



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE U.S. GRAND LODGE OF
ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS



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From the Grand Master

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

This past April, the U.S. Supreme Grand inducted Helena Petrovna Blavatsky into the *Order of the Eagle*; and it inducted François Rabelais into the *Order of the Lion*. For information on these historical honors, please see *Agape* Vol. I, no. 3. As usual, the SGC will consider additional nominations next spring. The nomination of HPB was submitted by Brother Tim Maroney, who has recently edited, and prepared a lengthy biographical introduction for, an edition of HPB's *Book of Dzyan* (Chaosium).



On Sponsorship

“Every man and woman that is of full age, free, and of good report, has an indefeasible right to the III” — Liber LII.

The above quote appears to ensure universal access to the Man of Earth degrees of our Order, but on closer examination, it includes a number of conditions. Men and women are not “free” if they are incapable of travelling to one of our Lodges to be initiated, or if they are incapable of voluntarily taking and keeping a binding oath to the Order. Men and women are not “of full age” if they are too young to participate in our Mysteries with the full legal rights of a citizen of their country. Men and woman are not “of good report” if the Order has determined that they are of “bad report,” or if they cannot find two members in good standing willing to vouch for them.

Your sponsorship is your solemn attestation of an individual's good report. Therefore, before you sign your name in sponsorship of a candidate, it is your duty and responsibility to verify with the Master of your Oasis that Grand Lodge has not recorded the candidate as being of bad report. But further, as you may have read in *Liber CI* (Twelfth House), “it is incumbent upon the honour of every Brother not to abuse [the privileges of membership], and the sponsors of any Brother who does so, as well as he himself, will be held strictly to account by the Grand Tribunal.” Members who sponsor a candidate who then abuses the privileges of membership are partly answerable for his transgressions, and they partake of his dishonor. The Grand Tribunal can suspend, or even revoke, any member's privileges of sponsorship if it determines that these privileges have been used recklessly. Therefore, it is your additional responsibility as sponsor to familiarize yourself with the background, character, sense of honor, and mental and emotional stability of the candidates you sponsor. Do not allow sympathy, personal affection, pressure from others, or idealism to cloud your judgment.

When sponsoring candidates for full membership in our Order,

who are to become Men and Brothers, or Women and Sisters, consider whether they are truly worthy of your fraternal trust, and the fraternal trust of all your sworn Brothers and Sisters in the Order. Consider whether they are worthy to be admitted into our homes, our temples, and our lives; for once they are sworn to us, we are all sworn to them.

When sponsoring candidates for higher degrees, consider whether they have taken their oaths and obligations seriously. Consider also whether they have comported themselves as befitting true Brothers and Sisters of their degree. If they have not yet learned the lessons of their own degree, how shall they learn the lessons of higher degrees?

The candidate for Minerval, on the other hand, is a stranger, who is to become our welcome guest. It would be dereliction of our First Duty to admit a known thief or murderer or psychopath unquestioned and unguarded into our Camp; but it would be contrary to the law of hospitality to refuse a guest because we do not know him well enough to determine whether he will become a worthy Brother. The Grand Tribunal will be more lenient with the sponsors of a Minerval who violates the privileges of membership than with the sponsors of a Man and Brother who does the same, because the privileges of Minerval membership are not as extensive as those of full membership. Therefore, as a prospective sponsor, you should verify with the Master of your Oasis that your Minerval candidates have never been expelled from the Order or placed on bad report. You should carefully review their completed application forms, and you should communicate with them and do your best to assess their general character and mental stability; but the standards applied need not be so strict as those applicable to candidates for higher degrees.

The duties of sponsorship, however, do not end with the placement of your signature on an application form. As a sponsor in our Order, you are not placed in the position of superior, or spiritual teacher, as is done in certain other societies. Nevertheless, your honor within the Order will be magnified or diminished according to the quality of the deeds of those you sponsor within their degree. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you as a sponsor to assist the initiates you sponsor in learning the catechisms and oaths of their degrees, to see that they are provided with Grand Lodge's latest study materials, to encourage them to participate in the activities of their

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Local Body, and to educate them — by example — in the Way of Fraternity.

