

## THE SECOND DEGREE

(5/97 Draft)

(Lodge is opened in the Outer in usual form. Candidate then leaves in form and sits in anteroom, with Elemental Cross bearing his or her lodge name as a subject for contemplation.)

### OPENING IN THE SECOND DEGREE

---

(If the Dirigent will not be serving as First Adept 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 First Adept 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.)

---

First: Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Outer and open it in the Second Degree. Those present who have not been advanced to this Degree 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 been advanced to the Second Degree leaves the lodge room in form. When this is done and the door secured, the rite continues.)

First: 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 Hidden Place and take up the power of the Bornless Spirit.

(First Adept takes staff from its holder. If Summoner has not been advanced to the Second Degree, First Adept appoints an acting Summoner at this time.)

First: Companion Summoner, confirm that all present have witnessed the Opening of the Veil.

(Summoner goes by the square to the Throne of the East to receive the Word of the Second Degree from the First Adept, and from there with the Sun around the lodge to receive it from each Companion present, just as in the Opening in the Outer. When this is completed, Summoner stands west of the altar, facing east.)

Summoner: First Adept, all have been so honored. (Summoner returns to station.)

First: ! (Knocks.) The following Companions will take part in our present work. (Names the Companions and the ritual offices they will be taking.)

First: Companions N. and N., you will advance the altar to the center of the lodge.

(The Companions chosen for this task will normally be the Lecturer and Diviner, if these offices are

filled by Second Degree Companions; if not, any conveniently placed Companions may serve. Both go by the square to the sides of the altar, and move it to the center of the lodge directly. They then return to their places by the square.)

First: !!! (All rise.) Companions, in token of our search for the Light, let us rehearse the Signs of the First Degree.

(All except First Adept give the Sign of Entering to the East. First Adept responds with the Sign of Silence.)

First: The light shines in darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not.

Adjuvant: The Dukes of Edom ruled in Chaos, lords of unbalanced force.

First: Banished be the power of the Dukes of Edom, and let balance be established among the Elements.

(At this point all Inner officers except First Adept go by the square with Sun along the sides of the hall to east, forming a single file; Warden is in front, followed by Second Adept, Guide, and Third Adept, in that order. In front of the First Adept's station, the file turns west, goes to the main altar and circles it one and a half times, so that Warden is at the west of the altar, Second Adept at the south, Guide at the east, and Third Adept at the north, as shown in the diagram. Meanwhile all Outer officers not holding Inner office vacate their chairs.

First Adept

Altar

(Officers at main altar then proceed to spiral outwards, each one completing one full circuit around hall and ending in front of his or her elemental altar, then turning around to face main altar, as shown in diagram:

Guide

Third

Altar

Second

Warden

(Warden then goes straight to main altar and performs Qabalistic Cross, then goes to East to begin Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram within the circle of the elemental altars. When Warden returns to main altar for final Qabalistic Cross, all Companions present face east and perform it as well. Warden then returns to West, and makes Sign of Earth; Guide makes Sign of Air; Third Adept makes Sign of Water; Second Adept makes Sign of Fire.)

First: The Cross of the elements is also a cross of corrosion, corruption, disintegration and death, unless in passing through death the corruptible shall put on incorruption. Except ye be born of Water and Spirit, ye cannot enter the Kingdom. What then is the word that completes the First Degree?

Second: Phrath, the Fourth River of Eden.

Third: Peh.

Guide: Resh.

Warden: Tau.

First: What may be added to that word?

Second: Kaph, the letter of Aspiration.

Third: Peh.

Guide: Resh.

Second: Kaph.

Warden: Tau.

First: ! (Knocks.) The Word is Paroketh, the Veil of the Sanctuary.

(All make Sign of Rending of Veil.)

First: In and by that Word, I direct that the Veil be opened.

(Second and Third Adept move by the square to the East and open the Veil. First Adept passes within and takes up the lamp from the inner altar.)

First: Let us establish the dominion of Spirit over the four elements.

