



Mjölnir



The Thelemic Journal of Yggdrasil Camp, Ordo Templi Orientis

DECEMBER 1999 E.V.

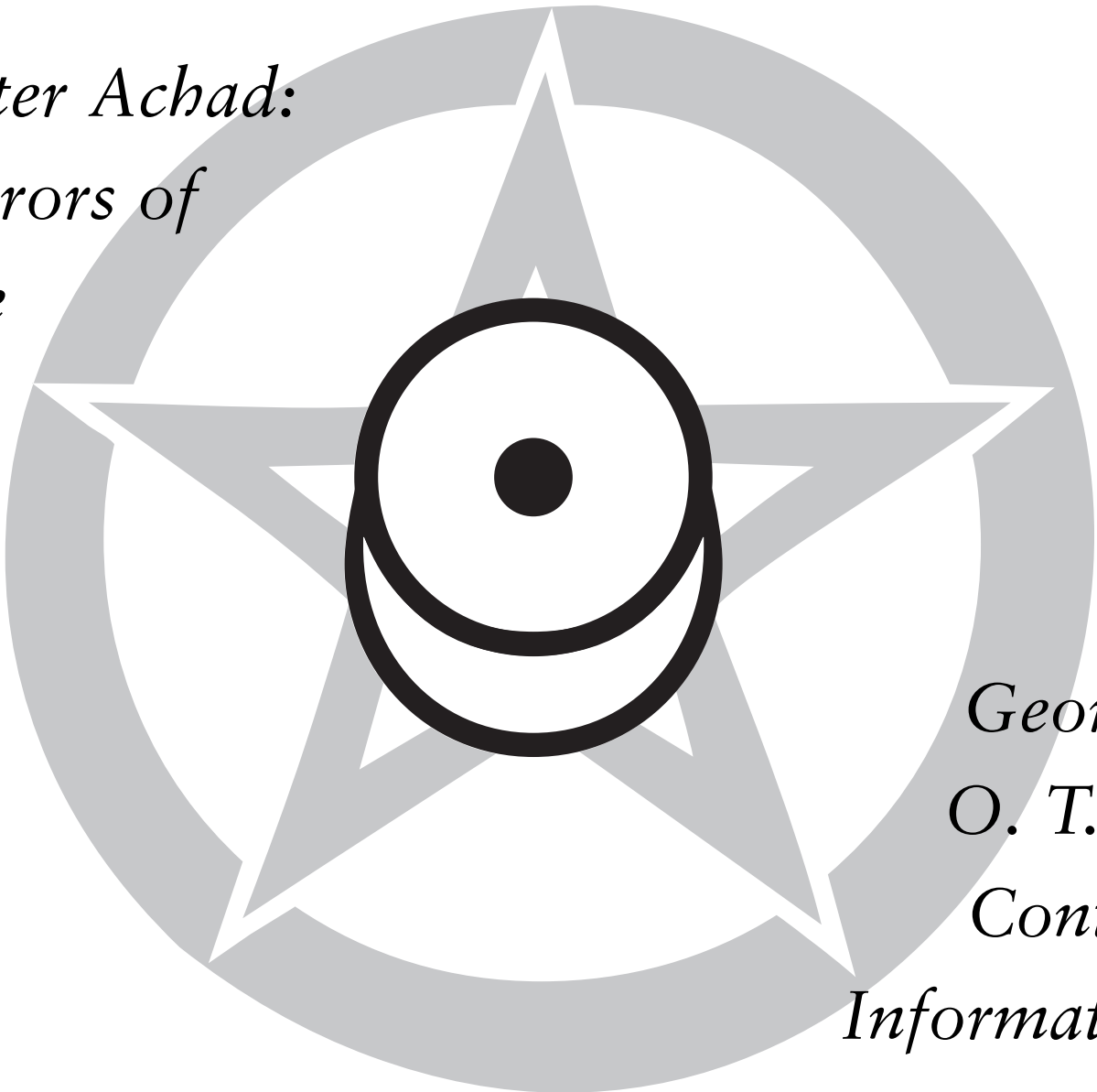
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SOL IN CAPRICORN

VOL. I, No. 3

A Winter Solstice Ritual

*Frater Achad:
Mirrors of
Life*



*Georgia
O. T. O.
Contact
Information*

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From the Editor:

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The third issue of Mjöltnir marks Yggdrasil Camp's first full quarter of camp activities. The last three months have been filled with activity and fraternity. In October we had our first round of initiations, welcoming eight new Minervals into the Order. Four of those members have continued to First degree with the assistance of Solve-Coagula Camp. As of last September, the Camp has conducted one to two Enochian events each month where we have begun scrying the Æthyrs with great success. We have also had many wonderful social events, including a feast celebrating the Greater Feast of the Prophet of the New Æon.

