



## **First Degree Initiation: Friar**

Chamber: As detailed in the article “Chamber of Art”, First Degree material Altar: Against East Wall, draped in white. Signum: Suspended above the Altar Credenza in the South East:

- Vessel of Salt
- Thurible of Incense
- Oath and Pen
- White Cincture
- Vessel of Lustral Water
- Phial of anointing Oil
- Chalice
- Cruet of red wine
- Krater (fireproof vessel/bowl)
- Lighting Taper

This is the standard format opening for all Initiatory Degrees. The only changes in this opening between each degree are as follows:

I° - Friar: Drape on altar is white, cloth of concealment on candidate is also white.

II° - Friar Adeptus Minor: Two drapes on altar, a base of white, over which is a charge of red. Both colors should be equally visible. Cloth of concealment on candidate is also red.

III° - Friar Adeptus Major: Three drapes upon the altar, a base of white, on top of which is a charge of red, and on top of that is a charge of yellow/gold. All three colors should be equally visible. Cloth of concealment on candidate is also yellow/gold.

## Warding the Chamber:

Begin with the Gnostic Cross:

When the Rhythmic Breath has been developed, a Tongue of Flame is visualized above the head. This Tongue of Flame represents the Higher Genius, the source of magical power, that Sacred Flame by virtue of which the practice of magic is even possible.

Holding this visualization in mind, on the expelled breath we vibrate: “**Tu Es**”.

On the indrawn breath, the arms are raised. In raising the arms, the vertical line of the body is balanced by a symmetrical, horizontal extension. The palms are upturned to signify that this balanced being is ready to manifest the power of the Higher Self. The breath is expelled.

As the breath is drawn in, a brilliant shaft of light is visualized which descends swiftly from the Flame, passing through the crown of the head and the center of the body to the ground between the feet. On the expelled breath we vibrate: “**Regnum**”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the left hand is brought across to rest on the right shoulder. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “**Atque Potentia**”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the right hand is brought across to rest on the left shoulder. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “**Atque Maiestas**”

Keeping the arms crossed, on the pause at the end of the breath, we lower the head. The breath is drawn in: we feel the shaft of light within, radiating the energy of the Flame into and throughout our being. We feel a great concentration of the Flame into and throughout our being. We feel a great concentration of the Flame and of magical power at the heart center, and on the expelled breathe, we vibrate: “**Atque Aeon Sum**”

Advance to the East of the Chamber. Beginning at that point, and returning thereto, trace a clockwise circle, encompassing the area of the Chamber.

Return to the center and face East.

Bring both hands to your forehead, index fingers and thumbs touching, forming a triangle. Visualize a brilliantly glowing point-up pentagram within this triangle. When the visualization is firmly established, step forward with your left foot, flinging your arms forward, and within the pentagram, vibrating the God-name of the quarter (see below). As the pentagram is flung forward, visualize it expanding and growing, until it reaches the inner perimeter of your circle, where it bursts into magnificent shimmering purifying sparks.

Hebrew: East: **Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh** South: **ADONAI** West: **EHEIEH** North: **AGLA**  
Greek: East: **SELAE-GENETES** South: **KYRIOS** West: **ATHANATOS** North: **PANKRATES**

Latin: East: **DEUS** South: **DOMINI** West: **SUM** North: **OPIFEX**

Facing East, assume the Mountain Pose. Raise arms to the Ka posture, reciting: “In the name of Light arising do I summon RAPHAEL, the Healer, guardian of Air and Wind and Tempest, to guard this Chamber and witness the acts here taken. Come mighty RAPHAEL, and grace me with thy presence.” Light yellow votive candle on altar.

Facing South: “In the name of Light increasing, I summon MICHAEL, the Defender, Lord of Fire and Prince of the Legions of Heaven. May he guard this Chamber and give due witness to the acts here taken. Come, mighty MICHAEL, and grace me with thy presence.”

Light red votive candle on altar.

Facing West: “In the name of Light descending, I likewise summon GABRIEL, Lord of Water, Heavenly Herald, who didst bring glad tidings to Our Blessed Lady. May this Chamber be guarded and our acts here witnessed. Come, mighty GABRIEL, and grace me with thy presence.”

Light blue votive candle on altar.

Facing North: “In the name of Light returning, I also summon URIEL, Dark Lord of Earth, who bringest all at last unto the Nether Shore, Companion of all who offer up their lives in the defense of others, guard this Chamber and witness the acts here taken. Come, mighty URIEL, and grace me with thy presence.”

Light green votive Candle on altar.

