

THE GRADE OF WATER

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

OPENING OF THE GRADE OF WATER

(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 Water. 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 Water. !!!
(knocks; all rise)

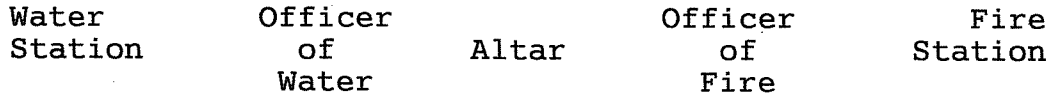
Adjuvant: Companions, give the sign of the Grade of Water. (All give sign to Adjuvant, who responds with the same sign.) Chief of the Rite, all have witnessed it. (Adjuvant gives the Sign to Chief, who responds with the same sign.)

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 by water and by fire.

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

Grade of Water

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:



(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.

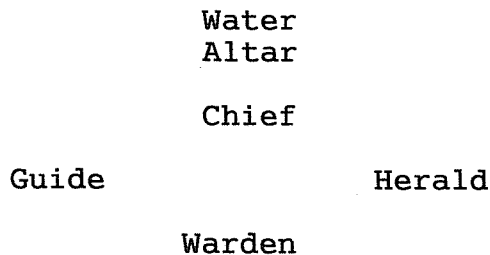
(Officers return the cup and censer to their places, and return to their places by the square.)

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 Water.

Chief: Let us adore the Lord and King of Water. (All face east, Chief moving in front of podium to do so.) El Ab, mighty is thy name! Glory be unto the Ruach Elohim that moved upon the face of the waters of Creation. Amen. (All make sign of Water.)

(Chief leaves the East, goes with Sun around lodge once and then to West. 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 western 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 west.)



Chief: (traces an invoking pentagram of Water to the west) And the Elohim said, Let us make Adam in our own image, after our

Grade of Water

likeness, and let him have dominion over the fishes of the Sea. In the Name of El strong and powerful, and in the name of Elohim Tzabaoth, spirits of Water, adore your Creator!

(Chief traces the symbol of the Eagle's Head in the center of the pentagram.)

Guide: In the name of Gabriel, great archangel of Water, and in the sign of the head of the eagle, spirits of Water, adore your Creator!

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

Herald: In the names and letters of the great western quadrangle, spirits of Water, 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 west, MPH ARSL GAIOL, spirits of Water, adore your Creator!

Chief: In the name of RA AGIOSEL, great king of the west, spirits of Water, 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.)

Grade of Water

Chief: Companions, I ask you to join with me in establishing this lodge in the Grade of Water. (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 Water.

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

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 Air, is now eligible for advancement to the Grade of Water, 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 white cloth, cups for the three major officers, and salt-water cup are placed on the appropriate altars. Guide goes to door and leaves hall; Herald stands by door. Guide blindfolds candidate, gives him/her the Emblem of Water, and instructs him/her in the knock ! !!! ! !!! Candidate then gives knock at door, and Herald opens door slightly.)

Herald: And the Ruach Elohim moved on the face of the Waters. (Door is opened, and Guide brings candidate to west of pillars, facing him/her East.)

Chief: Companion Poraios de Rejectis, by what emblem do you seek to enter this hall of the mighty waters?

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

(Herald takes emblem.)

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

(Candidate gives it.)

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

(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 Poraios de Rejectis, 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 preceding Grades?

(Candidate answers.)

Chief: Then you will stretch forth your right hand in the position of the Sign of Entering, and say, "I pledge by the Abyss of the Waters."

(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. Meanwhile, Herald turns candidate around to face west, puts down Emblem, and then brings salt-water cup.) Sprinkle with your hand a few drops of water to the West, and say, "Let the powers of Water witness my pledge."

(Candidate does so. Herald takes cup back to its altar and returns, turning candidate to face East.)

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 their stations by the circle as they finish.)

ADVANCEMENT OF THE CANDIDATE

Chief: The Grades of Earth and Air, through which you have passed, are the first two steps in our discipline. In the Grade

of Earth, you learned the lessons of the virtues of Earth, and began the building of the temple of yourself; in the Grade of Air, you encountered fear, the chief enemy of the awakening soul, and tested yourself against the lessons of courage. In commemoration of which, you will circumambulate the lodge twice.

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

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

Warden: (first circumambulation) 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.

Guide: (Second circumambulation) 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.

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

(Candidate is placed between pillars. At this point Chief, Guide and Warden all leave their stations, taking cups with them, and go around the hall with Sun. Guide goes around to north and then goes between the altar and the pillars, facing candidate; Warden and Chief, in that order, do the same, timing their movement so that each one arrives as the previous officer leaves.)