As the Camp has members from diverse spiritual paths, we have endeavored to explore some of these paths. On Halloween, we celebrated the Night of the Spectres, a Norse ancestor rite. We also celebrated the Winter Solstice with a Wiccan rite which is included in this issue. Although the ritual is Wiccan, Thelemites with a good knowledge of Liber Al and the Gnostic Mass will find familiar lines and a similarity in verse. I am sure we can thank Brother Gardner for these contributions.

The assistance of all of the Camp members has allowed our activities to be varied and numerous. I would especially like to thank Brother R.P. for adapting/writing the Solstice ritual, Sister A.B. for her typing & editing assistance, without which this issue would not be possible, Brother D.M. and Brother T.C. for their assistance in collecting needed materials for the rituals, Brother T.W. for his painting skill, and Brother M.G. for procuring a private space for our Halloween rite. Lastly, I would like to thank the whole camp for the birthday cake & gift. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

We always welcome comments and submissions. Correspondence, comments, or submissions should be sent via email to mjolnir@thelema.nu. If email is not available, correspondence should be sent via the body address above.

Love is the law, love under will.

Frater 117, Editor

A WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL

ADAPTED BY FRATER R. P.

INTRODUCTION

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Happy Yule Brothers and Sisters! The wheel of the year has turned again and Winter is once more upon us.

Having been a Wiccan Priest for the last seven winters, I cannot remember a Yule season when I have felt such excitement about doing a Solstice Ritual.

I adapted this ritual from *A Witches' Bible Compleat* by Janet and Stewart Farrar. The ritual was originally written by Gerald Gardner and Doreen Valiente circa 1953.

There are two themes portrayed in this ritual. The first being the birth of the Sun God. It symbolizes the "Life in Death" aspect of the Great Goddess. Although the Earth is frozen and barren, the Mother gives birth to the Sun, her Consort, so that when he grows older and stronger, he will again bring warmth and fertility to the Earth.

The second theme we enact is the slaying of the Holly King (God of the waning year), by his brother the Oak King (God of the waxing year), keeping in mind that come the Summer Solstice the position reverses.

In both God themes we see the magical formulae indicative of the Osirian Æon, the cycle of Birth – Life – Death and Rebirth.

Love is the law, love under will.

OF THE ERECTING OF THE TEMPLE

PRIEST and PRIESTESS kneel before the altar; PRIESTESS puts bowl of water on pentacle, puts point of athame in water.

PRIESTESS: I exorcise thee, O creature of water, that thou cast out from thee all the impurities and uncleanness of the spirits of the world of phantasm; in the names of Cernunnos and Aradia.

PRIESTESS holds up the bowl of water in both hands. PRIEST puts bowl of salt on pentacle, puts athame in salt.

PRIEST: Blessings be upon this creature of salt; let all malignity and hindrance be cast forth hencefrom, and let all good enter herein; wherefore do I bless thee, that thou mayest aid us in these rites. In the names of Cernunnos and Aradia.

PRIEST pours the salt into the water. PRIESTESS draws the Circle with a sword from North to North deosil, saying:

PRIESTESS: I conjure thee, O Circle of Power, that thou beest a meeting place of love, joy and truth; a shield against all wickedness and evil; a boundary between the world of men and the realms of the Mighty Ones; a rampart and protection that shall preserve and contain the Power that we shall raise within thee. Wherefore do I bless thee and consecrate thee, in the names of Cernunnos and Aradia. So mote it be.

ALL: So mote it be.

Three others do the same using Water, Air (incense), and Fire.

PRIEST and PRIESTESS go to Eastern Quarter, PRIESTESS holding athame, PRIEST the bell. All others face East as well. PRIESTESS lights candle, draws invoking Air Pentagram.



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the East, ye Lords of Air; I (magical name) Initiate and Practitioner of the High Magical Arts, do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and to guard our Circle. So mote it be.

ALL: So mote it be.

PRIEST rings bell.

PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to South. PRIESTESS lights candle, draws invoking Fire pentagram.