(First Adept descends from the dais. Second and Third Adepts return by the square to their elemental altars. First Adept goes to the Air station and lights the lamp, then traces an invoking pentagram of Air, while Guide stands in Air Sign behind First Adept. When First Adept leaves, Guide takes rose leaves from station and goes directly to main altar, places them on Air arm of cross, and returns to elemental altar, taking up Air Sign again. First Adept goes to Fire altar, lights lamp and invokes Fire while Second Adept stands in Fire Sign. Second Adept then takes incense from elemental altar to main altar and returns, taking Fire Sign again. This process is then repeated in West and North with the appropriate elements, so that cup and salt also end up on their respective arms of the cross on the main altar, and Warden and Third Adept finish standing in Signs of Water and Earth respectively. First Adept finishes circuit in east, then circles to west, advances to main altar and places the lamp at the center of the cross.)

First: May the cross of the elements be purified and planted in incorruption.

(First Adept traces invoking pentagrams of Spirit above altar.)

First: In the letters of the Great Name Yod Heh Vau He, and in the concealed Name YHShVH, do I add the power of the Pentagram, the sign of the Microcosmos.

OL SONF VORSAG GOHO IAD BALT. LEXARPH, COMANAN, TABITOM, ZACAR, ECA  
ZACAR OD ZAMRAN! ODO CICLE QAA PIAP PIAMOL OD VAOAN.

Let us invoke the Lord of the Universe.

All: Holy art Thou, Lord of the Universe. (Sign of Entering)  
Holy art Thou, Whom nature hath not formed. (Sign of E.)  
Holy art Thou, the vast and the mighty One, (Sign of E.)  
Lord of the Light and of the Darkness. (Sign of Silence)

(All Signs are made toward main altar.)

First: Second Adept, you will assume your station.

Second: (Goes to seat before Veil and takes station.) 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 River Pison and take up the power of the Living Fire.

(Second Adept takes staff from its holder.)

First: Third Adept, you will assume your station.

Third: (Goes to seat before Veil and takes station.) 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 River Gihon and take up the power of the Mighty Waters.

(Third Adept takes staff from its holder.)

First: Companion Guide, you will assume your station.

Guide: (Takes station.) 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 River Hiddekel and take up the power of the Rushing Winds.

(Guide takes staff from holder.)

First: Companion Warden, you will assume your station.

Warden: (Takes station.) 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 River Phrath and take up the power of the Wide and Fertile Earth.

(Warden takes staff from holder.)

(First Adept goes to dais, taking lamp to inner altar, and stands within Veil facing West.)

First: ! (Knocks.) Companions, I ask you to join with me in establishing this lodge in the Second Degree. (Pause while the inner temple is built up.) And so it is established.

All: So be it.

First: In the Word Paroketh and the Sign of the Rending of the Veil, I proclaim that this lodge is closed in the Outer and open in the Second Degree. !!!! ! (knocks)

Third: !!!! !

Second: !!!! !

Warden: !!!! !

Guide: !!!! !

First: ! (All are seated.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE

First: The Veil, opened for the Companions, is yet closed to the unprepared candidate.

(Second and Third Adepts close the veil, concealing First Adept, and then return to their stations. They then go to their elemental altars, and all elemental officers advance straight in unison to the main altar. They take the symbols of the elements -- rose leaves, incense, cup and salt -- turn together, and return straight to the elemental stations, putting down the elemental symbols. Second and Third Adepts then return to their stations.)

Second: Companions of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge # \_\_\_\_, our Companion N., having been proved in the work of the Grade of Fire, and having passed the fivefold examination, is now eligible for advancement to the Second Degree of our Order, and I have received a dispensation from the Council to advance him/her in due form. Third Adept, you will see to the preparation of the candidate, and test him/her in his/her

knowledge of the secrets of the Grade of Fire before admitting her into the presence of the Veil. Companion Guide, Companion Warden, you will guard the door.

(All lights are extinguished except for a faint light in the east, behind the Veil, and the four elemental lamps. Third Adept goes to anteroom, tests candidate in secret work, and instructs him/her in the knock !!! !; candidate is not blindfolded. Warden and Guide stand west of the main altar, barring the way as in the Grade of Earth. Second Adept stands in east before Veil. Candidate knocks, and a Companion not otherwise serving in the ritual opens the door, if possible without being seen. Third Adept then leads candidate to west of hall, facing east, as below.)

Altar

Warden     Guide

Candidate

Banner of W

Third  
Adept

Guide: The realm of chaos and of ancient night, before ever the aeons were, when there was neither heaven nor earth, nor was there any sea, when nothing was save the shape un luminous, formless and void.