Returning to the East:

“I stand outside time, in a place not of earth. As my ancestors before me bade, I join together with those who have gone before, and those still traveling along the Path, and we are One of purpose. By Thy Blessed Apostles, by all Thy Holy Angels, by all Powers of Light and Shadow, we call Thee to guard and defend us from all perils, O Most High.”

### **Lighting the Sacred Flame:**

The central flame source on the altar symbolizes the Sacred Noetic Flame of Gnosis, which brought

Self-awareness to higher life. It is the Willful act of rekindling this Flame on the altar that opens a “Gate” of communication between the Magician and the Higher Powers.

The Initiator then takes a lighting taper and traces a cross over the top of the candle with it, first the horizontal bar, from right to left, and then the vertical bar, top to

bottom, with the bottommost point being the wick of the candle, the Sacred Flame being thereby lit.

The Initiator then says “Light is the Life of the World, let all the living rejoice. From the Portal of Air, to the Portal of Water; From the Portal of Fire, to the Portal of Earth; From the Center of Power, to the encompassing firmament, let this Sanctuary be established within the Sacred Flame.”

#### **Again the Gnostic Cross:**

When the Rhythmic Breath has been developed, a Tongue of Flame is visualized above the head. This Tongue of Flame represents the Higher Genius, the source of magical power, that Sacred Flame by virtue of which the practice of magic is even possible.

Holding this visualization in mind, on the expelled breath we vibrate: “Tu Es”.

On the indrawn breath, the arms are raised. In raising the arms, the vertical line of the body is balanced by a symmetrical, horizontal extension. The palms are upturned to signify that this balanced being is ready to manifest the power of the Higher Self. The breath is expelled.

As the breath is drawn in, a brilliant shaft of light is visualized which descends swiftly from the Flame, passing through the crown of the head and the center of the body to the ground between the feet. On the expelled breath we vibrate: “Regnum”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the left hand is brought across to rest on the right shoulder. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “Atque Potentia”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the right hand is brought across to rest on the left shoulder. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “Atque Maestas”

Keeping the arms crossed, on the pause at the end of the breath, we lower the head. The breath is drawn in: we feel the shaft of light within, radiating the energy of the Flame into and throughout our being. We feel a great concentration of the Flame into and throughout our being. We feel a great concentration of the Flame and of magical power at the heart center, and on the expelled breathe, we vibrate: “Atque Aeon Sum”

#### **Censing the Chamber:**

Initiator drops incense into Thurible, and censes the chamber, three times in each direction: East, South, West, and North. Initiator replaces the Thurible.

#### **Circled Cross of Illumination:**

Initiator picks up the Sacred Flame, holds it before him at about eye level, and signs the circled cross (horizontal at brow level, left to right; vertical descending; circle clockwise, starting from top of descending beam. This is repeated in the South, West,

and North, returning at last to the altar in the East where it is raised on high, then replaced.

### **Invocatio**

The Initiator raises arms to the Ka posture:

“I call upon you, who rules over the kingdom of power whose word comes as a birth of light and whose words are immortal.

They are eternal and unchanging.

You who are the one whose will begets life for the forms in every place.

You who are the one whose nature gives form to substance, who moves the souls of the angels.

You who are the one whose providence extends to everyone and begets everyone.

You who are the one who forms the Aeon among spirits. Who created everything.

You, who are self-contained, care for everything.

You are perfect, the invisible Deity to whom one speaks in silence.

Your image is moved when it is directed, and it governs the one mighty power, who is exalted above majesty, who is better than the honored ones.

Ave Flamma Sactissima, Viventes Lux, Donum Deum, In Corde Tibi Foveo, Membris Circumamictis Gloria Tua.

In the Bond of Holy Light do I call upon you, High Guardians, I who am a continuator of your Work: O Luminous Ones, behold and hear me. Not without my own questing do I seek Gnosis, nor without my own endeavor to achieve the Supreme Good: but that the sowing shall be crowned in the harvest.

For oneness of purpose do I call unto you, for that joy of resolve which is the wine of the Will, transforming all that is foreign to it.

For Living Light and Luminous Life do I call unto you, O Hidden High Ones! So Light and Life shall be drawn at last to the radiance of the One Light, and that Light shall mount to the Highest.”

*End of Standard Ritual Opening*

**Reception of the candidate:**

The candidate has been waiting outside the chamber, with the cloth of concealment over his head, obscuring his vision. At this point, the Initiator opens the door and addresses the candidate:

“(Name), the Gate of the Temple stands open to you.”

Initiator takes candidate's left hand in his right and says:

“Come, therefore, and approach the Light. Enter upon the Path of your heart's desire, and know yourself.”