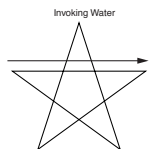


PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the South; ye Lords of Fire; I (magical name) Initiate and Practitioner of the High Magical Arts, do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and to guard our Circle. So mote it be.

ALL: So mote it be.

PRIEST rings bell.

PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to West. PRIESTESS lights candle, draws invoking Water pentagram.

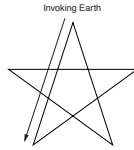


PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the West; ye Lords of Death and Initiation; I (magical name) Initiate and Practitioner of the High Magical Arts, do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and to guard our Circle. So mote it be.

ALL: So mote it be.

PRIEST rings bell.

*PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to North.
PRIESTESS lights candle, draws invoking
Earth pentagram.*



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the North; ye Lords of Earth; Boreas, thou Guardian of the Northern Portals; I (magical name) Initiate and Practitioner of the High Magical Arts, do summon, stir and call you up, to witness our rites and to guard our Circle. So mote it be.

ALL: So mote it be.

PRIEST rings bell.

OF THE DRAWING DOWN THE MOON

ALL but PRIEST and PRIESTESS go to the South facing altar. PRIESTESS stands with back towards altar in Osiris Risen position. PRIEST delivers Fivefold Kiss:

Blessed be thy feet, that have brought thee in these ways
(*Kissing the right foot and then the left foot*)

Blessed be thy knees, that shall kneel at the sacred altar
(*Kissing the right knee and then the left knee*)

Blessed be thy womb, without which we would not be
(*Kissing just above the pubic hair*)

Blessed be thy breasts, formed in beauty (*Kissing the right breast and then the left breast*)

Blessed be thy lips, that shall utter the sacred names
(*Embracing and kissing on the lips*)

PRIESTESS assumes "blessing position" with right foot slightly forward.

PRIEST: I invoke thee and call upon thee, Mighty Mother of us all, bringer of all fruitfulness; by seed and root, by bud and stem, by leaf and flower and fruit, by life and love do I invoke thee to descend upon the body of this thy Priestess. Hail Aradia!

ALL: Hail Aradia!

PRIESTESS: Of the Mother darksome and divine
Mine the scourge, and mine the kiss;
The five-point star of love and bliss-
Here I charge you, in this sign.

*PRIESTESS makes invoking Earth
Pentagram on PRIEST. PRIEST and
PRIESTESS face others.*



OF THE CHARGE OF THE GODDESS

PRIEST: Listen to the words of the Great Mother; she who of old was also called Artemis, Astarte, Athene, Dione, Mulusine, Aphrodite, Cerridwen, Diana, Arianhod, Isis, Bride, and by many other names.

PRIESTESS: Whenever ye have need of anything, once in the month, and better it be when the moon is full, then shall ye assemble in some secret place and adore the spirit of Me, who am Queen of all witches. There shall ye assemble, ye who are fain to learn all sorcery, yet have not won it's deepest secrets: to these will I teach things that are yet unknown. And ye shall be free from slavery; and as a sign that ye be really free, ye shall be naked in your rites; and ye shall dance, sing, feast, make music and love, all in my praise. For mine is the ecstasy of the spirit, and mine is also joy on earth; for my law is love unto all beings; keep pure your highest ideal; strive ever towards it; let naught stop you or turn you aside. For mine is the secret door which opens upon the Land of Youth, and mine is the cup of the wine of life, and the Cauldren of Cerridwen, which is the Holy Grail of immortality. I am the gracious Goddess, who gives the gift of joy unto the heart of man. Upon earth, I give knowledge of the spirit eternal; and beyond death, I give peace, and freedom, and reunion with those who have gone before. Nor do I demand sacrifice; for behold, I am the Mother of all living, and my love is poured out upon the earth.

PRIEST: Hear ye the words of the Star Goddess; She in the dust of whose feet are the hosts of heaven, and whose body encircles the universe.

PRIESTESS: I who am the beauty of the green earth, and the white moon among the stars, and the mystery of the waters, and the desire in the heart of man, call unto thy soul. Arise, and come unto me. For I am the soul of nature, who gives life to the universe. From me all things proceed, and unto me all things must return, and before my face, beloved of Gods and of men, let thine innermost divine self be enfolded in the rapture of the infinite. Let my worship be within the heart that rejoiceth; for behold, all acts of love and pleasure are my Rituals. And therefore let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you. And thou who thinkest to seek for me, know thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not unless thou knowest the mystery; that if that which thou seekest thou findest not within thee, thou wilt never find it without thee. For behold, I have been with thee from the beginning; and I am that which is attained at the end of desire.