Warden: To and fro in the deeps swayed the coils of the dragon with eight heads and eleven horns. Eleven were the curses of Mount Ebal, eleven the rulers of the Kingdom of Shells, and at their head the two contending forces.

(Guide and Warden lower staffs and step back.)

Second: (Faces east) Then in the Abyss was spoken the Word! Then stood forth Metatron in the Sign of Entering, on the threshold of the Hall of Time as time was born of the eternal. (Gives Sign of Entering.) So stood Metatron in the power of the Word, giving forth light, while the unbegotten Aeons unfolded before him.

(Third Adept directs candidate to give Sign of Entering.)

Second: And Elohim said, "Let there be Light."

(The hand of First Adept hands out lamp through the Veil. Second Adept receives it and gives Sign of Silence; candidate is directed to make the same Sign. Third Adept leaves candidate and goes with Sun to East, receives lamp, and returns to candidate with Sun, holding lamp before candidate and taking Banner of West in left hand.)

Second: (Turns to face west) Companion, what was the title you received in the Grade of Fire?

Candidate: Pharos Illuminans.

(Third Adept gives lamp to candidate and takes position on candidate's left.)

Second: Companion Pharos Illuminans, we have gathered here to open for you the Veil of the Sanctuary and advance you to the Second Degree of the Companions of the Stone. But because of the increased influence among your Companions that this advancement confers, and because of the increased power for good or evil that will follow if, with steadfast will and aspiration, you take this step in essence as well as in form, it is needful that you take a further obligation at this time. As with your previous obligations, this contains nothing that will conflict with the duties you owe to your faith, your community, your family or yourself. With this assurance, are you willing to take the obligation?

Candidate: (answers)

Second: Then you will take the Banner of the West in your right hand (Third Adept gives it to candidate) and place your left hand above your heart, in witness to your pledge.

First, do you pledge yourself never to reveal the secrets of this Degree, either to the outer and uninitiated world, or to a Companion of the First Degree, save in open lodge and with due sanction?

Candidate: (answers)

Second: Second, do you pledge yourself to use whatever knowledge of practical magic you may now, or at any future time possess, for good ends alone?

Candidate: (answers)

Second: Third, do you pledge yourself to regard all the knowledge imparted to you as a trust, placed in your hands, not for your selfish advantage, but for the service of all humanity, that the ancient tradition of initiation be kept pure and undefiled, and the light remain for those that seek it on the Path?

Candidate: (answers)

Second: And last, do you pledge yourself to unite with your Companions in all your dealings with this order in mutual confidence and support, avoiding discord and division, and working ever for the highest good of the order and of all its members?

Candidate: (answers)

Second: Then you will repeat after me: I undertake to maintain the Veil between the First and Second Degrees, and may the powers of the elements bear witness to my pledges.

(When this is done, Third Adept puts Banner of West back in its place and leaves candidate, returning to station.)

#### ADVANCEMENT OF CANDIDATE

Second: In the mysteries of our secret wisdom, the union of the circle and the square is an emblem with many meanings. One of these must be accomplished by you in your own person before you can advance

further. For if in the mystic sphere of truth, the way of initiation may be walked alone, in another sphere it has a threefold aspect: part that can be given to you from without, part that can be attained by your own efforts, part that can only come from the Divine. In the First Degree you were given instruction, and earned advancement in tests of what was taught. Here, you must prove that you have truly advanced by your own strength, and hereafter, you may progress by the higher soul within you. Round your neck, you wear the symbol of the Cross of Four Elements, equilibrated and equated. Establish it firmly in the Sphere of your own being and step forward with courage.

(Warden and Guide bar the way as in the Grade of Earth.)

Warden: You will give me the Grip and Word of the First Degree.

(Done. Guide and Warden lower their staffs; Warden returns to station, sets down staff, takes Banner of West and goes with Sun to Earth altar in north.)

Second: The four Grades of the elements have brought you to the threshold of the Second Degree. In commemoration of which, you will circumambulate the lodge four times, and you will demonstrate your mastery of the powers of the elements.

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

(Guide leads candidate to the Earth altar in the north. Warden, holding Banner of West, bars way.)

Warden: You cannot take up the work of the Builder and enter the Paths of Earth without the Sign and Word thereof.

(Candidate makes Sign of Earth and gives Word.)