Guide: I am water, motionless and still, reflecting all, concealing all. I am the past; I am the inundation. He who rises from the great waters is my name. Hail unto ye, dwellers of the Land of Night! For the rending of the darkness is near.

Candidate: (prompted) I seek light in that darkness.

Guide: Before all things are the waters and the darkness and the gates of the land of night. From the father of waters went forth the spirit, rending asunder the veils of darkness. And there was but a vastness of silence and of depth in the place of the gathering waters. Terrible was the silence of that uncreated world, immeasurable the depth of that abyss.

(Guide returns to station directly. Warden faces candidate.)

Warden: I am water, turbid and troubled. I am the banisher of peace in the abode of the Waters. None is so strong as to withstand the power of the great Waters and the roar of their thundering voice. I am the future, shrouded in mist and gloom; I

am the drawing back of the torrent. The storm clad in terror is my name. Hail unto ye, dwellers of the whirling storm! For the rending of the darkness is upon you.

Candidate: (prompted) I seek light in that darkness.

Warden: The countenances of darkness arose half-formed; they abode not; they hastened away, and in the darkness of vacancy, the Spirit moved and the lightbearers existed for a space. I have said darkness of darkness -- are not the countenances of darkness fallen with kings? Do the children of the night of time last forever, and have they not yet passed away?

(Warden returns to station with Sun. Chief faces candidate.)

Chief: I am water, pure and shining, ever flowing on toward the sea. I am the ever-passing present that stands between past and future; I am the fertilized land. The traveler through the gates of the darkness is my name. Hail unto ye, dwellers of the wings of the morning! For the rending of the darkness is done.

Candidate: (prompted) I seek light in that darkness.

Chief: And the chaos cried aloud for the unity of form -- and the face of the Eternal arose. Before the glory of that countenance the night rolled back and the darkness hastened away. In the waters beneath was that face reflected, in the formless abyss of the Void. Its brow and its eyes formed the triangle of the measureless heavens -- and their reflections formed the triangle of the measureless waters. Thus was formulated the eternal hexad, the number of the dawning creation.

(Chief returns to station with Sun.)

Herald: The river Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, you have trodden down strength!

Chief: Let the Candidate enter into the realm of Water, and hear the wisdom of Water from the voices of the sea. The Grade of Water has as its chief symbol the Cup, and in the traditions of our secret wisdom that Cup has always, as its archetype, the Grail.

(Herald leads Candidate to the altar as Guide begins speaking.)

Guide: And then the king and all estates went home to Camelot, and so went to evensong to the great minster, and so after upon that to supper, and every knight sat in his own place. Then anon they heard cracking and crying of thunder, so that they thought the place should all be to drive. In the midst of this blast entered a sunbeam more clear by seven times than ever they saw day, and they were all alighted by the grace of the spirit. Then began every knight to behold the others by their seeming fairer than ever they saw before. Yet among them there was no knight

might speak one word a great while, and so they looked every one on other as they had been dumb. Then there entered the hall the Holy Grail covered with white samite, but there was none might see it, nor who bare it. And there was all the hall fulfilled with good odors, and every knight had such meats and drinks as he best loved in this world. And when the Grail had been borne through the hall, then the holy vessel departed suddenly, that they wist not where it became.

(While Guide reads, Warden veils the Cup with a white cloth and leaves station. At the words "Then there entered the hall..." above, Warden goes with Sun around to east and crosses in front of diagram, bearing the veiled Cup in both hands, so that it passes before the candidate. Warden then proceeds with Sun back to station. Chief goes from station to stand between altar and diagram.)

Chief: Enter now into the presence of the Grail. (Herald leads candidate around altar to east; Chief points to diagram.) On the Tree of Life, the Grail embraces nine of the Spheres, while Kether, the first and highest Sphere, is that which descends into the Grail. The Grail further contains within it the symbolism of the three elements Water, Air and Fire, which in their combination make Earth. On another and a more secret level, however, the crescent is the Moon; the sphere is the Sun; and the triangle is another, Secret Fire, the nature of which will be shown in a higher Grade.

The hiding place of the Grail is called Sarras, in the spiritual realm -- that place which, in another symbolism, is called Eden.

(Chief opens diagram.)

Before you is represented the symbolism of the Garden of Eden. At the summit is the Supernal Eden, containing the three Supernal Sephiroth, summed up and contained in Aima Elohim, the Mother Supernal, the woman of the Apocalypse, clothed with the Sun, with the Moon beneath her feet, and upon her head the crown of twelve stars, Kether; this represents the Father joined to the Mother in the glory of the Ancient of Days. And in the Garden was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which is from Malkuth; and below that Tree is the dragon having seven heads and ten horns, the presence of the Kingdom of Shells.