OF THE DRAWING DOWN OF THE SUN

PRIEST takes athame in right hand over left breast. PRIESTESS delivers the Fivefold Kiss:

Blessed be thy feet, that have brought thee in these ways
Blessed be thy knees that shall kneel at the sacred altar
Blessed be thy phallus, without which we would not be
Blessed be thy breast, formed in strength
Blessed be thy lips, that shall utter the sacred names

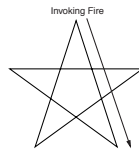
PRIESTESS steps backward and kneels giving the invocation:

Deep calls on height, the Goddess on the God,
On him who is the flame that quickens her;
That he and she may seize the silver reigns
And ride as one on the twin horsed chariot.
Let the hammer strike the anvil,
Let the lightning touch the earth,
Let the Lance ensoul the Grail
Let the magick come to birth.

With thumb between forefinger and medius, PRIESTESS touches priest on the throat, left hip, right breast, left breast, right hip, and throat again (forming the pentagram of fire). PRIESTESS assumes Osiris Slain position and continues invocation:

In her name do I invoke thee,
Mighty Father of us all-
Lugh, Pan, Belinos, Herne, Cernunnos, Ra-
Come in answer to my call!
Descend, I pray thee, in thy priest.

PRIESTESS takes a step backward. PRIEST makes invoking pentagram of fire saying:
Let there be light!



OF THE CHARGE OF THE HORNED GOD

PRIESTESS: Listen to the words of my Consort, he who of old has been called among men Lugh, Pan, Belinos, Cernunnos, and by many other names.

PRIEST: Come and learn the secret that hath not yet been unveiled. For I am the Consort to your Goddess; who, changing form and changing face, ever seeks me as her other half. I am that secret, eternal flame ever burning within thy heart, and within the core of every star. I am the keeper of woodlands, fields, orchards and ripening corn. I am life and the giver of life; yet is the knowledge of death ever within me. Remember all ye that life is pure joy, that all sorrows are as shadows, they pass and are done, but there is that which remains. So rejoice! Beauty and strength, roaring laughter, and delightful languor, force and fire- all these things are yours. For I am the Sacred Serpent who giveth knowledge and delight, and bring glory to stir the hearts of men. Upon the earth, I sacrifice myself to Her that all may live, beyond death I await the souls of those who come for rest and peace

and refreshment. So rejoice! There is no dread hereafter; there is only joy and eternal ecstasy of the Goddess.

PRIESTESS: Hear now the words of the Horned One. He whose name is mystery of mystery, and whose radiance enlightens the world.

PRIEST: I who am the giver of knowledge and delight and bright glory unto the heart of men. I illuminate thy soul! Arise and come unto me! For I am the spear to the cauldron, the Lance to the Grail. Who but I, who am yearly sacrificed and reborn, can know the secrets of death and rebirth? To worship me take wine and strange drugs whereof I will tell my prophet, and be drunk thereof! They shall not harm ye at all. It is a lie this folly against self. The exposure of innocence is a lie. Be strong O man! Lust, enjoy all things of sense and rapture: fear not that any God shall deny thee for this. I am alone; there is no God where I am.

Lift up thyself and thou stature shall surpass the stars. But thou who thinkest to seek for me, know that thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not unless thou knowest the Mystery; that I, the Consort of the Starry Queen of Night, am everywhere the center; as she the circumference is nowhere to be found.

OF THE SOLSTICE RITUAL

The PRIESTESS points to the man to be the HOLLY KING.

PRIESTESS: Thou art the Holly King, God of the Waning Year. Maiden, bring his crown!

The MAIDEN places holly leaf crown on his head. PRIESTESS points to the man appointed to be OAK KING.

PRIESTESS: Thou art the Oak King, God of the Waxing Year. Maiden, bring his crown!

The MAIDEN places oak leaf crown in his head. While the crowning is going on, the PRIEST lays on floor in centre of Circle in fetal position. Everyone pretends not to see him doing this. When the crowning is over, the OAK KING says:

OAK KING: My brother and I have been crowned and prepared for our rivalry. But where is our Lord the Sun?

MAIDEN: Our Lord the Sun is Dead!

The MAIDEN picks up a candle and follows the PRIESTESS deosil around the PRIEST seven times. The MAIDEN holds the candle so that the PRIESTESS is able to read the script and counts quietly as each circle is completed.

