

THE GRADE OF AIR

(The lodge is opened in the Outer in the usual form. The candidate then leaves in form and sits in the anteroom, with the Emblem of Air as a subject for contemplation.)

OPENING OF THE GRADE OF AIR

(If the Dirigent will not be serving as Chief in the ritual work, this passage, between lines, is to be used:)

Dirigent: ! (Knocks.) Companion N., you will advance to the East and take charge of the lodge. (The companion chosen to act as Chief then advances by the square to the center of the floor and thence to the East, taking the Throne of the East, while the Dirigent retires to any convenient seat.)

Chief: Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Outer and open it in the Grade of Air. Those present who have not entered into this Grade must depart. Companion Summoner, you will proclaim it so.

Summoner: ! (Knocks with staff.) Procul, procul esti profani!

(At this point, anyone present who has not received this Grade leaves the lodge room in form. When this is done and the door is secured, the rite continues.)

Chief: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I assume the Throne of the East and take up the power of the Spiritual Sun.

(Chief takes staff from its holder.)

Chief: Companion Adjuvant, confirm that all who are present have witnessed the Light of the Stone in the realm of Air. !!!
(knocks; all rise)

Adjuvant: Companions, give the sign of the Grade of Air. (All give sign to Adjuvant, who responds with the same sign.) Chief of the Rite, all have witnessed it. (Adjuvant gives the Sign to Chief, who responds with the same sign.)

Chief: The following Companions will take part in our present work. (Names the Companions and the ritual offices they will be taking.) Companions N. and N., you will advance the altar to the center of the lodge, and then purify and consecrate the lodge with water and with fire.

(This will normally be done by the Lecturer and Diviner, if these

Grade of Air

offices have been filled; if not, any conveniently placed Companions may do so. The officers advance by the square to the sides of the altar and move it to the center of the lodge. They then go to the stations of Water and Fire, take cup and censer, and move to a position halfway between these stations and the altar, facing East, as shown in the diagram below:

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Water Station | Officer of Water | Altar | Officer of Fire | Fire Station |
|------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|

(Each makes a cross in the air with the implement, sprinkles or censes thrice to the east, and says:

Water: I purify with Water.

Fire: I consecrate with Fire.

(Officers return the cup and censer to their places, and return to their places by the square.)

Chief: Let the element of this Grade be named that it may be awakened in the spheres of those present and the sphere of the Order.

All: The element of Air.

Chief: Let us adore the Lord and King of Air. (All face east, Chief stepping in front of podium to do so.) Yehowah, Tetragrammaton, fourfold is the Name of thy power! Be thy Name ever magnified in the life of all. Amen. (All make sign of Air.)

(Chief leaves the East, goes with Sun around lodge once to East. Herald, Warden and Guide fall in from their Outer stations as Chief circumambulates, Herald before chief, Warden and Guide in that order behind. At the end of the movement, officers fan out: Chief stands before eastern altar, Guide to left and behind, Herald to right and behind, Warden directly behind and further back; the four officers form a diamond-shape, as shown below. All face east.)

| | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| | Air | |
| | Altar | |
| | Chief | |
| Guide | | Herald |
| | Warden | |

Chief: (traces an invoking pentagram of Air to the east) And the Elohim said, Let us make Adam in our own image, after our likeness, and let him have dominion over the birds of the Air. In the Name Yehowah, the Tetragrammaton, and in the Name Shaddai El Chai, spirits of Air, adore your Creator!

(Chief traces the symbol of Aquarius in the center of the pentagram.)

Guide: In the name of Raphael, great archangel of Air, and in the sign of the head of the Man, spirits of Air, adore your Creator!

(Chief traces an equal-armed cross over the pentagram.)

Herald: In the names and letters of the great eastern quadrangle, spirits of Air, adore your Creator!

(Chief holds the head of his staff at the center of the pentagram.)

Warden: In the three great secret Names of God borne upon the banners of the east, ORO IBAH AOZPI, spirits of Air, adore your Creator!

