

RITUAL OF THE EQUINOX  
Draft Inner Work  
(Fall 1995)

1. First Degree Opening

A. The Sealing of the Space

When the Summoner says "Procul, procul esti profani!", the members visualize four angelic figures with outspread wings, one at the middle of each wall of the lodge.

B. The Circumambulation

During the circumambulation, those who are circumambulating visualize themselves moving upwards, as though climbing a spiral stair. As they do this, a sphere of golden-white light comes into being above the altar: the Hidden Sun. The invocation to the Lord of the Universe is directed toward this.

C. The Awakening of the Thrones

Chief, Warden and Guide all have special patterns of energy to set up in the First Degree lodge. This is done as each of these officers takes his or her staff and throne; the Chief does this near the beginning, the others after the circumambulation. Other members should visualize a sphere of light - red for Chief, black for Warden, white for Guide - forming around the officer as the staff is taken up.

D. The Establishing of the Lodge

The lodge on the Inner in the First Degree will be the subject of an extended paper and a lecture. At this time members should again visualize the four angelic figures at the sides of the lodge room and the Hidden Sun over the altar. This visualization should be maintained until the Chief seats the lodge at the end of the Opening.

2. The Equinox

A. The Formulation of the Quarters

The interchanges among the officers at the four quarters of the lodge at the beginning of the rite build up a circled cross of light, with the Hidden Sun as its center. The interchange between Chief and Warden establishes the East-West bar, that between the Keepers the North-South bar, and that involving all four officers the circle. All this should be visualized by the members present.

B. The Invocation of Light

As the Herald (or Guide) goes to the four quarters, and the officer at each quarter invokes the Lord of the Universe, all members visualize the presence of the element in that quarter, using any personally evocative imagery they wish.

When the Guide invokes the element of Spirit in the center, all members visualize the Hidden Sun.

### 3. First Degree Closing

#### A. The Circumambulation

This is the reverse of the Opening circumambulation. Members visualize themselves spiralling downwards, as though descending a spiral stair, while the Hidden Sun fades but does not disappear.

#### B. The Veiling of the Thrones

The Warden and Guide take down their special energy patterns just before the circumambulation, when they return their staffs to their places. Chief does the same thing as the altar is retired from the center of the lodge. Other members visualize the spheres of colored light disappearing from around each officer as the staff is set aside.

#### C. The Closing of the Lodge

When the Summoner proclaims that "the Sun has set but its light remains," members visualize the faded Hidden Sun expanding outward into infinite space and dissipating. The remaining structures of the inner lodge disappear in this process as well.