Warden: (Traces Taurus symbol over candidate with salt) In the Sign of the Head of the Ox, child of the elements, you are purified. Pass on. (Warden gives candidate salt and steps out of the way, then goes to east with Sun once candidate and Guide have passed it.)

(Guide and candidate then go once around the lodge with Sun, from north to north, stopping in front of Earth altar. Meanwhile the following passage is read, slowly:)

Third: 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.

(At Earth altar, candidate is instructed to trace an invoking pentagram of Earth before the altar and vibrate the Divine Name of Earth, ADNI. When this is done, Guide leads candidate to main altar and has him/her place salt on the northern arm of the cross. They then return to north, and Guide points to diagram of Pan.)

Guide: This drawing represents the symbolic figure of Pan, the Greek god of Nature. He stands upon the cube of the universe, holding in his right hand the pastoral staff of rural authority, and in his left the seven-reeded pipe symbolic of the harmony of the planetary spheres. The ruddy face is the heat of the earth; the horns are the rays; the body contains the four elements, and the cube is the firm basis. Observe that the higher part of the figure is human, growing closer to the animal as it nears the earth.



(Guide leads candidate to the Air altar in the east. Warden, holding Banner of West, bars way.)

Warden: You cannot take up the work of the Knight and enter the Paths of Air without the Sign and Word thereof.

(Candidate makes Sign of Air and gives Word.)

Warden: (Traces Aquarius symbol over candidate with rose leaves) In the Sign of the Head of the Human, child of the elements, you are purified. Pass on. (Warden gives candidate rose leaves and steps out of way, then goes to west with Sun once Guide and candidate have passed it.)

(Guide and Candidate then go once around the lodge with Sun, from east to east, stopping in front of Air altar. Meanwhile the following passage is read, slowly:)

Second Adept: I am the soul in twin aspect, united to the Higher by purification, perfected by suffering, glorified by trial. I have come where the great gods are, through the power of the mighty Name.

(At Air altar, candidate is instructed to trace an invoking pentagram of Air before the altar and vibrate the Divine Name of Air, YHVH. When this is done, Guide leads candidate to main altar and has him/her place rose leaves on the eastern arm of the cross. They then return to east, and Guide points to diagram of the Great Hermetic Arcanum.)

Guide: This symbol represents the Great Hermetic Arcanum. The feet of the figure rest on the earth and the sea. In the hands are represented the moist and the dry natures, symbolized by the torch and the horn of water. These are further represented by the solar and fiery emblems of the king and lion, and the lunar and watery emblems of the queen and dolphin. Above the whole figure rise the wings of the aerial nature, the reconciler between the Fire and the Water.

(Guide leads candidate to the Water altar in the west. Warden, holding Banner of West, bars way.)

Warden: You cannot take up the work of the Seer and enter the Paths of Water without the Sign and Word thereof.

(Candidate makes Sign of Water and gives Word.)

Warden: (Traces Eagle symbol over candidate with cup) In the Sign of the Head of the Eagle, child of the elements, you are purified. Pass on. (Warden gives candidate cup and steps out of way, then goes to south with sun once Guide and candidate have passed it.)

(Guide and Candidate then go once around the lodge with Sun, from west to west, stopping in front of Water altar. Meanwhile the following passage is read, slowly:)

Third Adept: I have passed through the gates of the firmament. Give me your hands, for I am made as you, O Lords of Truth! For you are the formers of the soul.

(At Water altar, candidate is instructed to trace an invoking pentagram of Water before the altar and vibrate the Divine Name of Water, AL. When this is done, Guide leads candidate to main altar and has him/her place cup on the western arm of the cross. They then return to west, and Guide points to diagram of the Alchemical Rebis.)

Guide: This diagram represents the Alchemical Rebis, the twofold being, male and female in one body. In its hands are the compass and square, tools for fashioning circles and straight lines; about its heads are the seven planets, which illuminate the Rebis with their rays, and are also the seven metals. Beneath its feet is a dragon, representing the Secret Fire, and that dragon stands on a winged sphere divided into four quarters, containing also a triangle and a square. The square is matter, the triangle is soul, and the sphere is the fourfold spirit, which contains and transcends all.

(Guide leads candidate to the Fire altar in the south. Warden, holding Banner of West, bars way.)

Warden: You cannot take up the work of the Alchemist and enter the Paths of Fire without the Sign and Word thereof.

