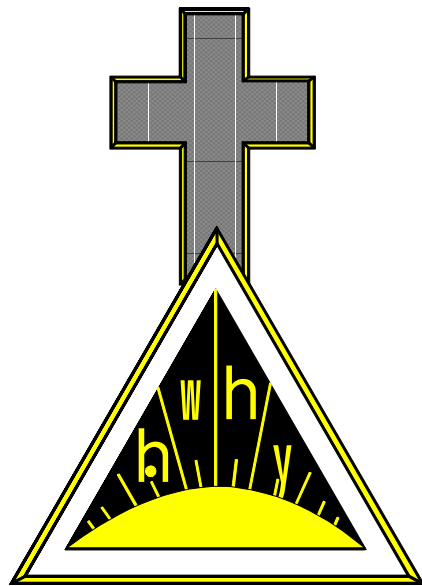


The Hermetic Order Of The  
GOLDEN DAWN<sup>Intl.</sup>

**PRACTICUS INITIATION OF  
THE HERMETIC ORDER OF  
THE GOLDEN DAWN**



**PRACTICUS 3 = 8**

(**Hierophant** knocks once).

**HIEROPHANT:** "Fraters and Sorors of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and the Temple of Isis Mighty Mother, assist me to open this Temple in the grade of Practicus. Honored **Hegemon**, see that the Temple is properly guarded."

(**Hegemon** secures portals.)

**HEGEMON:** "Very Honored **Hierophant**, the Temple is properly guarded."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hiereus**, see that no one below the grade of Practicus is present."

**HIEREUS:** "Fraters and Sorors give the Sign of Practicus. (Done.) Very Honored **Hierophant**, all present have attained the grade."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hegemon**, to what particular element is this grade attributed?"

**HEGEMON:** "To the element of Water."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hiereus**, to what planet does this grade especially refer?"

**HIEREUS:** "To the planet Mercury."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hegemon**, what paths are attached to this grade?"

**HEGEMON:** "The thirty-first and thirtieth paths of Shin and Resh."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hiereus**, to what does the thirty-first path refer?"

**HIEREUS:** "To the reflection of the sphere of Fire."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hegemon**, to what does the thirtieth path allude?"

**HEGEMON:** "To the reflection of the sphere of the Sun."

(All rise and face east.) (**Hierophant** knocks once).

**HIEROPHANT:** "Let us adore the Lord and King of Water."

"Elohim Tzabaoth, Elohim of Hosts, glory be unto the Ruach Elohim who moved upon the face of the Waters of Creation. Amen!"

(All give 3=8 Grade Sign. **Hierophant** moves to the west. **Hiereus** and **Hegemon** move to the west behind the **Hierophant**, **Hiereus** to the right and **Hegemon** to the left. All face west. Standing before the Tablet of Water, he makes with his scepter the Invoking Circle and Pentagrams of Spirit and Water before it in the air.)

"And the Elohim said, 'Let us make Adam in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea.' In the name of EI, strong and powerful, and in the name of Elohim Tzabaoth, spirits of Water adore your Creator."

(Taking the cup of water from before the tablet and making therewith the Sign of the Eagle in the air before it.)

"In the name of Gabriel, the Great Archangel of Water, and in the Sign of the Eagle, spirits of Water adore your Creator."

(Making a cross with the cup.)

"In the names and letters of the Great Western Quadrangle revealed unto Enoch by the Great Angel Ave, spirits of Water adore your Creator."

(Holding the cup on high.)

"In the three great secret names of God borne upon the Banners of the West, Mph Arsl Gaiol, spirits of Water adore your Creator. In the name of Raagiosl, Great King of the West, spirits of Water adore your Creator."

(Replaces the cup and returns to original position. All return to original positions.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "In the name of Elohim Tzabaoth, I declare this Temple opened in the grade of Practicus."

**Hierophant** knocks \ III / III.

**Hiereus** knocks \ III / III.

**Hegemon** knocks \ III / III.

## Ritual of the Thirty-first Path

**HIEROPHANT:** "Fraters and Sorors of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, Frater/Soror \_\_\_\_\_, having made such progress in the path of Occult Science as has enabled him/her to pass the examinations in the requisite knowledge, is now eligible for advancement to the grade of Practicus, and I have duly received a dispensation from the Greatly Honored Chiefs of the Second Order to advance him/her in due form. Honored **Hegemon**, superintend the preparation of the Theoricus and give the customary alarm."

(**Hegemon** gives sign of 3=8 grade to **Hierophant**, leaves the Temple and hoodwinks the candidate and prepares candidate with Pyramid of Flame. **Hegemon** then knocks on the door | || | |||.)

