

THE GRADE OF EARTH

7/96 Draft

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

OPENING OF THE GRADE OF EARTH

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(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.)

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Chief: Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Outer and open it in the Grade of Earth. 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 is led out of the lodge room. When this is done and the door 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 Earth. !!!  
(knocks; all rise)

Adjuvant: Companions, give the sign of the Grade of Earth. (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.

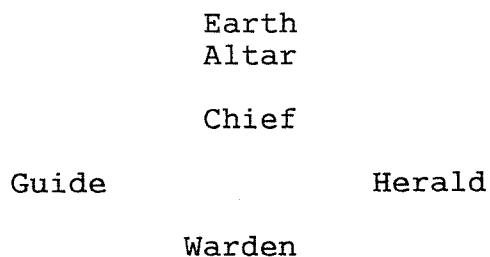
(This will normally be done by the Lecturer and Diviner, if these offices have been filled; if not, any conveniently placed Companions may do so. The officers advance by the square to the sides of the altar and move it to the center of the lodge. They then return to their places by the square.)

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 Earth.

Chief: Let us adore the Lord and King of Earth. (All face east.) Adonai ha-Aretz, Adonai Malakh, (traces Qabalistic Cross) unto thee be the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley. Amen. (All make sign of Earth.)

(Chief leaves the East, goes with sun around lodge once and then to North. 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 northern 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 north.)



Chief: (traces an invoking pentagram of Earth to the north) And the Elohim said, Let us make Adam in our own image, after our likeness, and let him have dominion over every creeping thing which creepeth over the Earth. In the Name of Adonai Malakh and of the Bride and Queen of the Kingdom, spirits of Earth, adore your Creator!

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

Guide: In the name of Auriel, great archangel of Earth, and in the sign of the head of the ox, spirits of Earth, adore your Creator!

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

Herald: In the names and letters of the great northern quadrangle, spirits of Earth, 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 north, EMOR DIAL HECTEGA, spirits of Earth, adore

your Creator!

Chief: In the name of ICZODHICIAL, great king of the north, spirits of Earth, 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: The Companions assisting in the rite will assume their stations.

Keeper of Water: I take up the Cup of Water. (Takes station.)

Keeper of Fire: I take up the Censer of Fire. (Takes station.)

Herald: I take up the Staff and Lamp of Wisdom. (Takes station.)

Sentinel: I take up the Sword of Judgement. (Takes station.)

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

All: And so it is established.

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

Herald: In the Name of Adonai ha-Aretz, I proclaim this lodge duly open in the Grade of Earth.

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 First Degree, is now eligible for advancement to the Grade of Earth, 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 sees that censer, cup and salt are placed on the altars and that a cushion for kneeling is between the pillars. Guide goes to door and leaves hall; Herald stands by door. Guide blindfolds candidate, gives him/her the Emblem of Earth, and instructs him/her in the knock !!!! !!! !!! Candidate then gives knock at door, and Herald opens door slightly.)

Guide: Let me enter the portal of wisdom.

Herald: I will. (Door is opened, and Guide brings candidate into the lodge, facing him/her East.)

Chief: Except Adonai build the house, their labor is but lost that build it. Except Adonai keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain. Companion N., by what powers do you seek admission to the Grade of Earth?

Guide (for candidate): By the guidance of Adonai; by the help of the Guardian Companions; by the completion of the work of the First Degree; by the permission of the Council; by the signs of the First Degree; and by this Emblem of Earth.

(Herald takes Emblem.)

Chief: Companion N., give the signs of the First Degree.

(Candidate gives them.)

Chief: Companion Herald, receive from the candidate the Word of the First Degree.

(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 N., 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?

(Candidate answers.)

Chief: Let our Companion be assisted to kneel. (This is done. Meanwhile Herald goes to north, takes salt, continues around lodge to west with sun and stands before candidate.) Place your right palm upon the ground and say, "I pledge by the Earth on which I kneel."

(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.) Take salt with your left hand and cast it to the north, and say, "Let the powers of Earth witness my pledge."

(Candidate does so. Herald takes salt back to its altar and returns to his place.)

Chief: Let our Companion rise, and let him/her 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.

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

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

(Warden and Guide go straight back to the sides of the altar and stand there, facing candidate. If they are functioning as K of W/F, they put these implements down and take up their staffs.)

#### ADVANCEMENT OF CANDIDATE

Chief: Initiation into the First Degree is a preparation for our work; it is the threshold of our discipline, and its imagery shows forth the light of the Secret Wisdom dawning in the darkness of the outer life. You are now to begin to analyze and comprehend the nature of that light. To this end, you stand between the Pillars, in that gateway where the secrets of the First Degree were communicated to you.

Prepare to enter the immeasurable region.