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius



Report from the Electoral College Spring/Summer 2000ev

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

At the Spring 2000 meeting of the Electoral College, the following actions were taken:

Bodies that were closed:

Ankh Forest Camp - Omaha, NE
Nu Babalon Camp - Las Vegas, NV
Akeru Camp - Tuxedo Park, NY

Bodies that were opened:

Ad Astra Camp - Arvada, CO
None Camp - Salt Lake City, UT
Blue Horizon Camp - Glendale, CA

Bodies upgraded from Camp to Oasis:

Heru-Behutet Oasis - Kansas City, MO
Watchtower Oasis - Bon Aqua, TN
Horus Oasis - Salt Lake City, UT
Blue Equinox Oasis - Royal Oak, MI

Changes in mastership:

Thelesis Camp - Philadelphia, PA
New master: Fr. A.L. 333
Scarlet Woman Lodge - Austin, TX
New master: Fr. Paradoxos Alpha (M. Dionysus Rogers)
RPSTOVAL Camp - Medford, OR
New master: Fr. Omne Sum (Ken Johnson)

Body relocations:

Living Flame Camp relocated to Gaithersburg, MD

At the Summer 2000 meeting of the Electoral College, the following actions were taken:

Bodies that were closed:

Collegium 93 Camp - Chicago, IL

Bodies that were opened:

Laughing Serpent Camp - Bayonne, NJ
Croatoan Camp - Winston/Salem NC

Changes in Mastership:

L.V.X. Lodge - North Hollywood, CA
New master: Fr. Ad Astra (Andrew Spitzer)
Knights Templar Oasis - Cambridge, MA
New master: Fr. Athanasius (Jason Newcomb)
Coph Nia Lodge - Eugene, OR
New master: (David Chandler)
Bubastis Camp - Dallas, TX
New master: Fr. Bluegod (Derick Benatar)
Tahuti Lodge - NYC, NY
New master: Fr. Puck (Peter Seals)

Reclassifications:

Sekhet-Maat Oasis - Advanced to Sekhet-Maat Lodge

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Now for Something Completely Different

by J. D. Lawrence

Mozart: The Complete Masonic Music
VoxBox, 1991

It is fairly well known that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an enthusiastic Freemason and composed a number of pieces for Lodge use. This 2 cd set collects all of these as well as several other works that have become masonic standards. All music on these discs are performed by the Vienna Volkoper conducted by Peter Maag, recorded in Vienna in 1966 as part of a festival commemorating Mozart's death. The only 'omission' here is of course Mozart's masonic opera, "The Magic Flute," which is a boxed set in its own right.

Now, I'm no musicologist so I won't attempt to discuss the artistic merits in any detail, let's just say that it's Mozart so it's got to be good. The performances are excellent. They have an intimate quality suitable for smaller spaces and show a wide range of moods suited to various occasions. There are several devotional pieces originally composed for Church services but adopted by Masons as appropriate for fraternal use. Other pieces were composed specifically for certain Degrees or to welcome members and officers into the Lodge. We also have Mozart's famous "Masonic Funeral Music" and "Eine Kleine Freimaurer Kantate" which was one of the last things he ever wrote.

While this set is of course best suited to those interested in our masonic roots, any OTO body would find it an excellent investment as general background music for a variety of rituals. In any case these are some of the most personal works of a master of Western music and thus deserve anyone's attention.

The Complete Pegana
by Lord Dunsany, edited by S.T. Joshi
Chaosium, 1997

Beginning in 1904 an English gentleman, big game hunter and chess enthusiast created the holy books of a new mythology. No, I'm not talking about Aleister Crowley. Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett, 18th Baron Dunsany (1878-1957) was an Anglo-Irish nobleman and one of the great masters of modern fantasy. His huge output includes plays (he wrote for Yates' Abbey Theatre and Broadway,) novels, autobiography and short stories. This book includes the entirety of his first two books, "The Gods of Pegana" and "Time and the Gods" along with a few later stories. In these Dunsany creates a Cosmos with greater and lesser dieties, heroes, prophets and men, all written in a style that makes this seem like a newly-discovered Scripture rather than a work of fiction. No one else writes like, or as well as Dunsany in his field, and it is ridiculous that he is nearly forgotten today. We are indeed fortunate that some of his works are now coming back into print. The only flaw here is the lack of Sidney Sime's wonderful illustrations which graced the original editions.