(Candidate makes Sign of Fire and gives Word.)

Warden: (Traces Leo symbol over candidate with incense sticks) In the Sign of the Head of the Lion, child of the elements, you are purified. Pass on. (Warden gives incense to candidate and steps out of way, then goes with Sun to Guide's station when Guide and candidate have passed it.)

(Guide and Candidate then go once around the lodge with Sun, from south to south, stopping in front of Fire altar. Meanwhile the following passage is read, slowly:)

Second: O Lord of the Universe -- you are above all things and your name is in all things, and before you the shadows of night roll back and the darkness hastens away.

(At Fire altar, candidate is instructed to trace an invoking pentagram of Fire before the altar and vibrate the Divine Name of Fire, ALHIM. When this is done, Guide leads candidate to main altar and has him/her place incense on the southern arm of the cross. They then return to south, and Guide points to diagram of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.)

Guide: This is the image of the vision of Nebuchadnezzar. You, O king, saw a great and terrible image that stood before you. Its head was pure gold, its breast and its arms were silver, its belly and its thighs were brass, its legs of iron, and its feet part of iron and part of clay. You saw then a stone that was not fashioned with hands, which smote the image on its feet and broke them to pieces. Then were the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, and no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

You are this head of gold. (Turning to face candidate) You are this head of gold! The gold represents the dominion of the divine ruling over the rest of the body. The silver is the world of the heart, the brass is the material passion, the iron is the firm purpose, and the feet, part of iron and part of clay, is the mingled strength and infirmity of the natural human. And the stone made without hands is the Stone of the Wise, which will become Abiegnus, the Mountain of Initiation, whereby the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Infinite.

(Candidate and Guide then go to the west, and Second and Third Adepts go to their elemental altars. All elemental officers and candidate then advance straight to altar. Candidate is instructed to stand facing east, in the Sign of Entering; Guide is behind candidate, Warden in the east; all officers take elemental signs, with Warden doing Air Sign and Guide Water Sign.)

Third: From the center outwards, so moves the point as it traces the line and the cross. Equated and equilibrated, here lie the four elements of the body of the One who is dead.

Second: May the corrosive cross return upon itself, from without inward, from the four quarters to the center, and become by sacrifice and transmutation, an offering acceptable, a body glorified.

(Unseen, First Adept sounds a gong once.)

## RECEPTION OF CANDIDATE

Warden: Before you, upon the altar, lie the four emblems of your purified body, placed on the cross of the four elements and the spirit within them. If you are willing, in service and in sacrifice, to offer up the purified powers of your body, raise this light (hands candidate central lamp) over the four emblems in prayer and in offering.

(Candidate does so.)

Warden: Let us approach the Veil.

(Each officer takes up the appropriate elemental emblem and turns left; Guide prompts candidate to follow Third Adept, and falls in behind candidate. Warden leading, the officers do one full circuit sunwise around main altar and then continue around to east of altar, following Warden east to the Veil, as shown below.)

First Adept

Veil

Guide's  
Station

Altar

(Warden goes left of center and stops, and all others form a line facing the Veil, with candidate in center.)

Second: Companion Pharos Illuminans, what is the word that completes the First Degree?

Candidate: Phrath.

Second: O Hidden Guardian of the Veil, her is one who comes in the word Phrath.

First: (sound gong unseen) If he/she would rend the Veil, let him/her complete the Word.

Second: Companion Warden, what know you of the Word?

Warden: Tau, the letter of Saturn, linked to Earth.

Second: Companion Guide, what know you of the Word?

Guide: Resh, the letter of the Sun, linked to Air.

Second: Third Adept, what know you of the Word?

Third: Peh, the letter of Mars, linked to Water.

Second: Earth, Air, and Water have their completion in Fire. As you have striven upwards through the Grades of the First Degree, take now the Fire of aspiration for your guide. But the letter of Aspiration is Kaph, the letter of Jupiter, which is linked to Fire, and thus do I reveal the letter Kaph to you and complete the Word:

Third: Peh (takes Sign of Water)

Guide: Resh (takes Sign of Air)

Second: Kaph (takes Sign of Fire)

Warden: Tau (takes Sign of Earth)

All: PAROKETH (All perform Qabalistic Cross, vibrating the words.)

Candidate: (prompted by Third Adept) I seek to rend the Veil and complete the Pentagram in the word PAROKETH.