PRIESTESS: Return, oh return!
God of the Sun, God of the Light, return!
Thine enemies are fled-thou hast no enemies.
O lovely helper, return, return!
Return to thy sister, thy spouse, who loveth thee!
We shall not be put asunder.
O my brother, my consort, return, return!
When I see thee not,
My heart grieveth for thee,
My feet roam the Earth in search of thee!
Gods and men weep for thee together
God of the Sun, God of the Light, return!
Return to thy sister, thy spouse, who loveth thee!
Return! Return! Return!

PRIESTESS kneels close to the PRIEST with her hands resting on his body, her back towards the altar. All except for the MAIDEN link hands and move slowly deosil round the PRIEST and PRIESTESS. The MAIDEN stands by the altar and declaims:

MAIDEN: Queen of the Moon, Queen of the Sun
Queen of the Heavens, Queen of the Stars,
Queen of the Waters, Queen of the Earth,
Bring to us the Child of Promise
It is the Great Mother who giveth birth to Him;
It is the Lord of Life who is born again;
Darkness and tears are set aside when the Sun shall come
up early!

The MAIDEN pauses in her declamation. PRIESTESS rises to her feet, drawing the PRIEST to his feet. PRIEST and PRIESTESS face each other clasping each other's crossed over hands and start to spin deosil inside the circle of people. The others circling becomes joyous and faster. The MAIDEN continues:

Golden Sun of hill and mountain,
Illuminate the land, illuminate the world,
Illuminate the seas, illuminate the rivers
sorrows be laid, joy to the world!
Blessed be the Great God!!
Yo ayvo hay Blessed Be!
Yo ayvo hay Blessed Be!

*The MAIDEN joins the circling. The chanting and circling continue until the PRIESTESS yells:
Down!!*

The PRIEST and PRIESTESS stand with backs towards the altar while everyone sits around perimeter of circle.

PRIESTESS: Now, at the depth of Winter, is the waning of the year accomplished, and the reign of the Holly King is ended. The Sun is reborn, and the waxing of the year begins. The Oak King must slay his brother the Holly King and rule over my land until the height of summer, when his brother shall rise again.

The two Kings stand in the center of the Circle facing each other. The OAK KING with his back to the West and the HOLLY KING with his back to the East. The OAK KING places his hands on the shoulders of the HOLLY KING, pressing downwards. The HOLLY KING falls to his knees. Meanwhile the MAIDEN fetches the scarf, and she and the OAK KING blindfold the HOLLY KING. They both move away from the kneeling HOLLY KING. The PRIESTESS walks slowly around him three times then rejoins the PRIEST in front of the altar.

PRIEST: The spirit of the Holly King is gone from us, to rest in Caer Arianhod, the Castle of the Silver Wheel; until with the turning of the year, the season shall come when he shall return to rule again. The spirit is gone; therefore let the man among us who has stood for that spirit be freed from his task.

The PRIESTESS and MAIDEN take the HOLLY KING to the West, removing his blindfold and crown.

OF THE GREAT RITE (SYMBOLIC)

PRIEST and PRIESTESS stand in center of Circle, she with back towards the altar, he with back to the South. PRIEST delivers the Fivefold Kiss. PRIESTESS then lays down with hip in center of Circle. Her legs and arms are outstretched so that she forms a pentagram. PRIEST takes veil and places it on her from breasts to knees. He then kneels facing her with his knees between her feet. PRIEST calls a woman by name to bring his athame from the altar. The woman does so and stands a yard to the West of the PRIESTESS' hips, facing her holding athame in her hands. PRIEST calls a man by name to bring the chalice from the altar. The man does so and stands with chalice in his hands a yard to the East of the PRIESTESS' hips and facing her. PRIEST delivers the Invocation.

PRIEST: Assist me to erect the ancient altar, at which in days past all worshiped;
The great altar of all things.
For in old time, Woman was the altar,
Thus the altar was made and placed,
And the sacred place was the point within the centre of the Circle.

As we have of old been taught that the point within the centre is the origin of all things,
Therefore should we adore it;
Therefore whom we adore we also invoke.
O Circle of Stars,
Whereof our father is but the younger brother,
Marvel beyond imagination, soul of infinite space,
Before whom time is ashamed, the mind bewildered, and the understanding dark,
Not unto thee may we attain unless thine image be love.