Candidate is led into the chamber, and the door is closed behind the candidate.

“Child of Earth and Starry Heaven, you who seek this day the experience of the Mysteries, you who seek this day a clearer vision of Truth; you who seek this day worlds within worlds until for you all worlds are One in eternity: the High Company of the Sacred Flame greet you.

Before we proceed, know this. Whoso enters the Mysteries can nevermore return to the evening world of the unenlightened and sleeping selfhood. To take the first step upon the sacred Path of Reintegration is to be committed to its long arduousness forever. To enter upon this path is to find New Life in the morning world of divine inspiration, until all shall be caught up and assumed into the transforming Sacred Flame of Godhead.

I ask most seriously, therefore: are you determined to make this venture and to undergo this transformation?”

Candidate replies unprompted.

“Then, Child of Earth and Starry Heaven, enter and know well this House whose ways you shall tread, for this is the House of your own Self. May the glorious Light of Supernal Life inspire and vitalize you, so that you may grow to the stature of what you may become.”

**The Oath:**

“I ask you then to make this formal commitment. Listen as I read to you this Oath. If it is found acceptable to you, you will sign it and enter upon this path. If you find you cannot in good conscience, without any mental reservation whatsoever, sign this Oath, then you may turn back now, never having seen the formation of our Mysteries.”

The Initiator reads the Oath:

“I, (Name), aspirant to the First Degree of the Friary in the Western Mystery Tradition, do most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I shall undertake to pursue the Great Work of Self Realization in abundance of love and in generous devotion, to the end that my whole being shall, in the ecstasy of supreme attainment, be irradiated and divinely transformed in the splendor of the Sacred Flame.

I furthermore promise and swear that I will never reveal the secret ceremonial of this mystic circle, unless within strict conformity with the rules of the Order.

Whereunto, in the presence of those here assembled, seen and unseen, I do invoke my own Higher Self to bear witness.

So it is. So shall it be. In the Light of the Sacred Flame.

Is this obligation acceptable?”

If the Candidate indicates it is acceptable, the Veil of Concealment is removed, the Oath is signed by the Candidate and placed upon the altar.

**The Gnostic Cross:**

The Initiator then formulates the Gnostic Cross for the Candidate.

When the Rhythmic Breath has been developed, a Tongue of Flame is visualized above the Candidate's head. This Tongue of Flame represents the Higher Genius, the source of magickal power, that Sacred Flame by virtue of which the practice of magick is even possible.

Holding this visualization in mind, on the expelled breath the Initiator vibrates: “Tu Es”

On the indrawn breath, the arms raised. In raising the arms, the vertical line of the body is balanced by a symmetrical, horizontal extension. The palms are upturned to signify that this balanced being is ready to manifest the power of the Higher Self. The breath is expelled.

As the breath is drawn in, a brilliant shaft of light is visualized which descends swiftly from the Flame, passing through the crown of the Candidate's head and the center of



the body to the ground between the feet. On the expelled breath we vibrate:  
“Regnum”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the left hand is brought across to rest on the right shoulder of the Candidate. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “Atque Potentia”

On the indrawn breath, the palm of the right hand is brought across to rest on the left shoulder of the Candidate. On the expelled breath, we vibrate: “Atque Maestas”

The Initiator then crosses the Candidate's arms, left over right. The breath is drawn in: Visualize the shaft of light radiating within the Candidate, radiating the energy of the Flame into and throughout their being. Visualizing a great concentration of the Flame and of magical power at the candidate's heart center, and on the expelled breathe, we vibrate: “Atque Aeon Sum”

The Initiator has the Candidate dismiss the posture.

#### **Invigorating the Ruach:**

“This is the first mystic principle, the male principle, which we name The Breath.”

Initiator places the right hand on the Candidate's left shoulder.

“It is that which vitalizes, that which knows, that which unifies.”

Initiator places his hands on either side of the Candidate's head, bringing it forward and down. The Initiator breaths thrice upon the crown of the Candidate's head. This done, he removes his hands and steps back one pace. Then, raising the right hand before the Candidate, he says:

“May the powers of your Ruach, your rational soul and consciousness, mediate aright between your higher and lower natures. May your Ruach govern your emotional and instinctual nature with understanding, with benevolence, with strength; may it likewise be a willing and effectual instrument for the powers of your higher nature, to the happiness and true fulfillment of higher and lower together.”

The Initiator lowers the hand.

#### **Invigorating the Nephesh:**

“This is the second mystic principle, the female principle, which we name The Body.”

Initiator places his left hand on Candidate's right shoulder.

