

COMPANIONS OF THE STONE

Instructional Letter
First Degree Series - No. 5

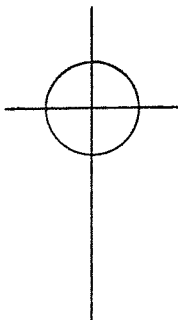
The Rose Cross Ritual

The Rose Cross ritual is one of the basic protective rituals of the Golden Dawn tradition, and may be put to practical use from the beginning of one's magical training. In some ways, it resembles the Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram, but it has different effects and is applied in different situations. It is specifically a ritual of healing, cleansing and balancing, and it draws on the symbolism and energy of Tiphareth -- the sixth and central Sphere of the Qabalistic Tree of Life. It should thus be used in any case of illness, emotional trouble, or stress.

It may also be used to deal effectively with hostile or disturbing magical phenomena. Although it's rare that a novice magician to come under any sort of sustained magical attack, from either human or nonhuman sources -- these are much rarer events in reality than they are in occult fiction -- the act of beginning magical training sometimes has the effect of stirring up a kind of "astral static," which may take the form of unexpected and unwanted visionary experiences or other, similar phenomena. While it's true, as Aleister Crowley commented, that there's a certain satisfaction in being hit over the head by a demon whose existence you had previously doubted, such entertainments quickly lose their charm, and the Rose Cross ritual is an effective way of putting an end to them.

The ritual requires a stick of incense; frankincense or some other astringent scent is best. It also requires familiarity with the Signs of Isis, Apophis, and Osiris Slain and Risen, which can be learned from the Lecturer of your lodge or any other experienced Companion. The ritual is performed as follows:

First, standing in the middle of your practice space, facing east and holding the lit stick of incense, perform the Cabalistic Cross.



Second, go to the southeast corner of your space. There, trace the symbol of the Rose Cross in the air before you with the incense, as shown in the diagram to the left. The symbol should be about three feet high, with the upper end of the cross at the level of the top of your head, and it should be visualized in white light. Point the lit end of the incense at the center of the cross, and vibrate the Name YHShVH (pronounced "yeh-heh-shu-ah").

Third, trace and visualize a line around to the southwest corner of the space, and repeat the same process, tracing the symbol and vibrating the same Name. Then trace the line around to the northwest corner, repeating the process there, and do the same to the northeast corner, repeating the process there also.

Fourth, trace the line back around to the southeast, completing the circle. Then draw a line with the incense up and over your head, diagonally across toward the northwest corner of the space. At the center of the room, stop, trace the symbol of the Rose Cross directly above you, point to its center and vibrate the Name. Then continue to the northwest corner. From there, trace the line down and across the floor, diagonally across to the southeast corner again; stop in the middle of the room, draw the symbol of the Rose Cross just above the floor, point to its center and vibrate the Name. Then finish tracing the line back to the southeast.

Fifth, retrace the line from the symbol in the southeast corner to the one in the southwest corner, and then trace another line up over your head, across to the symbol in the center of the ceiling, across and down to the northeast corner, down and across to the symbol in the center of the floor, and back across and up to the southwest corner again. Then retrace the line back around to the southeast. (The result of all this tracing is shown in Diagram 1 at the end of this letter.) In the southeast, draw the symbol of the Rose Cross again, over the first one but somewhat larger; while tracing the lower half of the circle, vibrate YHShVH; while tracing the upper half of the circle, vibrate YHVShH (pronounced "yeh-ho-wah-shah").

Sixth, return to the center. Stand, facing east, and say the Analysis of INRI aloud, as follows:

"I, N, R, I.

"Yod, Nun, Resh, Yod.

"Virgo, Isis, mighty mother. Scorpio, Apophis, the destroyer. Sol, Osiris, slain and risen.

"Isis, Apophis, Osiris.

"I, A, O."

Vibrate, as forcefully as possible:

"IAO!" (pronounced Eee-Aaa-Oh!)

Seventh, make the Sign of Osiris Slain. Say: "The Sign of Osiris Slain!" Make the Sign of Isis, and say: "The Sign of the Mourning of Isis!" Make the Sign of Apophis, and say: "The Sign of Apophis and Typhon!" Make the Sign of Osiris Risen, and say: "The Sign of Osiris Risen!" Then repeat the Signs of Isis, Apophis and Osiris, saying: "L, V, X." Lower your arms to your

sides, and say: "Lux -- Light -- the Light of the Cross."
Raising your arms up above your head, as though reaching out:
"Let the Divine Light descend!"

Eighth, at this point visualize a shaft of brilliant white light, wide enough to encompass the entire space within the lines you have traced, shining on you from far above. As it descends, vibrate the four Enochian Names of Spirit EXARP, HCOMA, NANTA, and BITOM (pronounced "eh-etz-ar-peh", "heh-co-em-ah", "en-ah-en-tah", and "beh-ee-toh-em".) to equilibrate the Light. Hold the visualization for a time, and then release the image and perform the Cabalistic Cross. This completes the ritual.