Therefore by seed and root, and stem and bud,
And leaf and flower and fruit do we invoke thee,
O Queen of Space, O Jewel of Light,
Continuous one of the heavens;

Let it be ever thus

That men speak not of thee as One, but as None;

And let them not speak of thee at all, since thou art
continuous.

For thou art the point within the Circle, which we adore;
The point of life, without which we would not be.

And in this way truly are erected the holy twin pillars,
In beauty and in strength were they erected
To the wonder and glory of all men.

*PRIEST removes veil from PRIESTESS' body and hands
it to the woman, who hands him the athame.
PRIESTESS rises, PRIEST and PRIESTESS kneel facing
each other in front of altar taking the chalice from the
man.*

PRIEST: Altar of mysteries manifold
The sacred Circle's secret point-
Thus do I sign thee as of old
With kisses of my lips anoint.

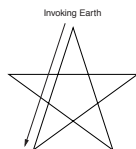
PRIEST kisses PRIESTESS on lips and continues:
Open for me the secret way,
The pathway of intelligence,
Beyond the gates of night and day,
Beyond bounds of time and space
Behold the mystery aright-
The five true points of fellowship

*PRIESTESS holds up the chalice. PRIEST lowers point
of athame into chalice.*
Here where Lance and Grail Unite
And feet and knees, and breast and lip.
As is the Athame to the Chalice,
So is the Man to the Woman.

*PRIEST hands athame to woman and places both hands
round the hands of the PRIESTESS as she holds the
chalice. He kisses her and she sips the wine. She kisses
him and he sips. The PRIESTESS takes the chalice and
hands it to a man, and it is passed around the group.*

OF THE BLESSING OF THE CAKES

*PRIESTESS takes the athame and PRIEST
holds up the cakes. PRIESTESS draws an
invoking pentagram of earth above the cakes
with her athame and blesses the cakes.*

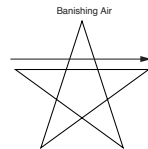


PRIESTESS: O Queen most secret, bless this food into our
bodies; bestowing health, wealth, strength, joy, and peace,
and that fulfillment of love which is perfect happiness.

*PRIESTESS kisses the PRIEST and takes a cake. Kisses
PRIEST again and he takes a cake. She then passes cakes
out to the rest of the group.*

OF THE CLOSING OF THE TEMPLE

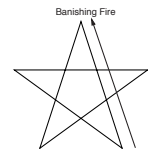
*PRIEST and PRIESTESS go to Eastern
Quarter. PRIESTESS draws banishing Air
pentagram.*



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the East, ye
Lords of Air; we do thank ye for attending our rites; and bid
ye depart to your pleasant and lovely realms. We bid ye hail
and farewell.

ALL: Hail and farewell.

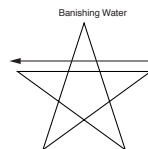
*The candle is quenched. PRIEST rings bell.
PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to South.
PRIESTESS draws banishing Fire
pentagram.*



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the South, ye
Lords of Fire; we do thank ye for attending our rites; and bid
ye depart to your pleasant and lovely realms. We bid ye hail
and farewell.

ALL: Hail and farewell.

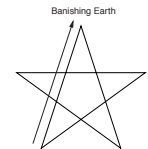
*The candle is quenched. PRIEST rings bell.
PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to West.
PRIESTESS draws banishing Water
pentagram.*



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the West, ye
Lords of Water; we do thank ye for attending our rites; and
bid ye depart to your pleasant and lovely realms. We bid ye
hail and farewell.

ALL: Hail and farewell.

*The candle is quenched. PRIEST rings bell.
PRIEST and PRIESTESS move to North.
PRIESTESS draws banishing Earth
pentagram.*



PRIESTESS: Ye Lords of the Watchtowers of the North;
Boreas, Thou Guardian of the Northern Portals; we do thank
ye for attending our rites; and bid ye depart to your pleasant
and lovely realms. We bid ye hail and farewell.

ALL: Hail and farewell.

The candle is quenched. PRIEST rings bell.

The Temple is Closed; This Rite is Concluded

THE TREASURE HOUSE OF ACHAD: MIRRORS OF LIFE

AN ESSAY BY FRATER ACHAD

INTRODUCTION

Both his detractors and admirers agree that Frater Achad, C.S. Jones, had his own odd take on life in general and magick in particular. While some dwell upon scrying for truth in a black mirror, in the present novel essay Achad offers us the classical carnival fun house as an example of how *perception* can change *conceptualization* of the individual and, by analogy, the universe itself.