First: (sounds gong) It is the Word of the Veil, the Veil of the Tabernacle of the Temple before the Holy of Holies, the Veil which was rent asunder. It is the Veil of the four elements of the body of humanity, offered for the service of humanity. (Stands in Sign of Rending of Veil) In the word Phrath, in the spirit of service and sacrifice, approach the Veil.

(Second and Third Adepts stand by Veil. Guide shows candidate Sign of Rending.)

Guide: This is the Sign of the Rending of the Veil, and thus standing, you form the Tau Cross.

(Candidate gives the Sign. Second and Third Adepts open the Veil, revealing First Adept. All officers pass through onto dais.)

First: Freely and of full purpose and with understanding, do you offer yourself upon the altar of the Spirit?

(Candidate replies. All form a circle around brazier, First Adept to east, candidate to west, Warden and Third Adept to north, Guide and Second Adept to south. Officers drop emblems in brazier as listed.)

Warden: In the letter Tau. (salt)

First: In the letter Heh. (incense)

Guide: In the letter Resh. (rose leaves)

First: In the letter Vau. (incense)

Third: In the letter Peh. (contents of cup)

First: In the letter Heh. (incense)

Second: In the letter Kaph. (incense sticks)

First: In the letter Yod. (incense)

All: In the letter Shin. (Candidate, prompted by Guide, takes off elemental cross and drops it into the brazier.)

First: (touches candidate on center of chest with staff) May this offering ascend to the Highest. (Puts staff away.) Stretch out your left hand to touch the black pillar of Severity, the pillar of the First Degree, in which all was as yet in darkness. This was a period of restriction and of groping, as you sought for the Light of the Stone in the elemental world. Now stretch out your right hand to touch the white pillar of Mercy, the pillar of the Second Degree, in which that light has been completed. Standing thus, you are in the point of equilibrium, master of both, Companion of the Second Degree.

I now confer on you the secrets of this Degree. The Grip is that of the First Degree, but given with the left hand, as a symbol of Mercy and the White Pillar. The Sign is given thus (does so), and represents the rending asunder of the Veil; its answer is given thus (does so), and represents the closing of the Veil. The Word you have already been given, and it is exchanged one letter at a time, thus: Peh.

Candidate: (prompted if necessary) Resh.

First: Kaph.

Candidate: Tau.

First: I further give you the password ETH, a name of the element of Spirit that converts the Cross into the Pentagram; it is spelled Aleph, Tau -- the first and the last. Thus above my throne is this Tablet (points to Tablet of Union), the Tablet of Union, which binds together the four angelic tablets into one under the presidency of the Spirit.

Thus far have you come, by aid of our rites and your own efforts. Now you must labor to establish the Pentagram in yourself -- to make yourself truly a microcosm, reflecting the macrocosm whose symbolic hexagram of Tiphareth presides over you.

Remember now and hereafter that only in and by the reconciliation of opposing forces is made the pathway to true magical knowledge and power. Good alone is mighty, and truth alone will prevail. Evil is but weakness, motivated by ignorance and fear, and the power of evil magic exists only in the strife of unbalanced forces, which in the end will destroy the one who allows himself or herself to be subjugated thereto.

Upon this altar (steps aside and points to it) you see the Cubical Stone, the image of the perfected self. From the Uncarved Stone which was shown you in the First Degree, you have fashioned yourself in this image. As the stone has six facets, so have you passed through six ceremonies of initiation: the First Degree, the four Elemental Grades, and the Second Degree. Know, however, that the six sides of this Stone have another significance, and in that is the gateway to another, higher Degree, of which this is but the portal. Of this higher Degree no more is spoken here, and you are not to speak of it to anyone who has not beheld the opening of the Veil.

The altar also bears the working tools of this Degree: the Sword, the Lotus Wand, and the Lamén. These are the instruments of the high magic of our secret wisdom, and you will prepare such tools for yourself and put them to practical use in the work of this Degree. Here again, the symbols of balance and reconciliation are shown forth: the Sword of severity, the Wand of mercy, and the Lamén that harmonizes them. That Lamén will bear the symbols of your own highest aspirations; think well on those symbols, and choose those that will lead you between the contending forces to the Light that is in their reconciliation.

Seek always that reconciliation, and all other things will be added to you.

