

MONTES MAGICALES

Crux Ansata Oasis
Valley of Denver, CO
Ordo Templi Orientis



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Editorial

Soror Harper Feist

Do what thou Wilt
shall be the whole of
the Law!



Early in December, I had the opportunity to return home from Florida. I'm defining home in the traditional sense (yes, I visited my parents!) and in the O.T.O. community sense. Crux Ansata's performance of Liber XV was that weekend, and the "Crux" gave me the opportunity to perform the role of the Deacon. I was sufficiently excited enough to take my mind off the sub-zero temperatures of Denver those days, even though I have completely lost my previous hardiness to the cold during my year in Florida.

So much had changed since my last visit in February! The new Mass space is open and beautiful, and large. This last characteristic is particularly important because of the incredible growth that the body has experienced in a few short months. There were 43 communicants at the Gnostic Mass in November, and 25 or so braved the incredibly inclement conditions that existed during my visit.

Mass is now accompanied by three live musicians, which has a dramatic and positive impact on the experience for all participants. The music is improvisational, responding to each event within the Mass, whether scripted or not. The musicians add so much to an already intensely beautiful ritual. I know that everyone appreciates this new expression, I was certainly overcome.

I want to thank you all for your welcome. I felt more at home than ever, and am so grateful of all the new folks! It is incredible to watch the growth, and congratulations to the Crux officers for making it all possible! I can't wait to come back!

Love is the Law, Love under Will

Liber CI {Book 101}

O. T. O. Ordo Templi Orientis An Open Letter to Those Who May Wish to Join the Order Enumerating the Duties and Privileges

Fifth through eight house presented here:

FIFTH HOUSE

13. Every Brother shall seek constantly to give pleasure to all Brethren with whom he is acquainted, whether by entertainment or conversation, or in any other manner that may suggest itself. It will frequently and naturally arise that love itself springs up between members of the Order, for that they have so many and sacred interests in common. Such love is peculiarly holy, and is to be encouraged.

14. All children of Brethren are to be considered as children of the whole Order, and to be protected and aided in every way by its members severally, as by its organization collectively. No distinction is to be made with regard to the conditions surrounding the birth of any child.

15. There is an especially sacred duty, which every Brother should fulfill, with regard to all children, those born without the Order included. This duty is to instruct them in the Law of Thelema, to teach them independence and freedom of thought and character, and to warn them that servility and cowardice are the most deadly diseases of the human soul.

SIXTH HOUSE

16. Personal or domestic attendants should be chosen from among the members of the Order when possible, and great tact and courtesy are to be employed in dealing with them.

17. They, on their part, will render willing and intelligent service.

18. While in Lodge, and on special occasions, they are to be treated as Brothers, with perfect equality; such behaviour is undesirable during the hours of service, and familiarity, subversive as it is of all discipline and order, is to be avoided by adopting a complete and marked change of manner and address.

19. This applies to all persons in subordinate positions, but not to the Brethren Servient in the Profess-Houses of the Order, who, giving service without recompense, are to be honoured as hosts.

20. In case of the sickness of any Brother, it is the duty of all Brethren who know him personally to attend him, to see that he want for nothing, and to report if necessary his needs to the Lodge, or to Grand Lodge itself.

21. Those Brethren who happen to be doctors or nurses will naturally give their skill and care with even more than their customary joy in service.

22. All Brethren are bound by their fealty to offer their service in their particular trade, business, or profession, to the Grand Lodge. For example, a stationer will supply Grand Lodge with paper, vellum, and the like; a bookseller offer any books to the Library of Grand Lodge which the Librarian may desire to possess; a lawyer will execute any legal business for Grand Lodge, and a railway or steamship owner or director see to it that the Great Officers travel in comfort wherever they may wish to go.

23. Visitors from other Lodges are to be accorded the treatment of ambassadors; this will apply most especially to Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals of the Order on their tours of inspection. All hospitality and courtesy shown to such is shown to Ourselves, not to them only.

SEVENTH HOUSE

24. It is desirable that the marriage partner of any Brother should also be a member of the Order. Neglect to insist upon this leads frequently to serious trouble for both parties, especially the uninitiate.

25. Lawsuits between members of the Order are absolutely forbidden, on pain of immediate expulsion and loss of all privileges, even of those accumulated by past good conduct referred to in the second part of this instruction.

26. All disputes between Brethren should be referred firstly to the Master or Masters of their Lodge or Lodges in conference; if a composition be not arrived at in this manner, the dispute is to be referred to the Grand Tribunal, which will arbitrate thereon, and its decision is to be accepted as final.

27. Refusal to apply for or accept such decision shall entail expulsion from the Order, and the other party is then at liberty to seek his redress in the Courts of Profane Justice.

