in the space provided and any name changes for either Candidate or Sponsors should be noted.

Always make sure the portion of the applications marked for the Initiating body is completely filled in, failure to do so will guarantee a hold up and a query from this office. Also check that the candidate's section of the form is properly filled out.

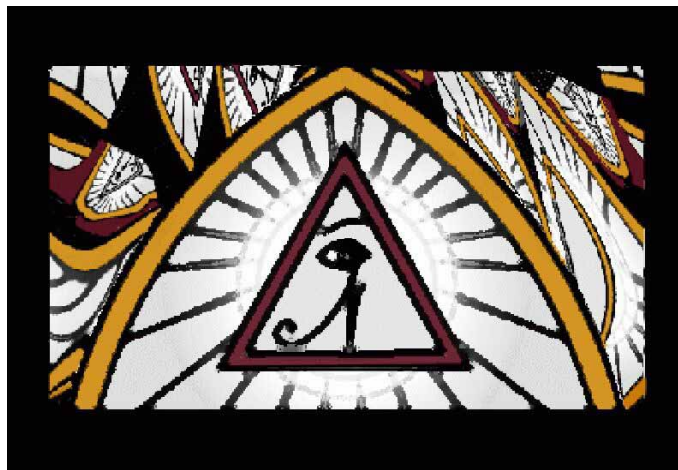
Initiation Summary Reports and Certificates:

Remember to report each initiation to this office within thirty (30) days of the initiation date. This report should consist of an Initiation Summary Report either accompanied by or quickly followed by a prepared Certificate for each Initiate. Copies of a suggested Initiation Summary Report format can be obtained from us either through electronic or conventional mail.

We would like to wish everyone a most joyous holiday season with the coming Thelemic New Year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding initiation related topics we'll be happy to try to field your question or at least direct it to the proper office. We can be contacted at otousis@telepath.com, (405) 720-6349, or PO Box 720296, Oklahoma City, OK, 73172-0296.

Love is the law, love under will.

In the Bonds of the Order,
Hunahpu & Ixel Balamke
U.S. Initiation Secretaries



A Resolution of the Electoral College

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

At the Fall 1997 e.v. meeting of the Electoral College, the following Resolution was passed by a vote of 9/0/0:

Resolution on National Conference (Stein/Schurholz)

WHEREAS, the First National Meeting of Ordo Templi Orientis in Akron, Ohio, Anno Legis XCIII, Sun in Leo, Moon in Capricorn (14 to 16 August, 1997 e.v.) was a resounding success; and Whereas, this First National Meeting is derived from prior action and sponsorship of this Electoral College; and Whereas, the lives of the individual attendees have been greatly enriched; and

Whereas, the advantages to the Order of having such national meetings have been clearly demonstrated; and Whereas, the success of this meeting resulted from the personal efforts and organizational abilities and contributions of Jennifer Schober, Daniel German, and Celia Leahu, in particular, and the support of brothers and sisters in the independent bodies of the Mid-West area in general;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Electoral College of the O.T.O. in the United States extend its appreciation to the above named brother and sisters of the O.T.O. May their efforts and success not go unrewarded or unrecognized, and may the Order as a whole become cognizant of them.

Love is the law, love under will.



POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. local body officers are responsible for being familiar with the current laws of their State and local authorities pertaining to the legal drinking age and the circumstances under which minors may and may not consume alcohol. Such laws shall be considered applicable for all O.T.O. and E.G.C. events in the U.S.

-Sb.