And a river went forth out of the Supernal Eden to water the rest of the Garden, and from thence it was divided into four heads in Daath, whence it is said, "In Daath the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down dew." The first head is PISON, the river of fire, which flows into Geburah. The second is GIHON, the river of waters, flowing into Chesed. The third is HIDDEKEL, the river of air, flowing into Tiphareth, and the fourth, which receives the virtues of the other three, is PHRATH, which floweth down upon the Earth.

This river going forth out of Eden is the river of the Apocalypse, the Waters of Life. Thus the waters of Eden form a cross, and upon that cross ADAM, humanity, who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron, is extended from Tiphareth and his arms stretch out to Chesed and Geburah. In Malkuth is EVE, Nature, mother of all and completion of all, and above the universe she supports with her hands the eternal pillars of the Sephiroth.

RECEPTION OF THE CANDIDATE

Chief: As the Grade of Earth has for its model the builder who works in stone, and the Grade of Air the knight on the field of battle, so the Grade of Water is the special Grade of the Seer, the visionary who enters into contact with the Unseen in search of the healing and transforming Light therein. The Grail is a symbol of that Light, and the quest for the Grail a symbol of that search.

The work before you is to set out in search of the Grail, to receive the descending current of the Waters of Life, those waters which make fruitful the Garden of Eden and fill the Holy Grail. I ask you, therefore: Are you willing to take up this work?

(Candidate answers.)

Chief: Then I 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 of the Grade is given thus: (does so) and represents the triangle of the Waters. The Word of the Grade is MAYIM, Mem, Aleph, Yod, Mem, the Hebrew word for Water. I also confer upon you the title Monocris de Astris, the Unicorn of the Starry Heavens.

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

Herald: In the Name of El, 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 Water.

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

Chief: The Grade of Water is the third of the four steps between the First and Second Degrees, the first glimpse of the Light and its full manifestation. In your progress among us, you have passed from the depths of the Earth, through the winds of heaven, to the shores of the Great Sea.

As the Grade of Earth is the Grade of the Builder, and the Grade of Air that of the Knight, this Grade is the Grade of the Seer.

It is for this reason among others that the symbolism of the Grail is central in it, for the Grail is among the highest symbols of the visionary life in the secret traditions of the Western world. The virtue of this Grade is therefore temperance, for temperance is a necessity to all who would venture into the visionary realm.

It is written that of four who entered Paradise, one died, one went mad, and one became obsessed with strange doctrines; only one entered in peace and left in peace. In the same way, when Lancelot tried, unpurified, to enter the Chapel of the Grail he was struck down. Remember this, and as you work with the lessons of this Grade, learn to approach the powers of the spiritual realm in a temperate manner, balancing the transforming experiences of the Magic of Light with the material, the practical and even the mundane.

I now present you with the working tool of this Grade, the Cup. (He shows it.) The Cup is a receptacle both for physical Water and for those subtle energies our tradition assigns to that element. Its power and its worth come not from what it is in itself, but from that which it bears, from that which enters it from outside. You will prepare such a cup for yourself in the work of this Grade; let it teach you the value of the passive, the receptive and the responsive in our work.

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

Before you will be eligible to enter into the final Grade of the First Degree, the Grade of Fire, 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 WATER

Chief: ! (knocks) Companions, you will assist me to close this lodge in the Grade of Water. Let us adore the Lord and King of Water. !!! (All rise and face East.) El Ab, blessed be thy name to the countless ages of time, 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 surrender the power of the Secret Fire and leave the Place of Darkness.

<Warden replaces staff and moves in front of 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 surrender the power of the Crescent Moon and leave the Place of Light.

<Guide replaces staff and moves in front of 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 west. Herald falls in before Chief as he begins; Warden and Guide fall in behind him as he passes their stations. In the west, they form the diamond facing west as before, except that Guide is to the right and Herald to the left, as shown:)

Water
Altar

Chief

Herald Guide

Warden

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

Terrible king of the sea, who holds the keys of the cataracts of heaven, and who encloses the subterranean waters in the cavernous hollows of earth; King of the deluge and of the rains of spring; who opens the sources of the rivers and the fountains; who commands moisture, which is the blood of the earth, to become the sap of the plants; we adore you and we invoke you. Speak to us, your mobile and changeful creatures, in the great tempests, and we will tremble before you. Speak to us also in the murmur of the clear waters, and we will desire your love.

O vastness in which all the rivers of being seek to lose themselves, which renew themselves endlessly in you! O Ocean of infinite perfection! O Height that reflects itself in the depths! O depth that exhales to the heights! Lead us into the true life, through intelligence, through love! Lead us into immortality through sacrifice, that we may be found worthy to offer one day unto you the water, the blood and the tears for the

remission of sins. Amen.

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

Summoner: In the Name of El, I proclaim that the Sun has set in the realm of Water.

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 WATER