**HEGEMON:** "His throne was like a fiery flame, and the wheels as burning Fire."

(**Hiereus** opens door and admits them, then returns to his place. **Hegemon**, holding Pyramid in right hand and guiding the Candidate with left hand conducts him/her to the northwest facing the **Hiereus**.)

**HIEREUS:** "Give me the grade sign of Theoricus. (Done.) Give the Grand Word or Divine name. (Done.) Give the Mystic number and Password of the grade of Theoricus." (Done.) (Shaddai El Chai, 45, Mem Heh.)

**HIEREUS:** "Give me also the Mystic Title and symbol which you received in that grade." (Done.) (Poraios de Rejectus. Ruach.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Frater/Soror \_\_\_\_\_, do you solemnly pledge yourself to maintain the same strict secrecy regarding the Mysteries of the thirty-first and thirtieth paths and of the grade of Practicus which you have sworn to maintain respecting those of the preceding grades?"

**THEORICUS:** "I do."

(Theoricus is faced west before Tablet by Hegemon).

**HIEROPHANT:** "Then you will stretch forth your hands in the position of the saluting Sign of Neophyte and say, 'I swear by the abyss of the Waters.'" (Done.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Let the hoodwink be removed."

(**Hegemon** removes hoodwink).

(**Hegemon** hands Cup of Water to **Candidate**).

**HIEREUS:** "Sprinkle with your hand a few drops of Water towards the tablet of Water in the west and say, 'Let the Powers of Water witness my pledge.'" (Done.)

(**Hegemon** replaces cup.)

(**Hiereus** conducts the Theoricus to the east and places him before the Mystic Pillars.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Before you are the Portals of the thirty-first, thirty-second, and twenty-ninth paths. Of these, as you know, the central one leads from the Zelator grade to the Theoricus grade. The one on the left hand now open to you is the thirty-first, which leads from the grade of Zelator to the grade of Practicus. Take in your right hand the Pyramid of Flame and follow your guide Axiokersa the Kabir who leads you through the path of Fire."

(**Hegemon** leads Theoricus between pillars turns to right and circumambulates the Hall once.)

(**Hierophant**, as they approach, takes the Red Lamp in his hand. **Hegemon** and Theoricus halt before him.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Axieros the first Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the apex of the Triangle of Flame. I am the Solar Fire pouring forth its beams upon the lower world. Life giving, Light producing. By what symbol dost thou seek to pass by?'"

**HEGEMON:** "By the symbol of the Pyramid of Flame."

**HIEROPHANT:** "Hear thou the voice of Axieros the first Kabir. 'The Mind of the Father whirled forth in re-echoing roar, comprehending by invincible Will ideas omniform, which flying forth from that one fountain issued; for the Father alike was the Will and the end; by which yet are they connected with the Father, according to alternating life, through varying vehicles. But they were divided asunder, being by Intellectual Fire distributed unto other intellectuals. For the King of all previously placed before the polymorphous world, a type intellectual, incorruptible, the imprint of whose form is sent forth through the world, by which the Universe shone forth decked with ideas all various of which the foundation is one, one and alone. From this the others rush forth distributed and separated through the various bodies of the Universe, and are borne in swarms through its vast abysses, ever whirling forth in illimitable radiation. They are intellectual conceptions from the paternal fountain, partaking abundantly the brilliance of Fire in the culmination of unresting time. But, the primary self perfect fountain of the Father pours forth these primogenial Ideas.

These being many ascend flashingly into the shining world, and in them are contained the three Supernals, because it is the operator, because it is the giver of life-bearing Fire, because it filleth the life-producing bosom of Hecate, and it instilleth into the Synoches the enlivening strength of Fire, emdued with mighty power. The Creator of all formed the world, and there was a certain mass of fire and all these self operating He produced, so that the cosmic body might be completely conformed, so that the Cosmos might be manifest and not appear membraneous. And He fixed a vast multitude of inwandering star, not by a strain laborious and hurtful, but to uphold them with a stability void of movement, forcing Fire forward into Fire.' And hereunto is the speech of Axieros."

(**Hegemon** leads Theoricus around position towards **Hiereus**. **Hiereus** as they approach takes Red Lamp in his hand, **Hegemon** and Theoricus halt before him.)

**HIEREUS:** "Axiokersos the Second Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the left Basal Angle of the Triangle of Flame. I am Fire Volcanic and Terrestrial, flashingly flaming through the abysses of Earth; Fire rending Fire penetrating, tearing asunder the curtain of matter; fire constrained, fire tormenting, raging and whirling in lurid storm. By what sign dost thou seek to pass by?'"

**HEGEMON:** "By the symbol of the Pyramid of Flame."

(**Hegemon** returns to place.)