28. Members of the Order are to regard those without its pale as possessing no rights of any kind, since they have not accepted the Law, and are therefore, as it were, troglodytes, survivals of a past civilisation, and to be treated accordingly. Kindness should be shown towards them, as towards any other animal, and every effort should be made to bring them into Freedom.

29. Any injury done by any person without the Order to any person within it may be brought before the Grand Tribunal, which will, if it deem right and fit, use all its power to redress or to avenge it.

30. In the case of any Brother being accused of an offence against the criminal law of the country in which he resides, so that any other Brother cognisant of the fact feels bound in self-defence to bring accusation, he shall report the matter to the Grand Tribunal as well as to the Civil Authority, claiming exemption on this ground.

31. The accused Brother will, however, be defended by the Order to the utmost of its power on his

affirming his innocence upon the Volume of the Sacred Law in the Ordeal appointed ad hoc by the Grand Tribunal itself.

32. Public enemies of the country of any Brother shall be treated as such while in the field, and slain or captured as the officer of the Brother may command. But within the precincts of the Lodge all such divisions are to be forgotten absolutely; and as children of One Father the enemies of the hour before and the hour after are to dwell in peace, amity, and fraternity.

EIGHTH HOUSE

33. Every Brother is expected to bear witness in his last will and testament to the great benefit that he hath received from the Order by bestowing upon it part or the whole of his goods, as he may deem fit.

34. The death of a Brother is not to be an occasion of melancholy, but of rejoicing; the Brethren of his Lodge shall gather together and make a banquet with music and dancing and all manner of gladness. It is of the greatest importance that this shall be done, for thereby the inherited fear of death which is deep-seated as instinct in us will gradually be rooted out. It is a legacy from the dead aeon of Osiris, and it is our duty to kill it in ourselves that our children and our children's children may be born free from the curse.

-Ninth through twelfth houses to be included in the next issue of Montes Magicales!

Asana: Not your neighborhood yoga class

Soror Harper Feist

Many of us practice yoga, and are familiar with yoga as physical exercise, or perhaps a type of alternative health practice. In the east, yoga is traditionally associated with spiritual attainment. The Sanskrit word, आसन āsana 'sitting down', (आस ās 'to sit down') is a body position, originally identified as a mastery of sitting still. In his Yoga sutras, highly regarded by Crowley, Patanjali suggests that asana is

"to be seated in a position that is firm, but relaxed" for extended, or timeless periods. This usage difference emphasizes the fact that yoga practiced in the West has a different ascribed purpose from that seen in more traditional observances. It is this sense that Aleister Crowley uses in his descriptions of asana. The purpose of asana in this context is, then, a way to train the body so that it is not distracting when the Adept must put her mind on something without interference.

In Liber E vel Exercitiorum sub figurâ IX, Crowley describes four positions that he recommends for sitting practice. One, "the God," is a chair-based posture. Directions have you sit up straight, hold your knees together and place your hands on your thighs. Another position is "Dragon." This is very similar to "seiza" (Japanese, meaning roughly "proper sitting"), familiar to some from martial arts. Basically, in this posture, one sits on one's heels on the floor, feet folded underneath. In photos, Crowley demonstrates this posture with knees tightly together, and hands on the thighs. The third position recommended by Crowley is called "the Ibis," and involves the meditator standing on one leg, holding the other foot and pressing the free forefinger to the lips. The fourth and last position is called "The Thunderbolt." It will be recognizable to Japanese martial artists as something resembling "tatehiza," and involves sitting on your left heel and positioning your right foot in front of your genitals. Arms are positioned over the knees.

All these postures have in common that the back is held very straight. As you will experience after trying any of them for a couple of moments, you will see that when Crowley talks about holding "every muscle tense," that he is referring to maintaining the position in which air passes in and out of the body most easily. The rigidity is actually the muscular tension required to restrain oneself from slouching. In my practice, the amount of effort needed to hold the posture with the airway completely open is the appropriate amount of effort.

If you are interested in using these asanas to develop your meditative practice, it is probably solid advice not to start with the one that is most difficult for you.

You will see that even the simplest of these postures becomes difficult after an hour or so. If you are going to begin the use of an asana which is not already familiar to you, separate your first attempts from any relationship with meditation. Recognize that if you're in pain, it's probably going to be hard to start your meditation. Start instead by adopting the position while you read or watch TV. I eat in my asana nearly all the time, so that when it comes time to use it meditatively, my body is not fighting so much. That having been said, none of these postures are likely to become honestly comfortable.

One last thing: Crowley states in Book 4 that it is acceptable to experience "several minutes of the acutest agony" when getting out of the asana. This of course refers to the phenomenon of having limbs "go to sleep," and then reawaken when more customary levels of blood flow are reestablished. When you reach the point where this is a chief concern, rather than pain and discomfort during your sitting, you will be well on your way.



