

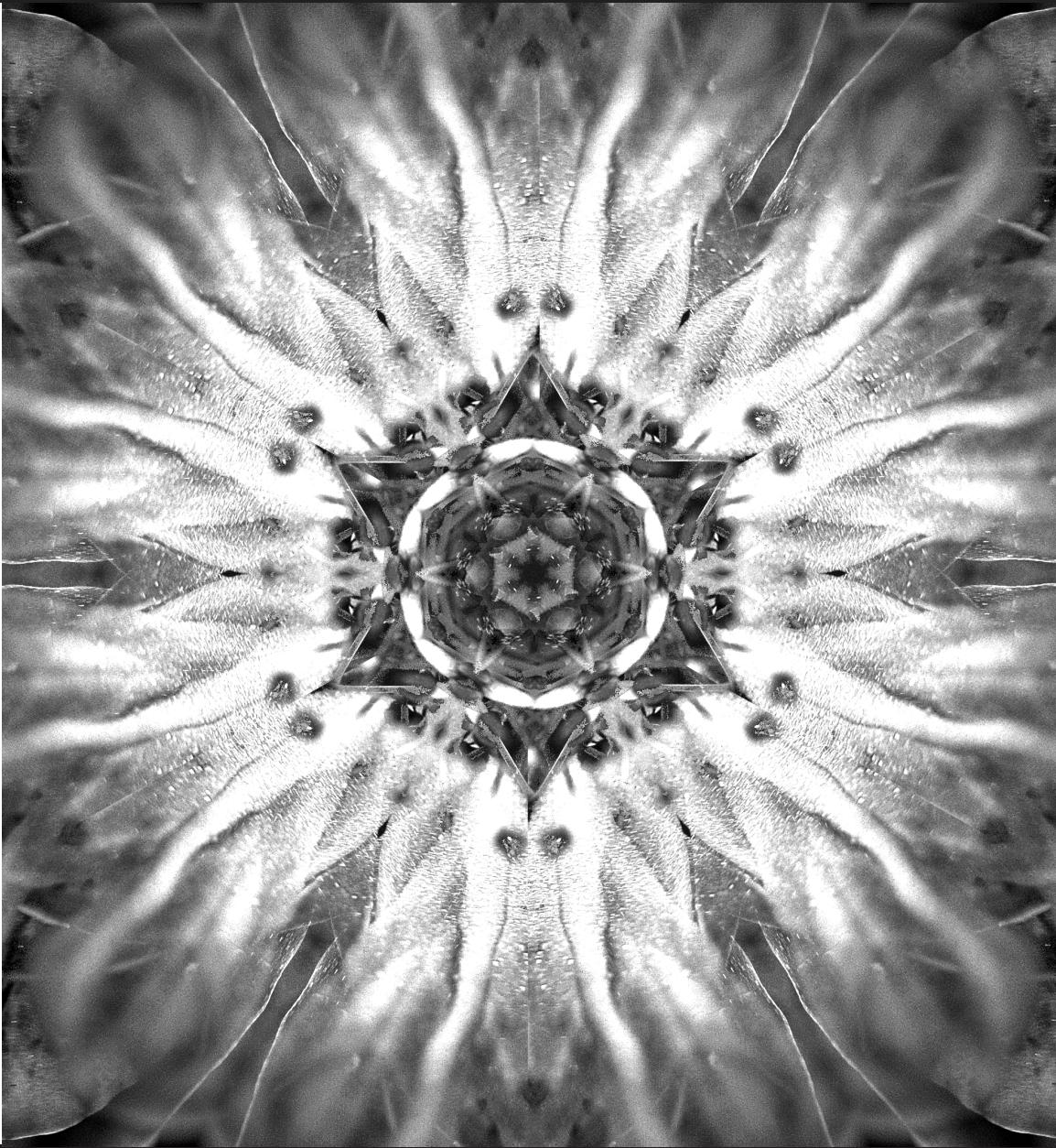
The official organ of the U.S. Grand Lodge of O.T.O.

Agapé



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Ordo Templi Orientis, U.S.A.



E.G.C.



The official organ of the U.S. Grand Lodge of O.T.O.

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FROM THE EDITOR

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

Welcome to the 21st volume of *Agapé*! As we enter summertime, I'm happy to see that a number of Camps, Oases, and Lodges are starting to hold in-person events again. I know that after the tough year in isolation, it will feel wonderful to be in person (although socially distanced) with my Siblings as we continue to explore the Mysteries of our Order.

Local Leadership should check out U.S.G.L.'s COVID-19 Resource Page at <https://admin.oto-usa.org/covid19> to see what they need to do to start holding in-person events again, and our resource for online events is still hosted at <https://edu.oto-usa.org/usgl-local-body-public-events/>.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *Agapé* is July 10, 2021 ev. We accept relevant articles, art, poetry, rituals, and reviews.