Now Dunsany was one of Crowley's favourite writers (AC even got him to do a story for the Equinox once) as well as a major influence on H.P. Lovecraft, but that's not why I'm bringing him to your attention. It's simply that we are often told we should create our own mythology, and it is helpful to see how someone actually did it.

Announcement

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

Greetings and Peace!

We are very pleased and excited to announce that the Third National O.T.O. Conference (NOTOCON 2001) has been slated for the weekend of August 10, 11 and 12, 2001 e.v. in the Greater Los Angeles area.

The theme of the Conference is "The Divine". The Conference will feature many splendid events focusing on this theme.

The Conference will commence on Friday morning with Man of Earth Degree initiatory workshops throughout the day. Saturday will feature lectures and workshops lead by an astute collection of speakers, some of whom you may have met at previous NOTOCONs at Akron, OH and Portland, OR.

Workshops, classes and lectures will continue throughout Saturday and Sunday. The Conference will culminate on Sunday afternoon with the Liber XV Gnostic Mass, followed by a cocktail reception.

Vendors presenting a variety of wares of interest to Thelemites will be on-site throughout the weekend.

A website for general information has been established at:

<http://www.notocon.org>

More information will be made available through the website as the details develop. Information can be obtained by e-mail from:

info@notocon.org

This is a very special event for Ordo Templi Orientis initiates only, as attendees of previous NOTOCONs can attest to. The NOTOCONs are great opportunities to meet and network with other initiates and celebrate the spirit of Thelema with your Brothers and Sisters.

Please come and show your support for your Fraternity! We look forward to seeing you there!

Love is the law, love under will.

Local Body Reports

Bubastis Camp - Dallas, TX

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

A lot has been happening at Bubastis. First, we have yours truly, Frater Bluegod, for the new Campmaster. My thanks to all who offered their support and assistance during this time of transition. I also want to offer special thanks to the previous bodymasters of Bubastis for their continuing guidance and all the great work they've done.

Presently, Bubastis Camp is performing the Gnostic Mass on an almost weekly basis. When we're not performing the Mass, we're having celebrations and building a sense of community, with the occasional class thrown in for good measure. In the next couple of months we're going to be performing the Gnostic Mass at a local pagan community center, something we're all excited about. This should bring greater visibility to the local Body and contribute towards our growth in membership.

Love is the law, love under will.

Frater Bluegod
Master, Bubastis Camp

ΑΓΑΠΗ

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

Leaping Laughter Camp has kept active with regular performances of (0-3) MoE initiations and bi-monthly performances of Liber XV. I was appointed the new Campmaster several months ago, and am grateful to Brother Robin, previous acting Campmaster, for his help in the smooth transition to this post. Currently we are working towards the construction of improved temple equipment, as well as better communication with those persons outside the pale of the Order. Additionally, we have a monthly gathering which practices ceremonial magick, from Goetic evocation to skrying the 91st part of Earth from the 30th Aethyr. We also hold meetings that seek to familiarize and accentuate the symbolism of Liber XV and the MoE degrees. Leaping Laughter also produces a bi-annual publication called *The Laughterful Caress*. As always, we encourage you to visit our ever popular website at <http://www.leapinglaughter.org>.

Love is the law, love under will.

Yours Fraternally,

Frater AISh MLChMH

From The Grand Tribunal

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

The following is a brief overview of the nature and function of the U.S. Grand Tribunal.

According to Liber 194, “the Grand Tribunal decides all disputes and complaints which have not been composed by the Chapters of Rose-Croix or the Lodgemasters. Its verdicts are without appeal, unless a member of the Electoral College give sanction to take the case to the Areopagus of the VIII^o.”