“It is that which nurtures, that which feels, that which multiplies.”

Initiator indicates to Candidate to open their mouth, wherein a small pinch of salt is placed. This done, the Initiator steps back one pace. Then, raising the left hand towards the Candidate, saying:

“May the powers of your Nephesh, your instinctual and emotional nature, blossom to their rightful development in relation to your rational consciousness and to your bodily faculties. May the Nephesh participate richly in the experiences of your life, for the lasting good of your whole person. May all be harmonized to the Wisdom of your Higher Self operating through the Ruach, that your highest destiny may be happily achieved thereby.”

The Initiator lowers the hand.

**The Supernal Functions:**

“Three are the Supernal functions which are present in your spirit, which were present before ever your lower nature was brought into being, and to which your consciousness must be awakened for the fulfillment of the Inner Quest.”

**The Principle of Justice:**

The first of these three is the principle of Justice. It is the principle of formation, of limitation, of purification.”

The Initiator places more incense within the thurible and censens the Candidate three times. He replaces the thurible, and ties the white cincture around the candidate's waist.

“May your conscious reason accept in a living dedication the authority of your Neshamah, the Supernal Mother of your psyche. May your conscious reason thereby be guided to grant rightful development and enlightened control to your emotional-instinctual nature, that your whole life may be enriched and your spiritual progress assured and accelerated. May your Neshamah, the representative in the human spirit of the Holy Sophia of our aspiration - she who is both the outer veil and the means of manifestation of the Supernal Father - be to you in reality a Mother of Wonder, of Love and of inspiration, a glorious and mystical light of Guidance and of Understanding, to lead you ever more deeply into the world of the Sacred Flame.”

**The Principle of Mercy:**

“The second of the three is the principle of Mercy. It is the principle of the hidden causal force of Spirit, which is revealed and is made manifest through the first principle. Thus do these two great principles of Spirit work together and in equilibrium.”

Using the index, middle, and ring fingers of his right hand, the Initiator asperses the candidate from a vessel of Lustral water.

“Just as the earth awakens to new life beneath the rain from the heavens, so may your life and soul reveal the action of the Chiah, the Supernal Father of your psyche, in the abundant renewal and increase of the inner being which is given through the Neshamah. Ever may you be increasingly aware of these two great principles of Spirit - the causal and the formative - as they operate together in those new beginnings and flashings of illumination that come to birth in the inner life, opening the way of the Sacred Flame.”

The Initiator directs the Candidate to kneel. Initiator takes a dab of the anointing oil on the ball of the Initiator's right thumb and traces the Signum upon the candidate's brow, saying:

“Upon your brow let shine the Signum, as sign and seal of your dedication this day to the Mysteries of the Sacred Flame.”

Candidate is directed to rise.

### **The Principle of Glory:**

The Initiator takes up the Sacred Flame from the altar, and raises it up above eye level. He lowers the Flame, passes it to the Candidate, and indicates that he should likewise raise it up, and hold it in that position.

“May your whole being grow in awareness of the Yechidah, the principle of Glory as it is present to your psyche. Even though the Yechidah is more hidden than the Chiah, may your perception discern it as the point behind causality, the perfect unity of Being and Becoming. May you find in yourself a subtle consciousness of it as the Sacred Flame, which is both the source and ultimate pinnacle of the Spirit. May your mind realize it as deathless, changeless and incapable of any imperfection, for it is inseparable from the Divine Mind, being the Divine Idea of yourself in your perfection. From it you have descended: to it, your Quest at last completed, in rapture be your return.”

The Initiator takes the Sacred Flame from the Candidate and replaces it upon the altar.

“This Sacred Flame (indicating the Candle with both hands), set now in its place of honor upon our altar, represents the undying Flame of Godhead, which burns eternal at the center of all worlds.

It represents too the single Light of your Higher Self, your personal Star of Destiny, which participates in the Divine Life, which shines always in the highest sanctuary of your being.

It is that supreme and inmost Light which shall, in fulfillment of your aspiration, fully irradiate all the levels within you in the mode, and according to the nature of the Sacred Flame.”

The Initiator now takes up the signed Oath from the altar, displaying it to the Candidate.

“Behold now this oath of aspiration which you have sword and signed, the fulfillment of which is intrinsic to your spiritual evolution.”

The Initiate ignites the oath in the flame of the Lamp.

“As now in a symbolic act this paper is consumed in the Sacred Flame, so in reality may all the levels of your being find their consummation in the transmuting Fire of Godhead.”

The Initiator holds the paper until it is almost consumed, and then drops it into a fireproof container.