Crux Ansata Upcoming Events (January through March, 2014)

04 January: III Initiations*

11 January: Gnostic Mass, 6:30 PM

January Oasis Meeting, please check website calendar

08 February: II Initiations*

11 February: Gnostic Mass, 6:30 PM

08 March: Gnostic Mass, 6:30 PM

17 January and 21 February: discussion group, see calendar for details.

Visit cruxansata-oto.org/calendar for locations, times, and additional events!

PUZZLE by Frater al'Bali:

Solution for last month's puzzle - - -



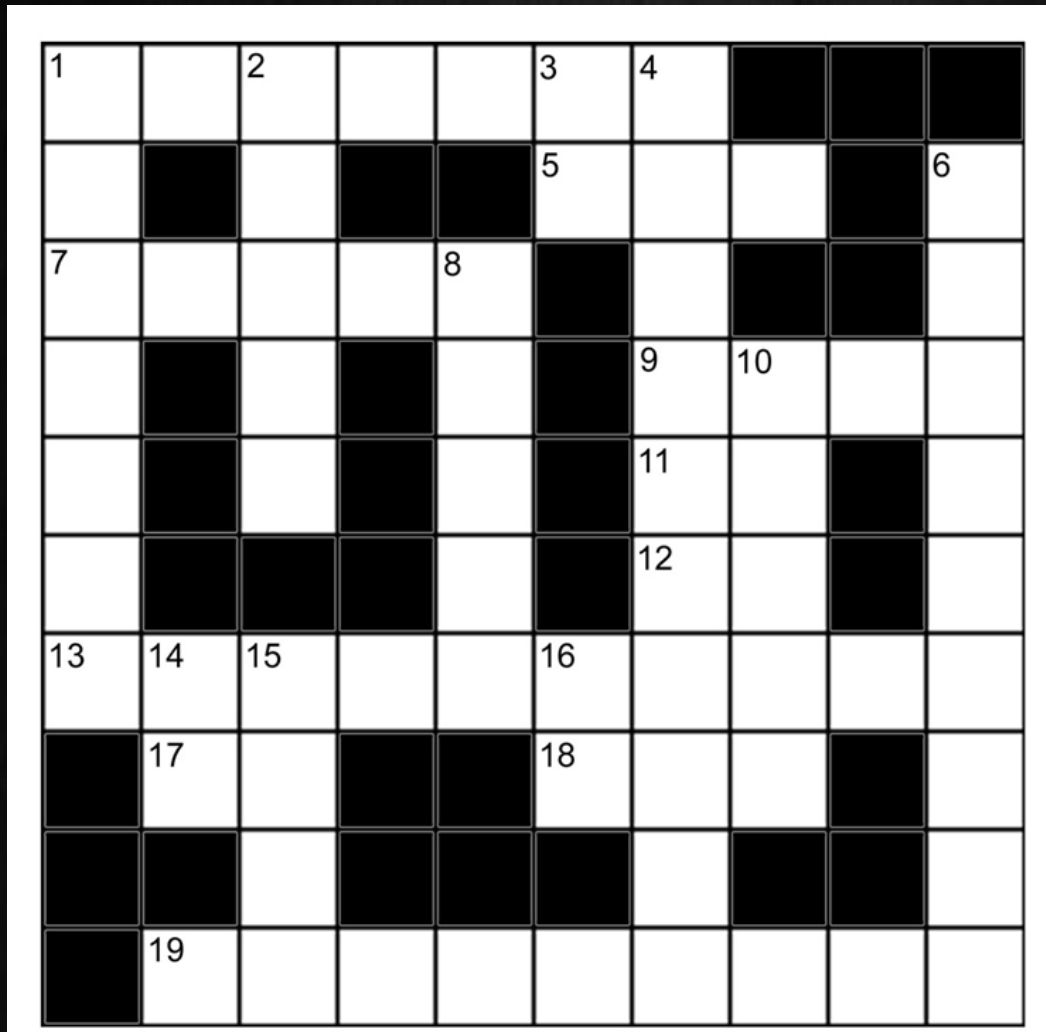
CLUES FOR NEW PUZZLE - - -

ACROSS

1. "This...is the way of Asar in _____."
5. "There are four gates to ___ palace;"
7. "...love: all else is a _____."
9. "...behold my light shed _____ you!"
11. English version of "e.v."
12. "...__ if thou art ever joyous!"
13. One of the many fruits of the Prophet's genius
17. "(Elohim's nature) represents Śakti, or __."
18. "...the dew of her light bathing _____ whole body..."
19. 333

DOWN

1. "...____, which is food...for the whole Man."
2. The daughter, in a way.
3. Definitive article in Greek
4. To bring something into one's self
6. A mage of supreme importance to Thelemites
8. Chemical agent corresponding to Air
10. Consort of Spock?
14. "__ is a lie, this folly against self."
15. The letter of lust?
16. "__ me! but the glory of ravening storm..."



Solution to be published in the next “Montes Magicales.” If you’re very, very good.



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