**HIEREUS:** "Hear thou the voice of Axiokersos the second Kabir, 'For not in matter did the Fire which is in the beyond first enclose his power in acts, but in Mind; for the former of the fiery world is the Mind of Mind, who first sprang from Mind, clothing the one Fire with the other Fire, binding them together so that he might mingle the fountainous craters while preserving unsullied the brilliance of his own Fire. And thence a fiery whirlwind drawing down the brilliance of the Flashing Flame penetrating the abysses of the Universe, for thence from downwards all extend their wondrous rays, abundantly animating Light, Fire, Ether and the Universe. From Him leaped forth all relentless thunders, and the whirlwind wrapped storm enrolled bosom of the all splendid strength of Hecate, Father begotten and He who encircleth the brilliance of Fire, and the strong spirit of the poles, all fiery beyond.' And hereunto is the speech of Axiokersos."

(**Hiereus** leads Theoricus around to **Hegemon's** position in the southwest, who takes Red Lamp and thus addresses the Theoricus.)

**HEGEMON:** "Axiokersa the third Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the right basal angle of the Triangle of Flame; I am the fire astral and fluid, winding and corruscating through the firmament. I am the life of beings, the vital heat of existence. By what sign dost thou seek to pass by?'"

**HIEREUS:** "By the symbol of the Pyramid of Flame."

**HEGEMON:** "Hear thou the voice of Axiokersa the third Kabir. 'The Father hath hastily withdrawn Himself, but hath not shut up his own Fire in his intellectual power. All things are sprung from that one Fire. For all things did the Father of all things perfect, and delivered them over unto the second mind, whom all races of men call First. The mind of the Father riding on the subtle girders which glitter with the tracings of inflexible and relentless Fire. The soul being a brilliant Fire, by the power of the Father remaineth immortal, and is the mistress of Life, and filleth up the many recesses of the bosom of the world the channels being intermixed, therein she performeth the works of incorruptible Fire.' And hereunto is the speech of Axiokersa."

(The **Hegemon** places the Theoricus in the west, between herself and the **Hiereus**, facing the **Hierophant**, takes the Pyramid from the candidate).

**HIEROPHANT:** "Stoop not down into that darkly splendid world, wherein continually lies a faithless Depth, and Hades wrapped in clouds, delighting in unintelligible images, percipitous, winding, a black ever-rolling abyss, ever espousing a body unluminous, formless and void.

Nature persuadeth us that there are pure demons, and that even the evil germs of matter may alike become useful and good. But, these are mysteries which are evolved in the profound abyss of the Mind.

Such a Fire existeth, extending through the rushings of Air, or even a Fire formless, whence cometh the image of a voice, or even a flashing Light, abounding, revolving, whirling forth, crying aloud.

Also, there is the vision of the Fire flashing courser of Light, or also a child borne aloft on the shoulders of the Celestial Steed, fiery or clothed with gold, or naked or shooting with the bow, shafts of Light, and standing on the shoulders of the horse. But, if thy meditation prolongeth itself, thou shalt unite all these symbols in the form of the Lion. Then when no longer are visible unto thee the Vault of the Heavens, the mass of the Earth, when to thee the stars have lost their Light and the lamp of the Moon is veiled when the Earth abideth not, and around thee is the Lightening Flame, then call not before thyself the visible image of the soul of Nature. For thou must not behold it ere thy body is purged by the sacred rites. Since ever dragging down the soul and leading it from sacred things, from the confines of matter, arise the terrible dog-faced demons, never showing a true image unto mortal gaze.

So, therefore, first the priest who governeth the works of Fire must sprinkle with the lustral Water of the loud resounding sea. Labor thou around the Strophalos of Hecate. When thou shalt see a terrestrial demon approaching, cry aloud and sacrifice the stone Mnizourin. Change not the barbarous names of evocation, for they are names Divine, having in the sacred rites a power ineffable.

And when after all the phantoms are banished thou shalt see that holy and formless Fire, that Fire which darts and flashes through the hidden depths of the Universe, Hear thou the voice of Fire.' And here unto is the speech of the Kabiri."

(**Hegemon** conducts the candidate to the **Hierophant** and hands Pyramid to the **Hierophant**).

## The Pyramid of Flame

**HIEROPHANT:** "The solid triangular Pyramid is an appropriate hieroglyph of Fire. It is formed of four triangles, three visible and one concealed, which yet use the synthesis of the rest. The three visible triangles represent Fire, Solar, Volcanic and astral, while the fourth represents the Latent Heat. The three words Aud, Aub, Aur refer to the three conditions of Heat: Aud, active; Aub, passive; Aur, equilibrated; whilst Aesch is the name of Fire.

The thirty-first path of the *Sepher Yetzirah*, which answereth unto the letter Shin, is called the Perpetual Intelligence and is so called because it regulateth the motions of the Sun and Moon in their proper order, each in an orbit convenient for it. It is therefore the reflection of the sphere of Fire. The path connecting the material Universe as depicted in Malkuth, with the pillar of Severity on the side of Geburah, through the sephira Hod."

