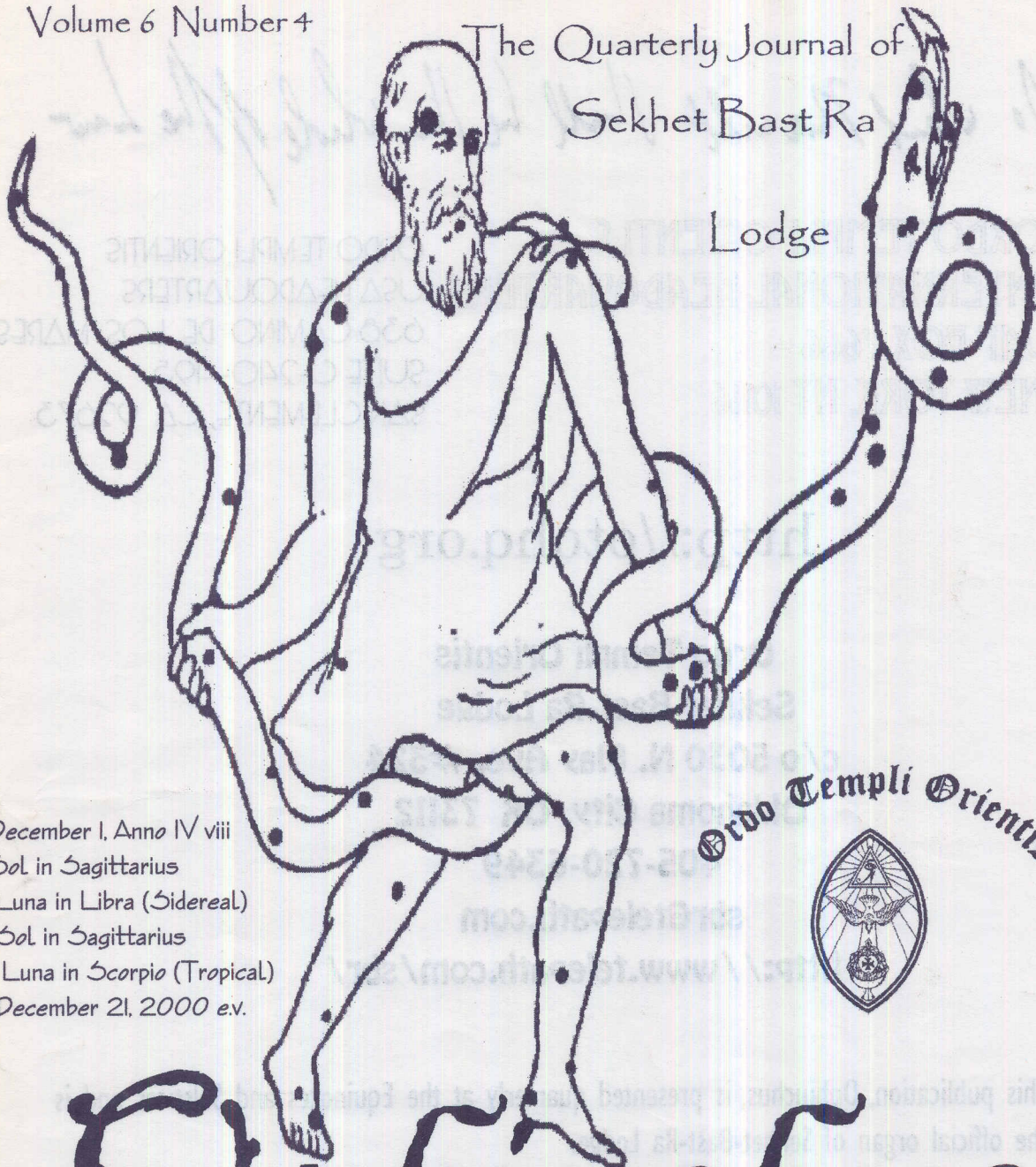


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Lodge



- \*December 1, Anno IV viii
- \*Sol in Sagittarius  
Luna in Libra (Sidereal)
- \*Sol in Sagittarius  
Luna in Scorpio (Tropical)
- \*December 21, 2000 ev.