We see in this essay a foreshadowing of the literary work of John Fowles or, better, Philip K. Dick and his reality change up approach to consciousness and the distortion created in the realm of sense-perception. Today we are confronted with the same suggestion in such contemporary films as “Dark City” or “The Matrix.” It is typical of Achad that he offers us a real-world common sense image to make his point, an example one can try out at the county fair for effect.

— T Allen Greenfield

MIRRORS OF LIFE

We may often wonder why there should be such a number of conflicting opinions in regard to the simplest facts of life, to say nothing of its deeper problems. Come with me, and I will try to show you some of the reasons for this, and possibly give you a hint of the solution of the puzzle.

We have all been to “Coney Island” or some similar place of amusement, and while there have doubtless visited the side-shows which abound in such places. One of the old popular favorites is the “Hall of Mirrors” wherein variously curved glasses are so arranged that we may see ourselves and our friends in the most fantastically distorted forms. We laugh as we come out again, little realizing the tragedy as well as the comedy of that which we have witnessed; without knowing that we have been looking at one of the great symbolic mysteries of life.

Let us go back again, together, and see just what we can learn from our visit. We first pass through a narrow maze of mirrors, fairly bumping into our own reflections in our eagerness to reach the chamber of mystery. In the case of our friends we are hardly able to distinguish which is the reality and which the reflection. All seem strangely multiplied yet in more or less natural proportion.

So is life to the eyes of a little child whose vision has not yet become distorted and false. The child, on coming here, has arrived in a world of mysterious reflections. It has been pointed out by one celebrated author -Sydney Klein- that at first it must be quite impossible for the child whose eyes are just opened, to tell whether the objects seen are not actually touching the retina of the eye. Only after certain mental adjustments have taken place can it come to realize that things exist “outside” itself. Whether or not this is the beginning of distorted vision I must leave it for others to decide, but we do know that all we see is really within us; that which causes the appearance of any object is a problem too deep to be entered upon here.

But to return to our “House of Mirrors.” After passing through the maze we suddenly arrive at a mirror which makes us jump with surprise. All is changed and we may look short and fat, or perhaps long and thin, as we delightedly dance in front of the glass and enjoy making grimaces at this at this new aspect of ourselves. Of course it seems a joke to us, for we feel we are not really like that so we don't mind amusing ourselves at our own expense. After awhile we get tired of that particular form of distortion, it no longer seems so funny to us, and we pass on to another mirror. This time our head is enormously too large for our tiny sylph-like body. How funny it seems as long as we remember *who we really are and what we are really like, and why we came to the Hall of Mirrors*. But supposing for a moment we had forgotten these things as we strolled aimlessly on amid the distorted images, thinking ourselves first one kind of a being and then another, with no standard to guide us as to which was the Real Self. Think what that would mean to an intelligent human being. Yet amid the Mirrors of Life who can answer these three simple questions: “*Who am I?*”, “*What am I?*”, “*Why do I exist here?*”

Before discussing these very important questions as to *Who*, *What*, and *Why* we are, let us once again glance into the Hall of Mirrors. It may be, that when for a moment we cease to be occupied with looking at ourselves we notice the reflections of others in the same mirror. These people may be strangers to us and we probably never take the trouble to turn round and face them squarely. To us, as we remember them afterwards, the reflection we saw in the mirror is our sole recollection of them, and it comes to represent to us that person or thing. Later in life, if they should be mentioned we may proudly remark: “O yes, I met so-and-so years ago. What a silly fat-head he is.” or, “Do

you mean that pot-bellied Mr. X, I remember him well, a man of no brains and very large feet.”

We must not forget that while we are engaged in admiring ourselves in one mirror, thinking what nice people we are, others may also be seeing quite a different view of us in another. It is little wonder, therefore, that “after the story has gone the rounds” we sometimes hear strange accounts of ourselves and are unable to conceive how people would have been so maliciously foolish as to have thought and talked of us thus. But it's all a part of the mystery of the Mirrors of Life, and we must learn to put up with it until we have found the solution.

We shall have to admit that although we are not exactly living a Coney Island side-show where are physical bodies appear distorted, we are living on a planet under conditions which cause our “Mental Mirrors” to show us very differing pictures from time to time.