Chief: In the name of BATAIVAH, great king of the east, spirits of Air, adore your Creator!

(Officers face east, fall into line as Herald begins moving, and move around hall with Sun. They complete one circuit and then fall out as they reach their stations, taking their Inner places for this Grade.)

Chief: Companion Warden, you will assume your station.

Warden: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I enter the Place of Darkness and take up the power of the Secret Fire.

(Warden takes staff from its holder.)

Chief: Companion Guide, you will assume your station.

Guide: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I enter the Place of Light and take up the power of the Crescent Moon.

(Guide takes staff from its holder.)

Chief: Companion Herald, you will assume your station.

Herald: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I enter the Place of Balance and take up the Staff and Lamp of Wisdom.

(Herald takes staff from its holder.)

Chief: Companions, I ask you to join with me in establishing this lodge in the Grade of Air. (Pause while the inner temple is built up.) And so it is established.

All: So be it.

Chief: Companion Herald, you will proclaim this lodge closed in the Outer and open in the Grade of Air.

Herald: In the Name Tetragrammaton, I proclaim that the Sun has risen in the realm of Air.

Chief: !!! !!! !!!

Warden: !!! !!! !!!

Guide: !!! !!! !!!

Herald: !!! !!! !!!

Chief: ! (All are seated.)

INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATE

Chief: Companions of _____ Lodge #__. Our Companion _____, having been proved in the work of the Grade of Earth, is now eligible for advancement to the Grade of Air, and I have received a dispensation from the Council to admit him/her in due form. Companion Guide, you will see to the preparation of the candidate. Companion Herald, you will guard the door.

(Warden makes sure sword is on altar and cushion for kneeling is between altar and diagram. Guide goes to door and leaves hall; Herald makes sure bindings for candidate's hands are in place, and stands by door. Guide blindfolds candidate, gives him/her the Emblem of Air, and instructs him/her in the knock !!! !!! !!! Candidate then gives knock at door, and Herald opens door slightly.)

Herald: Quit the material and seek the spiritual. (Door is opened, and Guide brings candidate into the lodge, facing him/her East.)

Chief: Companion Periclinus de Faustis, by what emblem do you seek admission to this hall of the rushing winds?

Guide (for candidate): By this Emblem of Air.

Chief: Companion, give the sign of the Grade of Earth.

(Candidate gives it.)

Chief: Companion Herald, receive from the candidate the Word of the Grade of Earth.

(Candidate gives word to Herald.)

Herald: Chief of the Rite, I have received it.

Chief: Let our Companion be placed between the Pillars, with his/her face toward the East. (This is done; Guide stands behind candidate.) Companion Periclinus de Faustis, will you pledge yourself to maintain the same secrecy and diligence in the mysteries of this Grade as you are pledged to maintain for those of the First Degree and the Grade of Earth?

(Candidate answers.)

Chief: Then you will stretch out your hand, holding the Emblem of Air toward heaven, and say: "I pledge by the firmament of Heaven."

(Candidate does so.)

Chief: Let the symbol of blindness be removed. (This is done by Guide. At this point Guide and Warden both go with sun around the lodge, take the censer and cup from their altars, and return, Guide standing by White Pillar, Warden by Black.) Stretch forth your right hand, holding the Emblem of Air toward the east in the position of the Sign of Earth, and say, "Let the powers of Air witness my pledge."

(Candidate does so. Herald then takes Emblem to station and returns.)

Chief: Let our Companion be purified with Water and consecrated with Fire in confirmation of this pledge, and in the name of the Lord of the Universe, who works in silence and whom nothing but silence can express.

Warden: I purify with Water. (Sprinkles candidate thrice, and traces cross before candidate with cup.)

Guide: I consecrate with Fire. (Censes candidate thrice, and traces cross before candidate with censer.)

(Warden and Guide return to stations with Sun as they finish.)