And Tetragrammaton Elohim planted a garden eastward in Eden, and out of the ground made he to grow every tree that is pleasant in the sight and good for food; the Tree of Life also, in the midst of the garden, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and of Evil. This is the Tree that has two paths, and it is the tenth Sephirah Malkuth, and it has about it seven columns, and the four splendors whirl around it as in the vision of Ezekiel; and from

Gedulah it receives Mercy, and from Geburah Severity, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and of Evil shall it be until it is united with the Supernals in Daath.

But the good which is under it is called the Archangel Metatron, and the evil is called the Archangel Samael, and between them lies the strait and narrow way where the Archangel Sandalphon keeps watch. The souls and angels are above its branches, and the fallen powers of the Kingdom of Shells are beneath its roots.

Let the candidate enter the Path of Evil.

(Herald leads candidate from between Pillars toward the Warden.)

Warden: Whence come you?

Herald: I come from between the two Pillars, and I seek the light of the hidden knowledge in the Name of Adonai.

Warden: And the great angel Samael answered and said: I am the prince of darkness and of night. The ignorant gaze on the face of the created world and find there nothing but terror and obscurity. It is to them the terror of darkness and they are as drunken men stumbling in the darkness. Return, for you cannot pass by.

(Herald leads candidate back between the pillars.)

Chief: Let the candidate enter the Path of Good.

(Herald leads candidate from between Pillars toward the Guide.)

Guide: Whence come you?

Herald: I come from between the two Pillars, and I seek the light of the hidden knowledge in the Name of Adonai.

Guide: And the great angel Metatron answered and said: I am the angel of the divine presence. The wise gaze on the face of the created world and behold there the dazzling image of the Creator. Not yet can your eyes bear that dazzling image. Return, for you cannot pass by.

(Herald leads candidate back between the pillars.)

Chief: Let the candidate enter that Path which turns neither to the right hand nor to the left.

(Herald leads candidate from between Pillars to the altar. Warden and Guide come to altar and cross staves before the candidate.)

Warden and Guide (together): Whence come you?

Herald: I come from between the two Pillars, and I seek the light of the hidden knowledge in the Name of Adonai.

Chief: (advances to east of altar, thrusts his staff beneath the others and raises it to a 45 degree angle) But the great angel Sandalphon answered and said: I am the reconciler for earth and the celestial soul therein. Form is invisible alike in darkness and in blinding light. I am the left hand Kerub of the Ark and the feminine power, as Metatron is the right hand Kerub and the masculine power; and I prepare the way to the celestial light.

(Warden and Guide return to the side altars and take their stations. Herald returns to his place. Chief takes candidate by the right hand with his left, and brings him around the altar to the diagram. This is closed, showing the diagram of the Flaming Sword.)

Chief: And Tetragrammaton Elohim placed Kerubim in the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the path of the Tree of Life. You now stand in the Garden of Eden, which is also the garden of yourself. But in the mysteries of our tradition this garden is also a City.

Warden: It was Hermes who, in the east of Egypt, built a city twelve miles long, and in it a castle which had four gates. On the eastern gate he placed the image of an Eagle; on the western gate, the image of a Bull; on the southern gate, the image of a Lion, and on the northern gate, the image of a Dog. In these images he placed spirits who spoke with voices, and no one could enter the gates of the city except by their leave.

Guide: Atop the castle he raised a tower thirty cubits high with a beacon at its summit. The color of the beacon changed every day until the seventh day, when it returned to the first color, and so the city was illuminated.

Herald: In the city he planted trees, and in the midst of them a great tree which bore the fruit of all generation. Near the city was an abundance of waters in which were many kinds of fish. And around its outer wall he placed engraved images, and ordered them in such a way that by their influence the inhabitants were made virtuous and delivered from all wickedness and harm.

Chief: The name of the city was Adocentyn.

(He opens the altar diagram.)

Here is the secret meaning of that City. The twelve miles of the city's measure, and the four gates guarded by four guardians, represent the mystery of the Rose of Creation. The twelve miles are the twelve signs of the Zodiac, and the four guardians are the four elemental triplicities of those signs, and the four archangels and four kerubim ruling over the four quarters of the world. These twelve miles are also the twelve single letters of

the Hebrew alphabet, the twelve loaves of the table of shewbread and the twelve foundation stones of the city of Revelation. They are the outer petals of the Rose.

The seven colors of the beacon represent the mystery of the Elohim, the seven creative Ideas. They are the seven planets and the seven palaces of Assiah, the material world; the seven double letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and the seven lamps before the Throne. They are the middle petals of the Rose.

The Tree in the midst of the City which bore the fruit of all generation is the Tree of Life, which has three pillars. It represents the mystery of the Triad of Creation, and the secret of balance between contending opposites, which was shown to you in the First Degree. These three pillars are the three mother letters of the Hebrew alphabet; they are Mercy, Severity and Balance; and they are the inner petals of the Rose.