Over night, that great showman, the Press, is able to distort or improve the souls of humanity, and does not hesitate to do so. We wake up one morning to find certain head-lines in the daily papers and before the day is out a Nation, of which perhaps we previously knew little or nothing, has suddenly taken on the appearance of a fierce and horrible enemy. We soon begin to hate these “rogues and scoundrels” -our brothers- and become quite convinced that even our close friends of that nationality, although we never noticed it before, are slightly tarred with the same dirty brush as all the rest of their fellows over the seas.

The next day, maybe, we are told by the same papers, it was all a mistake and that so-and-so is the guilty party who is responsible for most of the misery of the world. We soon adjust ourselves to this new view-point and learn to concede to the next victim a full measure of hate.

Or, let us look in another mirror. This one makes the centre of the picture look very large and the surroundings very small. Here we see OUR Country; how fine it looks compared with the other little insignificant one we have heard about but never visited. This is OUR religion; what a wonderful Truth we possess compared with that of the “benighted heathen” we know nothing about. This is OUR wealth, how much cleaner were the processes by which we obtained it than those shifty methods adopted by others-our rivals.

But there is yet another mirror which makes our own good actions appear small in our eyes, while others see them in a different light. Sometimes our very best qualities are those we never knew ourselves to possess. The only danger lies in having them pointed out to us, when we may come to exaggerate, and so spoil them. Our bodies are healthy while we remain unconscious of their detailed workings. When we begin to *notice* that we have a heart, or lungs, or a liver, something is already out of order and if we keep on looking

in that “mirror” we shall soon find ourselves one mass of diseased organs. Then we read the quack medical advertisements with avidity, and proudly feel that we, of all people, have got every kind of disease and probably some pet one never yet discovered by physicians. We are so “proud” of this that we think it best not to tell the family doctor in case he should think us fit subjects for experiment in the name of science, and so we go on harboring it and wondering why life looks like hell instead of heaven. Most of our heart troubles are caused by indigestion and a little soda would cure them if we had the sense to take it, instead, perhaps, we go to a Christian Scientists who tells us we have no heart, and while admitting that money is but a delusion of mortal mind, takes his fee without questioning.

Coué comes along, and we find a lot of people saying they are getting better and better, while at the same time they have no idea who they really are. After a time we find quite a few who have got worse, both in their own estimation and that of others.

Such things are to be seen in the Mirrors of Life, and every day in every way they keep changing, whether we like it or not.

Now let us examine the cause of the trouble as best we may. We have been looking in the distorted mirrors *outside* when we should have been looking within ourselves, in the first instance, at any rate. Has it not been written: Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven, and: The Kingdom of Heaven is within you.

The Soul of Man, his Heaven or Hell, is a plastic medium between body and spirit. It is equipped with a personal will which is capable of causing it, through the power of imagination, to take any desired form. This will was given to man in order that he might develop the sense of freedom. He learns this in most cases by making mistakes. Only when he is willing to align this personal will with the Divine or Universal Will which brought him into being, does the puzzle begin to resolve itself and the astigmatism of the eye of the Soul begin to disappear. But this correction of our distorted vision is a task that each individual must accomplish for himself. While he relies on another to do it for him he is obsessed by one of the phantoms in the Mirror.

Some people, the showmen, do all in their power to keep man in this deluded condition, but once a glimmer of truth has come to the darkened soul, the spell is broken, even though it may require much effort to make a complete and perfect adjustment with Reality.

We must cease to worry about what we look like to others, who see us in the distorted mirrors of their own minds, and turn our attention first of all to minding our own business. We must ask ourselves Who, What, and Why we are? These questions are hard to answer, but they must be faced. The answer lies *within* ourselves, not outside. We shall discover

that we are each here for a certain purpose, and that the purpose of each individual is different. The true Will within us, which is the Will of God for us, we must discover and learn to DO, with one-pointedness, detachment and peace. We have each a particular part to play in the great Drama of Life, and we must be prepared to play it, and play it WELL. We must learn that true Freedom only comes through Order. We must discover the Order of the Universe and our right place and motion therein.

These truths may not be learned in a day, but we can start now, and soon, very soon, we shall begin to notice a difference; a fairer form will appear in the Mirror. We shall begin to remember Who, What, and Why we are, to realize that we have been stuck in a Side-show for a very long time and that it is well for us to get back to things nearer the truth. Come, my children, just outside are the round-about, whereon free and joyous we may travel like Stars in the sky, feeling ourselves to be free and in tune with the Heavenly Spheres.



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