ADVANCEMENT OF THE CANDIDATE

Chief: The Grade of Earth, through which you have passed, is the first step in our discipline. Its lessons are the lessons of prudence, the virtue of Earth, and the foundation upon which the

temple of yourself must be built. In commemoration of which, you will circumambulate the lodge once.

Herald: Let us enter into the presence of the Lord of Truth. Arise and follow me.

(Herald leads Candidate forward from between pillars and once around the lodge with Sun, stopping just west of pillars. Meanwhile Warden reads, slowly:)

Warden: The Sphinx of Egypt spoke and said: I am the synthesis of the elemental forces. I am also the symbol of Humanity. I am life and I am death. I am the Child of the Night of Time.

(As soon as candidate has passed east, Chief leaves station and goes to stand between altar and pillars.)

Chief: (as candidate returns to west) Let the candidate be placed between the pillars, that he/she may stand in the gateway of the realm of Air.

(This is done. Herald stands behind candidate.)

Chief: Let the candidate's hands be bound.

(Herald does so, tying them behind candidate's back.)

(Chief takes up sword from altar and goes to stand in front of pillars. As candidate is placed between pillars, Chief extends sword so that its point is a foot or so from candidate's heart.)

Chief: Companion Periclinus de Faustis, the lessons you learned in the Grade of Earth will not by themselves bring you to the high and hidden places of the secret wisdom. Not prudence alone, but courage as well will be asked of you. Behold this naked sword barring your path into the realm of Air! If you would enter that realm, and pursue the quest of the Companions, step boldly forward and face the test of steel.

(Candidate, prompted if necessary by Herald, steps forward. As the sword comes into contact with candidate, Chief allows it to be pushed back, so that candidate is not harmed. Chief then draws back the sword and reverses it.)

Chief: Well done. Let the candidate's hands be unbound.

(Done. Herald takes bindings away and returns.)

Chief: (Hands candidate the sword.) Take this sword, and remember the words spoken to you in the First Degree of our Order: "Courage is the beginning of all virtue." Enter now into the realm of Air, and learn the wisdom of Air from the rushing winds of heaven. The sword in your hand is the key to many of the mysteries of Air, and of our secret wisdom -- for that sword

is the Sword which was drawn from the Stone.

(Chief goes around altar and stands between altar and diagram; candidate and Herald remain before altar.)

Warden: And when morning was come, there was seen in the churchyard, against the high altar, a great stone four square, like unto a marble stone, and in the midst thereof was like an anvil of steel a foot on high, and therein stuck a fair sword naked by the point, and letters there were written in gold about the sword that said thus: whoso pulleth this sword out of this stone and anvil is rightwise born king.

Guide: And at the feast of Pentecost all manner of men assayed to pull at the sword that would, but none might prevail but Arthur, and pulled it out before all the lords and commons that were there. And therewithal they kneeled at once, both rich and poor, and Arthur took the sword between both his hands, and offered it upon the altar, and so he was made knight.

Chief: Bring the Companion to the east of the Altar. (Done. Chief points to one side of the closed diagram.) Here is the image of that Sword which was drawn from the stone, formed of the ten Spheres of the Tree of Life in their descending order. The sword is the Lightning Flash, the current of power that shattered the darkness at the dawn of Creation; the anvil is the Sphere Tiphareth, the central station of the descending light; while the stone, in which the point of the sword comes to rest, is Malkuth, the tenth Sphere, the world of matter.

Here (Chief points to the other side of the closed diagram) is the image of that other sword, Excalibur, which rose up from the deep waters. This sword is formed of the ten Spheres of the Tree in their ascending order, from Malkuth to Kether. The one is the descent of power from the divine to the world, the other the ascent of power from the world to the divine; the one is creation, the other is redemption; the one is grace, the other is will.

But every sword is drawn forth from the stone, and every sword rises up from the water. The steel of the blade you hold was smelted with fire out of the stony ore, and was quenched in water to be tempered and to come to its perfection. Even so, you must pass through water and fire to achieve the perfection of the First Degree -- and you must pass through a deeper Water and a greater Fire to achieve the perfection of yourself.