The work before you is to build this City, in yourself and of yourself, to bring the Three, the Seven and the Twelve into the perfect harmony of the Garden of Eden and the petals of the Rose. I ask you, therefore: Are you willing to take up this work?

(Candidate answers.)

Guide: He/She is welcome among us who works alongside us, and bears his/her part in our toil.

Warden: Let us work, therefore, because the night comes wherein no one shall labor.

Chief: I now confer on you the secrets of this Grade. The step of this grade is given thus, six by six, showing that you have passed the threshold. The sign is given thus: (does so) and represents the staff of Sandalphon, interposed for you between the Light and the Darkness. The Word is ARETZ, Aleph, Resh, Tzaddi, the Hebrew word for Earth.

I also confer upon you the title Periclinus de Faustis, which signifies that you are a wanderer upon this Earth, far from the harmony and happiness of Eden.

Companion Herald, you will announce that our Companion has been duly admitted to the Grade of Earth.

Herald: In the Name of Adonai Malakh, and in the presence of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I proclaim that our Companion \_\_\_\_\_ has been duly admitted to the Grade of Earth.

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

Chief: The Grade of Earth is the first of four steps which lie between the First Degree, where you first saw the Light of the



between the First Degree, where you first saw the Light of the Stone shining in darkness, and the Second Degree, where that Light will be revealed in the living Stone of yourself. Each of these four steps corresponds to one of the four elements, and it is fitting that you begin this part of your pilgrimage in the dense and unyielding element of Earth.

In the course of your work as a Companion of the Stone, the virtues of Earth -- patience, persistence, and the capacity for hard work -- will be required of you again and again. Learn them and practice them in your daily life as well as in your magical work, for like the Earth itself, these things reward labor with a rich harvest.

The Grade of Earth is the Grade of the Builder. It is for this reason that the symbolism of the City of Adocentyn is shown therein. In your studies in this grade, let the patience and self-discipline of the builder guide you as you begin to work upon the uncarved stone you saw in the First Degree -- to build the temple that is yourself.

I present you, therefore, with the working tool of this Grade, the Pentacle. (He shows it.) The Pentacle is a disk which bears, in symbolic form, the image of the universe. Like the tracing boards used by ancient builders, it provides the pattern for the work before you -- for the image of yourself and the image of the universe are one. You will make such a pentacle for yourself as part of the work of this Grade; think well upon the designs you place upon it.

Another of the principal emblems of this Grade is the Great Watchtower of the North, the third Tablet of the Angelic or Enochian system (points to tablet on north altar). The letters on it spell out Names of Power. From it are drawn the Three Holy Secret Names of God EMOR DIAL HECTEGA, which are borne upon the banners of the north, and there are also numberless names of angels, archangels and spirits ruling the element of Earth.

Before you will be eligible to enter into the next Grade of the First Degree, 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 EARTH

Chief: ! (knocks) Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Grade of Earth. Let us adore the Lord and King of Earth. !!! (All rise and face East.) Adonai ha-Aretz, Adonai Malakh, blessed be thy name to the countless ages, Amen. (All give sign, then face as usual. Chief then goes around lodge once against sun and then to north. Herald falls in before Chief as he begins; Warden and Guide fall in behind him as he passes their

Grade of Earth

stations. In the north, they form the diamond facing north as before, except that Guide is to the right and Herald to the left, as shown:)

Earth  
Altar  
  
Chief  
  
Herald                      Guide  
  
Warden

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

O Invisible King who, taking the earth for foundation, did hollow its depths to fill them with thy almighty power; thou whose name shaketh the arches of the world, thou who causest the seven metals to flow in the veins of the rocks, king of the seven lights, rewarder of the subterranean workers, lead us into the desirable air and into the realm of splendor. We watch and we labor unceasingly, we seek and we hope, by the twelve stones of the holy city, by the buried talismans, by the axis of the lodestone which passes through the center of the earth -- O Lord, O Lord, O Lord! Have pity on those who suffer. Expand our hearts, unbind and upraise our minds, enlarge our natures.

O stability in motion! O darkness veiled in brilliance! O day clothed in night! O master who never withholds the wages of thy workmen! O silver whiteness! O golden splendor! O crown of living and harmonious diamond! Thou who wearest the heavens on thy finger like a ring of sapphire! Thou who hidest beneath the earth in the kingdom of the gems, the marvelous seed of the stars! Live, reign, and be thou the eternal dispenser of the treasures whereof thou hast made us the wardens.

Depart now in peace to your habitations, (traces banishing pentagram of Earth) 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 Earth and open in the Outer.

Summoner: In the Name of Adonai Malakh, I proclaim this lodge duly closed in the Grade of Earth.

Chief: ! (All are seated.)

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(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.)

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

LODGE IN THE GRADE OF EARTH