## CLOSING OF THE SECOND DEGREE

First: ! (One knock) Companions, you will assist me to close the Veil.

(All officers but First go back to altar, candidate accompanying them; Warden leads, followed by Third Adept, Candidate, Guide and Second Adept, in that order. Guide prompts candidate to follow Third Adept. When they reach the altar they go one and a half times around it against Sun, stopping when Warden is at west of altar, then turnright and go straight to their elemental stations. Candidate is prompted to stand near Third Adept.

First: Give the Signs of the First Degree (pause), the Sign of Earth (pause), the Sign of Air (pause), the Sign of Water (pause), the Sign of Fire (pause), the Sign of the Rending of the Veil (pause), the Sign of the Closing of the Veil.

(Each of these are done by all present.)

First: What is the Word?

Third: Peh.

Guide: Resh.

Second: Kaph.

Warden: Tau.

First: ! (Knocks.) The Word is Paroketh, the Veil of the Sanctuary.

(All make Sign of Closing of Veil.)

First: In and by that Word, let the Veil be closed.

(First Adept passes to West of altar and faces East. Second and Third Adepts close the Veil, return to their stations and then go to their respective elemental altars.)

First: In the letters of the Great Name Yod Heh Vau Heh, and by the power of the concealed Name YHShVH, spirits of the five elements, adore your creator.

(Second and Third Adepts, Guide, and Warden face outward. At the word "depart" following, each traces a banishing pentagram of the proper element toward the quarter, then stands in the Sign of that element.)

First: Depart in peace to your habitations, and peace be between us.

(First Adept then makes banishing pentagrams of Spirit and gives LVX signs. First Adept and all present

then perform the Cabalistic Cross, facing East. First Adept then returns to his station to the east of the Air altar.)

First: !!!! !

Third: !!!! !

Second: !!!! !

Warden: !!!! !

Guide: !!!! !

First: Second Adept, you will relinquish your station.

Second: (Goes to seat before Veil.) In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I relinquish the Throne of the River Pison and give back the power of the Living Fire.

(Second Adept returns staff to holder and returns to elemental altar.)

First: Third Adept, you will relinquish your station.

Third: (Goes to seat before Veil.) In the name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I relinquish the Throne of the River Gihon and give back the power of the Mighty Waters.

(Third Adept returns staff to holder and returns to elemental altar.)

First: 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 relinquish the Throne of the River Hiddekel and give back the power of the Rushing Winds.

(Guide returns staff to holder and leaves station.)

First: 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 relinquish the Throne of the River Phrath and give back the power of the Wide and Fertile Earth.

(Warden returns staff to holder and leaves station.)

(At this point Warden, Guide, Third Adept and Second Adept all spiral in against Sun from their elemental altars to the main altar; each one completing a full circuit of the hall and finishing on the side of the main altar facing their elemental altar. They then circle the altar one and a half times, until Warden is at east of main altar, at which point Warden leads the procession in single file to the east of the hall. Once the procession reaches the east, it goes by the square against Sun around the hall, and each officer falls out into his or her Outer station; Outer officers who did not take part in the ritual resume



their places at this time. This is the reverse of the movement in the Opening, as shown below.)

Guide

Third  
Adept

Main  
Altar

Second  
Adept

Warden

First: 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.)

First: In the name of the Lord of the Universe, and with the help of the Guardian Companions of the Stone, I relinquish the Throne of the Hidden Place and give back the power of the Bornless Spirit.

(First Adept returns staff to holder.)

First: Companion Summoner, you will proclaim this lodge closed in the Second Degree and opened in the Outer.

Summoner: In the name of the Lord of the Universe, who works in silence and whom nothing but silence can express, and in the presence of the Guardian Companions of our Order, I proclaim that the Veil is closed.

First: ! (Knocks; all are seated.)

---

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

First: 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 First Adept resumes his or her station in the Outer.)

---

SECOND DEGREE LODGE

---

Inner  
Altar  
(First Adept in Initiation)  
Brazier  
  
Pillar                          Pillar  
Veil \_\_\_\_\_ Veil

(First Adept in Opening/Closing)

   Air      Banner  
   Altar    of East  
  
   (Third Adept)      (Guide)              (Second Adept)

Earth    Main    Fire  
Altar    Altar    Altar

   Water      Banner  
   Altar      of West  
  
(Warden)

---