Ordo Templi Orientis



# Ophiuchus

Do what Thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law

ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS  
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
JAF BOX 7666  
NEW YORK, NY 10116

ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS  
USA HEADQUARTERS  
638 CAMINO DE LOS MARES  
SUITE C-240-495  
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

<http://otohq.org>

**Ordo Templi Orientis  
Sekhet-Bast-Ra Lodge  
c/o 5030 N. May Ave. #324  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
405-720-6349  
sbr@telepath.com  
<http://www.telepath.com/sbr/>**

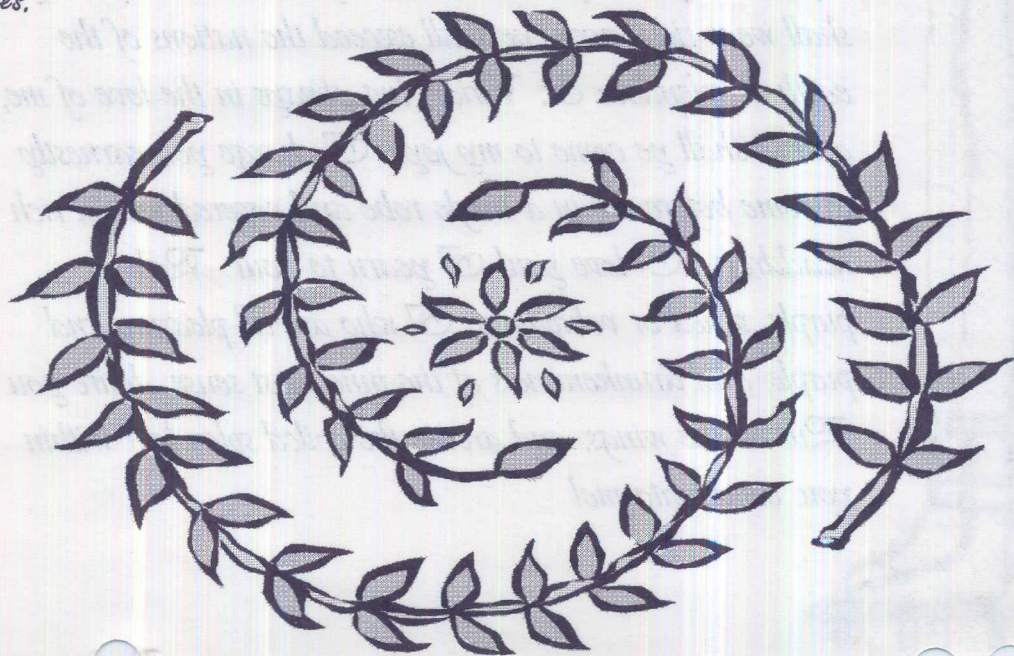
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When the Golden Dawn began to fall apart due social schisms between members, Florence tried to continue the work. However, she became disillusioned by all the conflicts. Also Annie Horniman began to accuse Florence of anything that would cause conflict. Annie was jealous of Florence and used just about any method necessary to get Florence out of the Golden Dawn. Florence eventually quit as "Chief" of the Inner Order.

During her stint in the Golden Dawn, Florence wrote several papers. She was also a novelist. Her books include *The Dancing Faun*, *Egyptian Magic: Occult Mysteries in Ancient Egypt*, *Modern Woman: Her Intentions*, *The Music of Speech*, etc. Florence additionally wrote for newspapers and magazines such as the *Theosophical Review*.

In 1912 Florence left for Ceylon to work as principal for Ceylon's first college for girls. She instantly gained the respect of the girls by her honest interest in their tradition and with her own personal concern for each of the girls. Just a few years later Florence developed breast cancer. Her left breast and major pectoral muscle was removed. She stated proudly to Yeats in a letter that now she was a true Amazon. Unfortunately the cancer was in an advance state, she died within a year. She was cremated according to Hindu rites.



*Excerpt from The Book of the Law*

*The manifestation of Nuit received 12.00 p.m. April 8, 1904 ev*

**Liber Al vel Legis 1:61**

*But to love me is better than all things: if under the night-stars in the desert thou presently burnest mine incense before me, invoking me with a pure heart, and the Serpent flame therein, thou shalt come a little to lie in my bosom.*

*For one kiss wilt thou then be willing to give all, but whoso gives one particle of dust shall lose all in that hour.*

*I shall gather goods and store of women and spices; ye shall wear rich jewels; ye shall exceed the nations of the earth in splendour & Pride; but always in the love of me, and so shall ye come to my joy. I charge you earnestly to come before me in a single robe and covered with a rich headdress. I love you! I yearn to you! Pale or purple, veiled or voluptuous, I who am all pleasure and purple, and drunkenness of the innermost sense, desire you.*

*Put on the wings, and arouse the coiled splendour within you: come unto me!*

On the topic of sexuality, Florence was a mixed bag. She had only three proven lovers, her husband Emery, Shaw and Yeats although she supposedly had several more. She didn't think highly of marriage except for having children. One of her views on the sacred prostitute was that by invoking the Goddess one could use the energy to heal another. She wrote for a short time for a weekly newspaper called "The New Age" and in one of her articles she stated more of her views on the sacred prostitute: "Daughters of Joy should be brought up as dancers in the Temple of Kali dedicated to the Goddesses and kept healthy and beautiful considered honorable and not degrading." Although in some of her writings, she thought of the actual sexual act as hideous and even at times degrading. Many years later, Florence refused to initiate Aleister Crowley into the Inner Order of the Golden Dawn because of the rumors of Crowley's homosexual behavior. She seemingly was not tolerant of sexual morals outside of the norm.