“So simple and yet so primal an act is the token of a changeless bond, of commitment to an unending ideal in the Light of the Spirit. Yet, let not the symbol of flame seem to suffice.”

The Initiator takes up the Chalice and cruet of wine.

“Truly the Yechidah is a brilliance apart from and above yourself. However its powers of illumination and of transformation flood ever into your being; and if your inner awareness is open to this, you are illuminated and transformed indeed.”

Slightly raising the Chalice, the Initiator pours the wine into the Chalice, saying:

“May the Chalice of your soul freely receive the Wine of your Spirit, and experience the Divine Intoxication thereby.”

The Initiator replaces the cruet, turns to face East, and raises the Chalice on high. He turns and delivers the Chalice to the Candidate and says:

“In acknowledgment of this mystery, receive this cup and drink deeply and completely.”

Candidate having consumed the wine, the Initiator retrieves the Chalice and directs the Candidate once again to kneel.

#### **Accessio Lucis:**

The initiator assumes the Mountain Pose. He turns his thought in aspiration to the Prime Source of Light and Life. In his contemplation, he imagines himself growing vast and yet more vast, magnified in being and power by adherence to the object of his highest and inmost desire.

Still in Mountain Pose, and with the sense of vastness, he formulates his Corona Flammae, knowing that the psychic reality represented by the Corona is a living part of the Divine Mind and exists in constant and dynamic interaction therewith.

In the mystery and power of this realization he visualizes his Corona increasing inexorably in brightness from brilliant light to dazzling splendor, so that he is entirely bathed in, is pervaded through and through by, the ambience of Light's outpoured benison.

In the ambience of this Light, he raises his arms up to the Ka position and begins the invocation:

“O Most High, Most holy, sublime and hidden God! Let the Living Flame of your Glory pour forth into this, your child, and empower him/her; let your wondrous Spirit move ever more strongly within him/her in the action of Justice and Mercy.”

Initiator raises hands above the Candidate's head in benediction:

“And let the Pillars of his/her House be irradiated with the plenitude of your Supernal Splendor.” Initiator crosses his arms across his breast, right over left:

“So shall the Vision of the Light Divine arise within his/her Soul, and your Presence enfold him/her.” The Candidate is assisted in rising, and the Initiator says:

“Thus (name), do I receive you as an Initiate of the First Degree of the Friary, and establish you among the High Company of the Sacred Flame.”

### **Standard Ritual Closing**

Stand in the center of the Chamber, or as nearly center, as the arrangement will allow.

“I give thanks to Thee! Every soul and heart is lifted up to Thee, Undisturbed Name, honored with the name 'God' and praised with the name 'Father,' for to everyone and everything comes the Fatherly kindness and affection and love, and any teaching there may be that is sweet and plain, giving us mind, speech, and gnosis. Mind, so that we may understand Thee; Speech, so that we may expound Thee; Gnosis so that we may know Thee. I rejoice, having been illuminated by Thine Holy Gnosis!”

Facing and saluting the East:

“Hail, mighty RAPHAEL, Archangel of the Air, Healer, and Guardian of Air and Wind and Tempest. I thank thee for thine attendance and protection here tonight, and before thou departest for thine airy realms, I bid thee hail and farewell.”

Extinguish the yellow votive light.

Facing and saluting the South:

“Hail, mighty MICHAEL, the Defender, Lord of Fire and Prince of the Legions of Heaven. I thank thee for thine attendance and protection here tonight, and before thou departest for thine fiery realms, I bid thee hail and farewell.” Extinguish the red votive light.

Facing and saluting the West:

“Hail, mighty Gabriel, Lord of Water, Heavenly Herald, who didst bring glad tidings to Our Blessed Lady. I thank thee for thine attendance and protection here tonight, and before thou departest for thine watery realms, I bid thee hail and farewell.”

Extinguish the blue votive light.

Facing and saluting the North:

“Hail, mighty Auriel, Dark Lord of Earth, who bringest all at last unto the Nether Shore, Companion of all who offer up their lives in the defense of others. I thank thee for thy attendance and protection here tonight, and before thou departest for thine earthy realms, I bid thee hail and farewell.” Extinguish the green votive light.

“In harmony and aspiration this rite began: in unity and exaltation we bring it to a close.

In the strength of that which we have wrought, with the blessing of the Most High, and in the Light of the Sacred Flame, let us go forth into the world - but let the silence of the Mysteries keep guard between our soul and our lips. So may the Holy Fire abide within the Temple.”

Extinguish the Sacred Flame, after which, retrace the enclosing circle,

counter-clockwise. “So it is Done.”