(Chief opens diagram.)

Before you stands the Tree of Life formed of the Spheres and their connecting Paths. With its complete symbolism, it is the key of all things when properly understood. As you see, the sequence of the Paths forms the symbol of the Serpent of Wisdom, while the natural succession of the Spheres forms the Flaming

Sword and the course of the Lightning Flash. The Sword and the Serpent between them resume the whole of our secret wisdom.

The two pillars, right and left of the Tree, are the symbols of active and passive, male and female, Adam and Eve. They also allude to the Pillars of Fire and Cloud. The pillars further represent the two kerubim of the Ark -- the right, Metatron, male, and the left, Sandalphon, female. Above them ever burn the lamps of their spiritual essence, of which they are partakers in the eternal uncreated One.

RECEPTION OF CANDIDATE

Chief: Companion Periclinus de Faustis, the peaceful work of the builder is one image of the path we travel as Companions of the Stone. The way of the knight upon the field of battle is another, and it is this image that corresponds to the Grade of Air. Thus you have been called upon to show that courage which is the heart of knighthood, as it is the beginning of every virtue.

The work before you is to face the perils and the challenges of our quest with courage -- to draw this sword from the living stone of yourself, and to wield it in the service of Light against all the inner enemies of Wisdom. I ask you, therefore: Are you willing to take up this work?

(Candidate answers.)

Chief: Then you will kneel on both your knees.

(Candidate does so. Chief dubs him on right shoulder, left shoulder and top of head.)

Chief: Arise, my Companion. Take this sword and place it upon the altar, remembering that every power you have is given you to be set upon the altar of the Infinite.

(Candidate takes sword and puts it on the altar.)

Chief: I now confer on you the secrets of this Grade. The step of this grade is the same as that of the Grade of Earth. The sign is given thus: (does so) and represents you holding the Pillars of Mercy and Severity in balance. It is the Sign made by the Titan Atlas, who supported the universe on his shoulders. It is the Goddess of Nature, supporting the heavens.

I also confer upon you the title Poraios de Rejectis, which means "brought from among the rejected", and I give you the password RUACH, which is the Hebrew word for Air. It is spelled Resh, Vau, Cheth.

Companion Herald, you will announce that our Companion has been

duly admitted to the Grade of Air.

Herald: In the Great Name Tetragrammaton, and in the presence of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I proclaim that our Companion _____ has witnessed the Light of the Stone in the realm of Air.

(Herald leads candidate to a seat in the southeast of the hall and goes to station. Chief returns to station.)

Chief: The Grade of Air is the second of four steps which lie between the First and the Second Degrees -- the first glimpse of the Light of the Stone and the full manifestation of that light in our ritual work. Each of these four steps corresponds to one of the four elements, and just as the first step of your pilgrimage rested on the dense and unyielding element of Earth, the second passes through the turbulent element of Air, the realm of storm and cloud -- but also of clarity, for Air is also the medium of Light.

The Grade of Air is the Grade of the Knight. It is for this reason that in passing between the pillars, you were met by an adversary who barred your path with steel. There are many adversaries to be faced in the path that leads to wisdom; in your studies in this grade, let the courage of the warrior guide you as you strive against them.

I present you, therefore, with the working tool of this Grade, the Dagger. (He shows it.) You will prepare such a dagger for yourself as part of the work of this Grade. As you fashion it and wield it, remember the lesson you learned when you faced the guardian of the portal of this Grade; and remember also that, like any instrument of power, it has two edges, and can cut the one who holds it if it is used without skill.

Another of the principal emblems of this Grade is the Great Watchtower of the East, the first Tablet of the Angelic or Enochian system (points to tablet on east altar). The letters on it spell out Names of Power. From it are drawn the Three Holy Secret Names of God ORO IBAH AOZPI, which are borne upon the banners of the east, and there are also numberless names of angels, archangels and spirits ruling the element of Air.