(**Hierophant**, **Hegemon** and Theoricus move to west of the altar.)

## Judgment Card

**HIEROPHANT:** "Before you upon the altar is the twentieth key of the Tarot, which symbolically represents the ideas. To the uninitiated eye it apparently represents the Last Judgement, with an Angel blowing a trumpet and the dead rising from the tombs. But its meaning is far more occult and recondite than this, for it is a glyph of the powers of Fire. The Angel encircled by a rainbow whence leap corruscations of Fire and crowned with the Sun represents Michael, the great Archangel and ruler of Solar Fire. The serpents which leap in the rainbow are symbols of the Fiery Seraphim. The trumpet represents the influence of the Spirit descending from Binah while the banner with the cross refers to the four rivers of Paradise and the letters of the Holy name. He also is Axieros, the first of the Samothracian Kabiri, as well as Zeus and Osiris. The left hand figure below, rising from the Earth, is Samael, the ruler of Volcanic Fire. He is also Axiokersos, the second Kabir, Pluto and Typhon. The right hand figure below is Anael, the ruler of the astral Light. She is also Axiokersa, the third Kabir, Ceres and Persephone, Isis and Nephthys. She is therefore represented in a duplicate form and rising from the water. Around both these figures dart flashes of lightning. These three principal figures form the Fire Triangle and further represent Fire operating in the other three elements of Air, Earth, and Water. The central lower figure with his back turned and his arms extended in the sign of Theoricus is Aral, the ruler of Latent Heat. He is rising from the Earth as if to receive and absorb the properties of the other three. He rises from the rock hewn cubical tomb which symbolizes the candidate who traverses the path of Fire. The three lower figures represent the Hebrew letter Shin to which Fire is especially referred. The seven Hebrew Yod's allude to the sephiroth operating in each of the planets and to the Schemhamporesch."

(**Hierophant** returns to his place and **Hegemon** leads Theoricus to the west. **Hiereus** comes forward and explains the two Sephirotic Tablets.)



## The Sephirotic Tablets

**HIEREUS:** "The tablet before you represents the ten sephiroth combined in seven palaces. The first palace contains Kether, Chokmah and Binah. The second Chesed, the third Geburah, the fourth Tiphareth, the fifth Netzach, the sixth Hod, the seventh Yesod and Malkuth. This second tablet represents the attribution of the ten sephiroth to the four letters of the Holy name. Kether, as you will observe, is not included therein, but it is symbolized by the uppermost point of Yod. It is the Macroprosopus or Arik Anpin, the Vast Countenance. Chokmah is attributed to Yod, the Father Abba. Binah is attributed to Heh or Aima, the Mother. Vav embraces the six next sephiroth which together form the Microprosopus or Zaur Anpin, the Lesser Countenance. Malkuth is referred to Heh final or the Bride of the Apocalypse."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus to the south to the tablet of Seven Heavens of Assiah.)

### Tablet of Seven Heavens of Assiah

**HEGEMON:** "These are the Seven Heavens of Assiah. The first is Ghereboth, referred to Chesed, wherein are the Treasures of Blessings. The second is Mekon, referred to Geburah, wherein are the Treasures of the Spirit of Life. The third is Maghon, referred to Tiphareth, wherein are Angels. The fourth is Zebel, referred to Netzach, wherein is the Supernal Altar, whereon Michael the great High Priest sacrificeth the souls of the just. The fifth is Shachaqim, referred to Hod, wherein is the Manna. The sixth is Raquie wherein are the Sun and Moon, the stars and planets, and all the ten spheres; it is referred to Yesod. The seventh is Velun referred to Malkuth. Following this is Shamaim containing 18,000 worlds, and also Gehennah, and the Garden of Eden. The ninth is 18,000 more worlds wherein abide Shekinah and Metatron. And the tenth is Thebel, wherein standeth the Earth between Eden and Gehennah."

( The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus to the north to the Tablet of the Ten Averse Sephiroth.)

### Tablet of Ten Averse Sephiroth

**HEGEMON:** "Before you are the ten averse and evil sephiroth of the Qlipoth of shells collected into Seven Palaces wherein is the Apocalyptic mystery of the seven heads and ten horns. The Qlipoth of Kether are called Thaumiel, the two contending forces. The Shells of Chokmah are the Ghogiel, Hinderers. Those of Binah are the Satariel, the Concealers. Those of Chesed are the Agshekeloh, the Breakers in Pieces. To Geburah belong the Golahab, the Burners. To Tiphareth the Tagiriron, the Disputers. To Netzach the Gharab Tzerek, the Ravens of Death, dispersing all things. To Hod the Samael, the deceivers. To Yesod the Gamaliel, the Obscene Ones. And the shell of Malkuth is Lilith, the Evil Woman. These Qlipothic names also have many other appellations."