According to the Bylaws of U.S. Grand Lodge, “All disputes between members should be worked out among themselves. If that is not possible it should be referred to the Master(s) of their Lodge(s) or the Most Wise Sovereign(s) of their Chapter(s), as is appropriate to their degree of membership. If a resolution of the dispute is not arrived at in this manner, the dispute is to be referred to the Grand Tribunal, which may arbitrate thereon, and its decision is to be accepted as binding and final, subject to appeal by the Areopagus.”

According to Liber 101, “Lawsuits between members of the Order are absolutely forbidden, on pain of immediate expulsion...” This prohibition is enforceable by the Grand Tribunal, and applies to full members of the Order, i.e., to initiates of the First Degree. The alternative to lawsuits between members is binding arbitration by the Grand Tribunal, and Members of the First and higher Degrees of O.T.O. U.S.A. agree to such binding arbitration (except where prohibited by law). However, the Grand Tribunal reserves the right to refuse certain disputes and types of disputes, and to refer them to the civil courts. Among the types of disputes that may be taken directly to the civil courts are the following:

- a. Family and domestic disputes (including divorce)
- b. Disputes where time is of the essence (Notice must be provided to the Grand Tribunal)

c. Disputes considered *de minimis* by the Grand Tribunal (Grand Tribunal clearance is required)

d. Responses to pending litigation

The Grand Tribunal has the power to impose bad report, to suspend or expel an individual from membership, and to suspend, revoke, limit, or condition specific membership privileges. The affected member has the right to review any charges filed against him or her, to submit a defense against any such charges, and to appeal the Grand Tribunal’s action to the Areopagus. Appeal to the Areopagus must be authorized by a member of the Electoral College, which authorization may be sought by writing to the Secretary of the Electoral College. The U.S. Grand Tribunal has jurisdiction over the membership up to and including the VII^o in the U.S.A. Members of higher degrees are subject to the International Grand Tribunal.

None of the above should be interpreted as restricting the lawful right or ability of any member to file criminal charges against any person with the appropriate civil or military authorities.

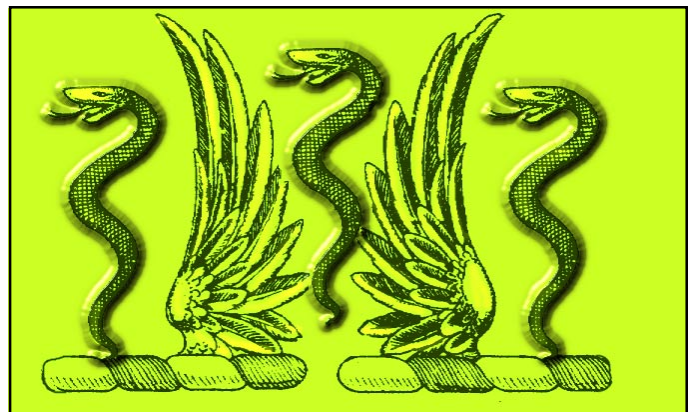
The U.S. Grand Tribunal is presided over by the Grand Master, who appoints Courts of Inquiry from among its membership to decide specific cases. Courts of Inquiry typically consist of three members of the Grand Tribunal, whose identities remain secret unless they individually decide to reveal their identities. Courts of Inquiry may conduct their own investigations, or they may rely on the report of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, Lodgemasters, members of the Electoral College, or other officers. Activities of the Grand Tribunal are coordinated and recorded by the Grand Tribunal Secretary.

If you require additional information or assistance you can write c/o Secretary, U.S. Grand Tribunal PO Box 30666, Seattle, WA 98103-0666 or email at Grand_Tribunal@oto-usa.org.

Love is the law, love under will

In the Bonds of the Order,

James Nobles, Secretary
U.S. Grand Tribunal



Agape will publish articles on a broad range of topics of interest to the U.S. membership of Ordo Templi Orientis. Unsolicited submissions of articles for Agape should be directed to the Editor, preferably in a common electronic file format.

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