Love is the law, love under will.

Andrew
Editor, *Agapé*

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

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

USGL is Opening

I received my second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine back in April. Since it's been more than two weeks after my second dose, I am considered a Fully Vaccinated Person (FVP). As such, I may not be completely immune from COVID-19 (no vaccine is 100% effective), but my chances of infection have been significantly reduced, and the chances that I will contract an infection serious enough to require hospitalization have been reduced to a level of insignificance. I now have much more freedom of movement than I did back in March. And that will, hopefully, be the case for all of us over time as more and more people become FVPs.

While U.S.G.L. has no plans to adopt a requirement that all members be vaccinated to attend O.T.O. events (although it is my hope that you will all do so voluntarily), we have developed a separate set of COVID-19 prevention standards for indoor and outdoor events where all attendees are verified FVPs, in conformance with the CDC's recommendations regarding gatherings of FVPs. These separate standards will, happily, make FVP events much closer to the sorts of events that we all remember. Events where all attendees are not or cannot be reliably verified as FVPs will, for the time being, remain subject to the older, more restrictive standards, possibly with some amendments as the situation develops. It is, of course, up to the local body leadership to choose whether to hold FVP events.

Once a sufficient proportion of the general population has been fully vaccinated to allow nationwide lifting of significant restrictions, we will completely reevaluate our COVID-19 standards for events. The COVID-19 response team has worked diligently to ensure the U.S.G.L. requirements are evidence-based and in conformity with the state of the science, and will continue to do so. To see the most up-to-date news and to request the currently available COVID-19 event policies, please visit:

U.S.G.L. COVID-19 Information (<https://admin.oto-usa.org/covid19>).

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius



UPDATES FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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

The Electoral College took the following actions pertinent to local body leadership at the Spring meeting held online on April 24, 2021 EV:

Passed mastership of Golden Lotus Lodge (Garden Grove, CA) from Br. Robert M. to Fr. Silencio. Chartered Chalice of Heaven Lodge as Chalice of Heaven Oasis (Chicago, IL) and passed mastership from Sr. Vivian Meretrix to Fr. Lamassu Dam Ki Ag.

Confirmed the appointment of Br. Thomas W. as Acting Master of Anabasis Camp (Indianapolis, IN). Closed NOXULUXON Camp (Anchorage, AK) at the request of the Master, Br. Mike K.

Suspended the charter of Behutet Camp (Kansas City, MO) for cause (failure to submit annual report form).

The Electoral College wishes to thank the outgoing masters for their years of service and to congratulate the new masters on the trust placed in them.

Procedurally, we approved a requirement that all local body masters have mentors; previously, only masters below V° were required to have mentors. Additionally, we established the Fall Meeting of the Electoral College in October 2021 EV as the deadline by which all local bodies are required to adopt the Virtual Valley Program.

We are pleased to announce that at our Spring meeting a new Elector, Sr. Cristin W., was formally seated on the College to begin her eleven-year term of service. Sr. Cristin takes the seat of outgoing Elector Sr. Kayla B., whom we wish to thank for her

many years of dedicated service to the College and to the Order.

Fraternally yours,

Hattie Quinn
President

Mike Estell
Vice President

U.S.G.L. Electoral College

About the Electoral College

Appeals – Those wishing to appeal decisions of the Electoral College may do so in writing to the Supreme Grand Council through the Grand Secretary General (gsg@oto-usa.org). Those wishing to appeal verdicts of the Grand Tribunal to the Areopagus may do so with the sponsorship of a seated Elector. See our website for contact details of individual electors (<http://ec.oto-usa.org/electors.html>).

Those wishing to appeal Notice of Pending Bad Report at a Local Body may do so by writing to the Secretary of the College outlining the manner in which the Notice was deficient or false.

Attending Meetings – Dues Current Members in Good Standing of V° are invited to attend regular meetings of the Electoral College. We request that those planning to attend first contact the Master of the hosting body to R.S.V.P. Online regular meetings may be observed by being physically present with a willing Elector.

Communications – In addition to hosting email lists for masters, mentors, and communication with Grand Lodge, we also maintain a blog of Updates, News, and Transmissions on our website (<http://ec.oto-usa.org/wp>) and are experimenting with a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ECUSGLOTO>).

Initiates with specific concerns or questions regarding the operation of the Electoral College are invited to write to either the President or Secretary. See the included U.S.G.L. Officers Directory for contact details.

Revolutionary – Members in Good Standing of the Sovereign Sanctuary of the IX° living within the United States but not currently serving as Officer or Voting Member of any Governing Body of U.S.G.L. are heartily encouraged to volunteer to the post of Revolutionary by contacting the President or Secretary of the Electoral College. Thus may progress be effected.