**HIEROPHANT:** "I have much pleasure in conferring upon you the Title of Lord/Lady of the Thirty-first Path. You will now quit the Temple for a short time and on your return the ceremony of your passage of the thirtieth path will take place.

(Candidate leaves, Temple is properly arranged for the next entrance.)

## Second Entrance

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hegemon**, you have my command to present the Theoricus with the necessary admission badge and to admit him/her."

(The **Hegemon** goes to the door, opens it, presents the Theoricus with the Greek Cross of the thirteen squares and admits him/her.)

**HEGEMON:** "Behold, he hath placed his Tabernacle in the Sun."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus to the northeast and places him before and facing the pillars.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Frater/Soror \_\_\_\_\_, before you in the east are the portals of the thirtieth, twenty-fifth, and the twenty-sixth paths, leading from the grade of Theoricus to those grades which are beyond. Of these the only one now open to you is the thirtieth, which leads to the grade of Practicus. Take in your right hand the Solar Greek Cross, and follow your guide through the path of the Sun.

Unto the intellectual whirlings of Intellectual Fire all things are subservient, through the Will of the Father of All."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus between the Pillars to the **Hierophant**. **Hierophant** raises red lamp).

**HIEROPHANT:** "Axieros the first Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the Sun in greatest elevation, bringing upon the Earth the ripening heat, fructifying all things, urging forward the growth of vegetable nature. Life giving, Light producing, crowning summer with the golden harvest and filling the lap of plenteous Autumn with the purple vintage of the Vine.' Thus far is the voice of Axieros."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus around to the **Hiereus** and halts before him. The **Hiereus** raises the red lamp).

**HIEREUS:** "Axiokersos the second Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the Sun in greatest depression beneath the equator, when cold is greatest and heat is least, withdrawing his Light in darkening winter, the dweller of mist and the storm.' Thus far is the voice of Axiokersos."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus around to **Hegemon's** position at altar, facing **Hiereus** raises the red lamp).

**HEGEMON:** "Axiokersa the third Kabir spoke to Kasmillos the candidate and said, 'I am the Sun at Equinox, initiating summer and heading winter, mild and genial in operation, giving forth or withdrawing the vital heat of life.' Thus far is the voice of Axiokersa."

(The **Hegemon** places the Theoricus in the west between herself and the **Hiereus**, facing the **Hiereus** and takes from him the Solar Greek Cross.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "The Father of all congregated the Seven Firmaments of the Cosmos, circumscribing the Heaven with Convex form. He constituted a Septenary of wandering existences suspending their disorder in well disposed zones. He made them six in number and for the seventh he cast into the midst thereof the Fire of the Sun; into that center from which all lines are equal. That the swift Sun may come around that center, eagerly urging itself towards that center of resounding Light. As rays of Light his locks flow forth, stretching to the confines of space. And of the Solar circles, and of the Lunar clashings and of the Aerial recesses; the Melody of Ether, and of the Sun and of the passages of the Moon and of the Sun is in the Supramundane Orders, for therein a solar world and endless Light subsists. The Sun more true measureth all things by time, for he is the time of time. And his disc is in the starless above, the Inerractic Sphere, and he is the center of the Triple World. The Sun is Fire and the dispenser of Fire. He is also the channel of the higher Fire, Aether, Sun, and the Spirit of the Moon, ye are the leaders of Air. And the great goddess bringeth forth the vast Sun, and the brilliant Moon, and the wide Air, and the Lunar course and the Solar Pole. She collecteth it receiving the Melody of Ether, and of the Sun, and of the Moon, and of whatsoever is contained by Air. Unwearied doth nature rule over the worlds and works, so that the periods of all things may be accomplished. And above the shoulders of that Great Goddess is Nature in her vastness exalted.' Thus far is the voice of the Kabiri."

(The **Hegemon** conducts the Theoricus to the **Hierophant** and hands to latter the Solar Greek Cross.)

## The Solar Greek Cross

**HIEROPHANT:** "The Solar Greek Cross is formed of thirteen squares which fittingly refer to the Sun's motion through the zodiac. These signs being further arranged in the arms of the cross according to the four elements with the Sun in the center represent that luminary as the center of the whole.

The thirtieth path of the *Sepher Yetzirah* which answereth unto the letter Resh is called the Collecting Intelligence. It is so called because from it astrologers deduce the judgement of the stars, and the celestial signs, and the perfections of their science according to the rules of their revolutions. It is therefore the reflection of the sphere of the Sun and it is also the path connecting Yesod with Hod, Foundation with Splendor."