Before you will be eligible to enter into the next Grade of the First Degree, the Grade of Water, you must master certain further portions of our ancient wisdom, and you must continue to take an active part in the work of your lodge and our Order. A syllabus of the work required will be provided to you. ! (one knock)

CLOSING OF THE GRADE OF AIR

Chief: ! (knocks) Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Grade of Air. Let us adore the Lord and King of

Grade of Air

Air. !!! (All rise and face East.) Yehowah, blessed be thy name to the countless ages, Amen. (All give sign, then face as usual.)

Chief: Companion Warden, you will relinquish your station.

Warden: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I give back the power of the Secret Fire and leave the Place of Darkness.

<Warden replaces staff and moves in front of his station.>

Chief: Companion Guide, you will relinquish your station.

Guide: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I give back the power of the Crescent Moon and leave the Place of Light.

<Guide replaces staff and moves in front of her station.>

Chief: Companion Herald, you will relinquish your station.

Herald: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I surrender the staff and lamp of wisdom and leave the Place of Balance.

<Herald replaces staff and moves in front of station.>

<Chief then goes around lodge once against sun and then to east. Herald falls in before Chief as he begins; Warden and Guide fall in behind him as he passes their stations. In the east, they form the diamond facing east as before, except that Guide is to the right and Herald to the left, as shown:)

Air
Altar

Chief

Herald Guide

Warden

Chief: Let us rehearse the prayer of the Air Spirits.

Spirit of life, spirit of wisdom, whose breath giveth forth and withdraweth the form of all things; thou, before whom the life of beings is but a shadow which changeth, and a vapor which passeth; thou, who mountest upon the clouds, and walkest on the wings of the wind; thou, who breathest forth thy breath, and endless space is peopled; Thou, who drawest in thy breath, and all that cometh from thee, returneth unto thee.

Ceaseless motion in eternal stability, be thou eternally blessed!

Grade of Air

We bless thee and we praise thee in the changeless empire of created light, of shades, of reflections and of images, and we aspire without cessation to thy immutable and imperishable brilliance.

Let the ray of thy intelligence and the warmth of thy love penetrate even unto us. Then that which is volative shall be fixed; the shadow shall be a body; the spirit of air shall be a soul; the dream shall be a thought; and no more shall we be swept away by the tempest, but we shall hold the bridles of the winged steeds of dawn, and we shall direct the course of the evening breeze to fly before thee.

O spirit of spirits, O eternal soul of souls, O imperishable breath of life, O creative sigh, O mouth which breathest forth and withdrawest the life of all beings, in the flux and reflux of thy eternal word, which is the divine ocean of movement and of truth.

Depart now in peace to your habitations, (traces banishing pentagram of Air) and peace be between us.

(Officers face west, fall in line behind Herald, and move around hall against sun one circuit, then fall out. All officers except Chief resume their Outer stations at this time.)

Chief: Companions N. and N., you will now retire the altar from the center of the lodge.

(This will normally be done by the Lecturer and Diviner, if these offices have been filled; if not, any conveniently placed Companions may do so. The officers advance by the square to the sides of the altar and move it back to its position three feet in front of the Dirigent's station, then return by the square to their stations.)

Chief: Companion Summoner, you will proclaim this lodge closed in the grade of Air and open in the Outer.

Summoner: In the Great Name Tetragrammaton, I proclaim that the Sun has set in the realm of Air.

Chief: ! (All are seated.)

(This passage, between lines, is to be used if the Dirigent has not served as Chief of the Rite in the ritual work:)

Chief: Companion N., you will advance to the East and resume charge of the lodge. (The Dirigent advances to the East and takes the Throne of the East; the Chief resumes his or her station in the Outer.)

(The lodge is closed in the Outer in the usual form.)

LODGE IN THE GRADE OF AIR

Banner of West Chief Air Tablet Banner of East

W
a
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d
e
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Altar

G
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Pillar

Pillar

Herald
