

## DIVINATION, OMENS AND PILGRIMAGE

A lecture delivered to Emerald Lodge #3  
24 May, 1996

1. Introduction: understanding pilgrimage
  - Spiritual tourism?
  - The different roles of pilgrimage
  - Toward a magical understanding
2. Ancient and modern approaches to the experienced world
  - Where is meaning to be found?
  - The modern standpoint: the use of the world
  - The ancient standpoint: the meaning of the world
  - Symbolism in the natural world: the "Two Books"
3. The interpretation of omens
  - Foundations in human consciousness
  - Classical augury
4. Divination as the manufacture of omens
  - The origins of astrology
  - Divinatory practice
5. Pilgrimage as a quest for meaning
6. The practice of pilgrimage

"Then they rode out from the castle and separated as they had decided amongst themselves, striking out into the forest one here, one there, wherever they saw it thickest and wherever path or track was absent."

- The Quest of the Holy Grail