(The **Hierophant**, Theoricus and **Hegemon** come to the west of the altar.)

## The Sun Card

"Before you upon the altar is the nineteenth key of the Tarot which symbolically resumes these ideas. The Sun has twelve principal rays which represent the twelve signs of the zodiac. They are alternatively waved and salient, symbolizing the alternation of the masculine and feminine nature. These are again subdivided into thirty-six rays representing the thirty-six Decanates or sets of ten degrees in the zodiac and again further subdivided into seventy-two Quinaries or sets of five degrees. These withhold their places in the seventy-two fold name Schemhamphoresch.

Thus the Sun itself embraces the whole creation in its rays. The seven Hebrew Yods on each side falling through the air refer to the Solar influence descending. The wall is the circle of the zodiac and the stones are its various degrees and divisions. The two children standing respectively on Water and Earth represent the generating influence of both elements brought into action by the rays of the Sun. They are the two inferior and passive elements, as the Sun and the Air above them are the superior and active elements of Fire and Air. Furthermore, these two children resemble the sign Gemini which unites the earthly sign of Taurus with the watery sign of Cancer. This sign was used by the Greeks and Romans and referred to Apollo, or the Sun."

(**Hierophant** returns to place and **Hegemon** leads Theoricus to the west.)

## Diagram of Astrological Symbol of Planets

**HIEREUS:** (Showing the first Tablet) "The Astrological symbols of the planets are derived from the three primary forms of the Circle, the Crescent, and the Cross either singularly or in combination. The Circle denotes the Sun and gold. The Crescent denotes the Moon and silver. Each is respectively analogous to the red and the white alchemical natures. The Cross is the symbol of corrosion and the corrosion of metals is usually of the complementary color to that which they naturally approximate. Thus copper, which is reddish, becomes green in verdigris, etc.. Mercury is the only symbol which unites these primary forms in one symbol. Saturn is composed of the Cross and the Crescent, symbolizing that lead is corrosive externally and Lunar internally. Jupiter is the reverse. Mars is solar internally while Venus is the opposite, for copper is externally of the nature of gold, but internally corrosive. The name of the sphere of Venus in Hebrew, Nogah, denotes external splendor. This shows the true and genuine attribution of the Tarot trumps to the Hebrew alphabet which has long been a secret among the initiates and which should be carefully concealed from the outer world. As a manuscript lecture on this subject is circulated among the members of the grade of Practicus, I shall no further enter into its explanation."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus to the tablet in the south.)

## Tablet of the Olympic/Planetary Spirits

**HEGEMON:** "Before you is the Tablet of the Olympic or Aerial Planetary Spirits with their seals. Arathor of Saturn, Bethor of Jupiter, Phalegh of Mars, Och of the Sun, Hagith of Venus, Ophiel of Mercury, and Phul of the Moon."

(The **Hegemon** Leads the Theoricus to tablet in the north.)

## Diagram of the Geomantic Figures of Intelligences

"This shows you the geomantic figures with their ruling intelligences and Genii, and also the talismanic symbols allotted to each geomantic figure. These symbols are derived by drawing lines to the points composing them to form mathematical figures therefrom."

**HIEROPHANT:** "I have much pleasure in conferring upon you the Title of Lord/Lady of the Thirtieth Path. You will now quit the Temple for a short time and on your return the ceremony of your reception into the grade of Practicus will take place."

(The Theoricus leave the Temple.)

## Third Entrance

**HIEROPHANT:** "Honored **Hegemon**, instruct the Theoricus in the proper alarm, (Knock I III I III), present him with the necessary admission badge, (Cup of Stolistes) and admit him/her. (Done.) Place the Theoricus before the portal of the thirty-first path by which he/she has symbolically entered this grade from the grade of Zelator. (Done, Shin.) Place the Theoricus now before the portal of the thirtieth path by which he/she has symbolically entered this grade from the grade of Theoricus." (Done. r)

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus with the Badge of the Stolistes facing the pillars.)

**HIEREUS:** "By what symbol dost thou enter herein?"

**HEGEMON:** "By the peculiar emblem of the Stolistes, which is the Cup of Water."

(**Hegemon** gives emblem to **Hiereus**.)

**HIEREUS:** "The Cup of the Stolistes partakes in part of the symbolism of the Laver of Moses and the Sea of Solomon. On the Tree of Life it embraces nine of the sephiroth, exclusive of Kether. Yesod and Malkuth form the triangle below, the former the apex, the latter the base. Like the Caduceus, it further represents the three elements of Water, Air, and Fire. The crescent is the Water which is above the firmament. The circle is the firmament. The triangle is the consuming Fire below which is opposed to the Celestial Fire symbolized by the upper part of the Caduceus."