As for her work in the Golden Dawn, it was top rate. She quickly went through the grades. Florence became an extraordinary initiator for the Golden Dawn due to her skills as an actress and her own depth of studies. Mathers taught her ceremonial magic techniques, while Dr. Wynn Westcott directed her personal studies. Most of the surviving Golden Dawn records are of the scribing results of Florence and other women in the Golden Dawn. Many of the "Flying Rolls" were written by Florence. These "Flying Rolls" were papers that served as lessons on various subjects such as administrative work to magical workings to meditative workings.

One of her major contributions was that she stressed the experimental aspect of magic using vivid and concrete language. During this time Florence was initiated into the Inner Order of the Golden Dawn. The Inner Order of the Golden Dawn was primarily staged around the vault or the tomb of the mythical figure Christian Rosenkreutz. The initiation left an imprint upon Florence to such an extent that she frequently made new rituals so that she could continue to use the vault. Florence became extremely involved with teaching and initiating for the Golden Dawn.

She also started the Sphere Group. This group did a number of private lectures, papers and workings based on what she called "the Egyptian Formula" within the Inner Order of the Golden Dawn. Florence headed up the group. She also helped advanced those in the Golden Dawn that she wanted in her group. Much later when the Golden Dawn was becoming divided, she was accused of using the Sphere Group to do secret work and to keep secret knowledge not accessible to everyone in the Inner Order. Florence denied the account and exclaimed that anyone who sincerely wishes to do the work will be admitted.

Mathers had such trust in her that he left her in charge or "Chief" of Inner Order at the Isis-Urania Temple and examinations while he and Moina were in Paris setting up a new Golden Dawn Temple. While being in charge of the examinations, Florence made the examinations more as a working intellectual exercise rather than

use of rote memory.

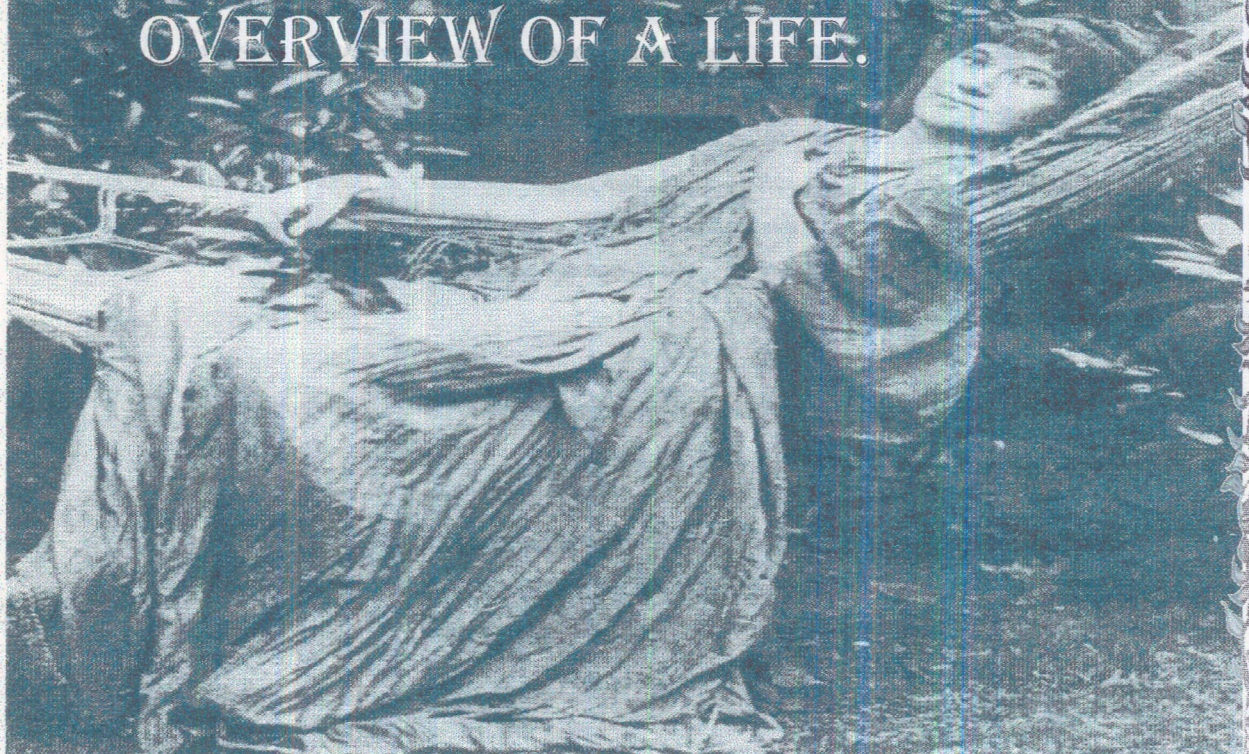
When Aleister Crowley arrived on the Golden Dawn scene, Mathers took interest in him. Mathers saw Crowley as an exceptional intellectual and magician. Crowley progressed through the Golden Dawn examinations and initiations quickly. When Mathers left so did Crowley's support. Florence refused his application to the Inner Order, however she wasn't the only one who disliked Crowley. Crowley's homosexuality was not just a problem with Isis-Urania Temple; his homosexuality created problems for him with British law. Homosexuality was a crime in England. As a result, he quickly fled England and went to Paris. Mathers initiated Crowley into the Inner Order.