Website – The official website of the Electoral College can be found at <https://ec.oto-usa.org/>. In addition to the aforementioned resources, one may find information on volunteering to host a meeting or organize a study group in new areas, and other services provided by the College or expected of local bodies within U.S. Grand Lodge.

Love is the law, love under will.

Book review

Even as I: Interview with the Angel

Book author: Fr. Dedo INVICTVS

Publisher: Amazon KDP (2020); 127 pages, \$6.50

Reviewer: Fr. 120

*Have you ever found yourself wondering:
Can I ask someone if they Know their Holy
Guardian Angel?*

Yes. Many times. And apparently I am not so alone out here after all. An O.T.O. brother just decided to dig into that rabbit hole following an uncharted path that possibly expands the frontier of our comprehension of Thelema.

Spanning from Plato to Kant, from Abramelin to Crowley, and bringing in more recent exponents such as Reuss and Gunther, touching base on the modern works of psychotherapy and neurosciences from Edinger to contemporary authors, the book *Even as I* retraces many steps behind the modern view of the Knowledge & Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel. With an approach that is refreshing and calmly detached from all the squabbles often encountered when hot Thelemic topics and/or authors are called into question, the author presents

his work with a lucid and sober design, soundly resembling that of a scientific journal, both in the outline of the book and in the writing style. This is endorsed by the short bio on the back cover of the book.

The essence of the book can already be grasped from its subtitle, *Interview with the Angel*: an interview of twenty open-ended questions is presented to a sample of Initiates, or “Clients” as they are called throughout the book. The questions investigate the personal experience and understanding of each Client regarding the Knowledge & Conversation, the Holy Guardian Angel, and the Great Work. The book starts with a review of the available material on the matter, laying the foundations for a fresh, alternative approach. Then it goes on expounding the benefits and risks of the intellectual method employed throughout the work, almost resembling the necessity and diligence of a collective magickal diary.

After a meticulous explanation of all the details regarding the process of the sample selection and how the interviews were carried out and reported, the Author presents all interviews in their entirety. It is here that the work really blooms. A plethora of different perspectives emerge, subtly evoked by the diversity of each Client’s answer to the same question that the reader repeatedly confronts, in an enchanting loop that paradoxically numbs the rational barrier—and enables a learning-by-osmosis modality (similar to the subliminal influence of a dynamic Sigil). Finally, a succinct discussion of the interviews is given within the framework of the Thelemic doctrine.

The pool of interviewed Clients is somehow limited, but this also is accounted for in the narrative, and the survey potentially serves as a pilot study for a larger sample. The Author took his time to address many such key points, as implied by the five-year time span it took to complete the study. Not only: many of the questions that may arise when reading the description available on the book’s Amazon detail page are, in fact, answered throughout the book. Why the O.T.O. and not the A.:A.: for such a work? Check. Why an intellectual work on an ineffable matter? Check. And much more!

There are a great deal of books and online articles dealing with the argument that nobody can tell what the Angel is or is not, except that those same writings go on at length discussing their author’s impression of the Angel. But in *Even as I* the author flips the table and let others talk about their experience and understanding, giving voice (yet guaranteeing anonymity) to many interesting expressions of the Angelic universe. This strategy seems convenient given that, when the Clients’ answers remain anonymous, they tend to be as true as they can. Then, what more naturally emerges is the pure experience embedded and served by a genuine Will to share their Self with their fellows.

Some basic knowledge of Qabalah and of the Holy Books of Thelema is required if the reader desires a smoother reading. However, most of the introduced concepts are contextualized well enough to furnish a clear picture. This backs up a self-consistent experience and the reader is facilitated in following the content flow within a small, handy treatise. Also, the psychoanalytic model is worked out to introduce and unfold certain relevant dynamics, but the author clearly distinguishes the psychoanalytical from the magical paths and promptly departs from a psychological interpretation of Magick once the model has served its purpose.

And while the book often hits on the importance for the Thelemic community to share such experiences if we aim to a taboo-free and life-inspired search of the Angel, it equally emphasizes the necessity of a mature audience for this job to be done, and that the Intellect so thoroughly exploited needs to master the Art of Silence first and foremost, and then “when the time comes, it can step aside and give way to other, deeper levels of comprehension.”

The final discussion is also interesting, bringing to light many important analogies among the different interviews, such as the reception of “a preliminary formula [...] at a stage that precedes the K&C,” as well as some crucial differences, for example regarding “the possibility for more individuals having the same Angel.” More metaphysical features are also investigated, exposing that many aspects of our understanding remain open. Interestingly, some of those aspects possibly require fundamental assumptions (such as reincarnation) to solve their

tension and, for the very same reason, could lay the ground for future developments of the Thelemic doctrine.

Although it is an independent book published through Amazon KDP, the book comes in a nice paperback format, with a pleasant outlook, and it is largely affordable. Rating: 4 out of 5 stars.



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— Liber LII

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