(The **Hiereus** places admission badge aside. The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus up to the altar and then returns to her place. The **Hiereus** and **Hegemon** face inward towards the altar.)

## Diagram of the Garden of Eden Before the Fall

**HIEROPHANT:** (Rising and facing inwards to the altar.) "Before you is represented the symbolism of the Garden of Eden. At the summit are the Supernal Sephiroth summed up and contained in Aima Elohim, the Mother Supernal, the woman of the twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse clothed with the Sun and the Moon under her feet and upon her head the Crown of twelve stars, Kether. And whereas the name Tetragrammaton is joined to the Elohim when it is said, 'Tetragrammaton Elohim planted a garden eastward in Eden, so this represents the power of the Father joined thereto in the glory from the face of the ancient of days. In the Garden were the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, [which latter] is from Malkuth, the lowest sephira between the rest of the sephiroth and the Kingdom of the Shells, [which the latter] is represented by the great Red Dragon coiled beneath having seven heads [the Seven Infernal Palaces] and ten horns [the ten averse sephiroth contained in the Seven Palaces]. And a river Nahar went forth out of Eden [namely the Supernal Triad], to water the Garden [the rest of the sephiroth] 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 which flows into Geburah where there is gold. It is the river of Fire. The second head is Gihon, the river of Waters flowing into Chesed. The third is Hiddikel, the river of Air flowing into Tiphareth. And the fourth river which receiveth the virtue of the other three is Euphrates which floweth down upon Malkuth, the Earth.

This river going forth out of Eden is the river of the Apocalypse, of Waters of Life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and the Lamb, on either side of which was the Tree of Life bearing twelve manners of fruit. And thus do the rivers of Eden form the cross. And on that cross the great Adam, the Son, of who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron is extended from Tiphareth, and his arms stretch out to Gedulah and Geburah. In Malkuth is Eve, the completion of all, the Mother of all, and above the Universe she supporteth with her hands the eternal pillars of the sephiroth. Above the shoulders of that great Goddess is Nature in her vastness exalted. The grade of Practicus is referred to the sephira Hod and the thirtieth and thirty-first paths which are those of Resh and Shin are bound thereto."

## The Grade Sign

"The sign of this grade is thus given. Stand with the heels together. Raise the arms till the elbows are level with the shoulders. Bring the hands across the chest touching the thumbs and tips of fingers, thus forming a triangle apex downwards. This represents the element of Water to which this grade is attributed and also the Waters of Creation.

The Grand Word is Elohim Tzabaoth which means, 'The Elohim of Hosts and of Armies.' The Mystic Number is thirty-six and from it is formed the password of this grade which is Eloah, one of the Divine names. It should be lettered separately when given.

Unto this grade and unto the sephira Hod, the eighth path of the *Sepher Yetzirah* is referred. It is called the Absolute or Perfect Path because it is the means of the Primordial which hath no root to which it may be established, except in the Penetralia of that Gedulah (Magnificence) which emanates from the subsisting properties thereof.

This grade is especially referred to the element of Water and the great Watchtower or Terrestrial Tablet of the West forms one of its principal emblems."

(The **Hierophant** goes to it followed by the Theoricus.)

## The Watchtower of the West

"It is known as the second or Great Western Quadrangle, the Tablet of Water, and it is one of the four Great Tablets delivered unto Enoch by the Great Angel Ave.

From it are drawn the three Holy Secret Names of God Mph Arsl Gaiol which are borne upon the Banners of the West and also numberless Divine and Angelic names which appertain unto the element of Water. The meanings of the tablet of Earth and Air were explained to you in the preceding grades."

(The **Hierophant** and Theoricus turn towards the altar, the **Hierophant** indicates the cross and triangle on the altar.)

## The Cross and Triangle

"The cross above the triangle represents the power of the Spirit of Life rising above the Triangle of the Waters and reflecting the Triune therein as further marked by the lamps at the angles. The cup of water placed at the junction of the cross and triangle represents the maternal letter Mem." (Hierophant returns to throne.) (Hegemon removes diagram on stand.)

"The portals in the east and southeast are the paths which conduct to the higher while that in the south leads to the grade of Philosophus, the highest grade of the First Order."

## The Kamea of Mercury

(**Hiereus** picks up Kamea from north altar and shows it to Theoricus.)

"This grade is also related to the planet Mercury. Its Kamea or mystical square is formed of sixty-four squares containing the numbers from one to sixty-four arranged so as to show the same sum each way. Its ruling numbers are 8, 64, 260, and 2080. This tablet shows the mystical seals and names drawn from the Kamea of Mercury. The seals are formed from lines drawn to certain numbers upon the square. The name answering to 8 is Asboga. Those answering to 64 are Din, Judgement, and Doni. The name answering to 260 is Tiriël, the Intelligence of Mercury. Lastly, that answering to 2080 is Taphthartharath, the name of the spirit of Mercury. On this tablet is shown the meaning of the symbol of Mercury when inscribed upon the Tree of Life. It embraces all but Kether and the horns spring from Daath, which is not a sephira, but rather the conjunction of Chokmah and Binah."

(The **Hegemon** turns the Theoricus facing west. **Hiereus** goes to the west.)

## Tablet of the Seven Planets

**HIEREUS:** (Points at it.) "This tablet before you shows the seven planes of the Tree of Life answering to the seven planets. Thus, Saturn answers to Kether, Jupiter to Chokmah and Binah, Mars to Chesed and Geburah, the Sun to Tiphareth, Venus to Netzach and Hod, Mercury to Yesod, and Luna to Malkuth. The second tablet (points) shows the four planes corresponding to the elements, the four worlds, and the letters of the Holy name."

## Tablet of Alchemical Mercury

**HEGEMON:** (Leading the Theoricus to the tablet in the South.) "This tablet shows you the meaning of the Alchemical Mercury on the Tree of Life of the first form of the Alchemical Sephiroth. Here again it embraces all but Kether. The Radix Metallorum, the triple foliation at the bottom of the Cross, refers to Fire symbolized by the addition of the sign Aries thereto, and it further alludes to the three principles of Sulfur, Mercury and Salt."

(The **Hegemon** leads the Theoricus to the tablet in the north).



## Tablet of Planets on Symbol of Mercury

"The Tablet before you represents the symbol the planets resumed in a Mercurial figure. In gradual descent we obtain Luna, Mars, Sol, Venus, and below, Saturn and Jupiter, right and left."

(The **Hegemon** places the Theoricus in the west facing the **Hierophant** and the **Hegemon** returns to her position.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "I now congratulate you on having passed through the ceremony of the grade of Practicus and in recognition thereof I confer upon you the Mystic Title of Monocris de Astris, which means the Unicorn of the Stars, and I give you the symbol of Mayim which is the Hebrew name for Water. Take your position in the south."

(**Hierophant** gives out grade patches.)

"In the name of Elohim Tzabaoth, I now declare that you have been duly advanced to the grade of Practicus. And have been deemed Lord/Lady of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Paths. Before you are eligible for advancement to the grade of Philosophus, you must be thoroughly and genuinely perfect in certain subjects and have been engaged in the contemplation of the Mysteries revealed in this grade. When you are thoroughly and genuinely perfect, you must signify the same by letter to Scribe as in the preceding grade.

## Closing

(**Hierophant** knocks once.)

**HIEROPHANT:** " Fraters and Sorors of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, assist me to close the Temple in the grade of Practicus. Honored **Hegemon**, see to it that this Temple is properly guarded."

(**Hegemon** secures portals.)

**HEGEMON:** "Very Honored Hierophant, the Temple is properly guarded."

(**Hierophant** knocks once.)

**HIEROPHANT:** "Let us adore the Lord and King of Water. All face east.  
Let Elohim Tzabaoth be praised unto the countless ages of time. Amen."

(All give Practicus Grade Sign.)

(**Hierophant** goes to tablet of Water.)

"All face west.

Fraters and Sorors, join me in the prayer of the Undines or Water Spirits.

Terrible King of the Sea, Thou who holdest the Keys of the Cataracts of Heaven and who encloseth the subterranean Waters in the cavernous hollows of Earth; King of the Deluge and of the rains of spring; Thou who openest the sources of the rivers and of the fountains, Thou who commandest moisture which is as it were the blood of the earth, to become the sap of the plants. We adore Thee and we invoke Thee. Speak Thou unto us thy mobile and changeful creatures in the great Tempests of the Sea, and we shall tremble before Thee. Speak to us also in the murmur of the limpid waters and we shall desire thy love. O Vastness wherein all the rivers of being seek to lose themselves, which renew themselves ever in Thee, O thou ocean of infinite perfections, O height which reflectest Thyself in the depth, O depth which exhalest thyself into the height, lead us into the true life through intelligence and through love. Lead us unto immortality through the sacrifice, so that we may be found worthy to offer one day unto Thee, the Water, the blood and the tears, for the remission of sins. Amen!"

(Making with his sceptre the corresponding Banishing Pentagrams in the air in front of tablet.)

"Depart ye in peace unto thine own abodes and habitations and may the blessings of El and Yehashua Yehovasha be upon you. Be there ever peace between you and us and be ye ready to come when ye are called until we meet again.

In the name of Elohim Tzabaoth, I declare this Temple closed in the grade of Practicus."

**Hierophant** knocks \ III / III.

**Hiereus** knocks \ III / III.

**Hegemon** knocks \ III / III.