During this time Inner Order members in England were growing tired of Mathers heavy handed rulings. Florence tried to get Dr. Wynn Wescott to stand up to Mathers. He wrote her a letter and explained that he couldn't get involved. He claimed that Mathers was a fraud, that Mathers never received any information/documents from the "Secret Chiefs of the Order", and also that he didn't desire to stand up to Mathers, since he took oaths of secrecy. Florence formed a committee with members of the Inner Order to look into the matter. The oaths of the Golden Dawn members were based on authenticity of documents that Mathers had. These documents were supposedly from the "Secret Chiefs" and the entire constitution of the Golden Dawn was based on these documents. If these documents were a fraud, so the authenticity of whole group was called into question.

The Committee tried countless times to get Mathers to write and explain the situation. He never did and as a result the Committee made a resolution to be empowered to act as temporary representation of the whole membership. Mathers annulled the Committee and all its resolutions. He made Crowley "Chief" of the Isis-Urania Temple.

Crowley tried to gain access to the vault and its papers, but since the lease for the property was under Florence's name; he was denied access. Moreover the Committee, insulted by Crowley, passed a resolution to suspend Mathers and his supporters. They also framed a new constitution, which also detailed the appropriate conduct for members of the Inner Order. Aleister Crowley took Florence to court "for unlawfully and without just cause detaining certain papers and other articles, the property of the Complainant". She won due to a wealthy friend and fellow Golden Dawn initiate, Annie Horniman, who hired one of the most prestigious lawyers of the time. Crowley had to pay 5 pounds in court costs.

## FLORENCE FARR: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF A LIFE.



*Florence Farr was born July 7, 1866 to Dr. William Farr and Mary Elizabeth Whittall. Dr. Farr was in constant communication with Florence Nightingale discussing various procedures in medicine. Nightingale was so revered by Dr. Farr that his youngest daughter was named after her. Dr. Farr desired that Florence be well educated. To that end, Florence Farr was taught from an early age to think independently and she had a vivacious appetite for learning. Nightingale also left an impression on Florence that she could make a name for herself in a man's world.*

*She went to both Ladies College in Gloucestershire and Queen's College. She didn't finish her education, desiring instead to follow her own pursuits.*

*She tried teaching but later found success in acting. She used the stage name "Mary Lester" to protect her reputation, to keep family members, friends, and theatergoers from knowing who she truly was. Being an actress in Victorian England was akin to being a prostitute in the public eye. What sold her most as an actress besides being very attractive was her voice. She had a powerful melodic voice. It was that voice that swept Bernard Shaw off his feet along with many others.*

Later she met an actor, Edward Emery. They toured together for about a year and were quickly married in December. The years she was married to Emery were not happy times for Florence. She despised housework. To top it all off Emery had addiction problems with alcohol and gambling.

His gambling, which caused some legal problems for Florence.

When her husband emigrated to the US, Florence was free of her loveless and problematic marriage.

As a result, she went to live with her sister and her sister's husband, Henry Paget, in Belford Park. Belford Park was a Bohemian setting for the time period. The women of Belford Park had their own discussion group where they discussed everything from social issues to science. Women could go to the Belford Park's club. There they read periodicals, played billiards, smoked, etc., which were usually activities exclusive to only men.

Florence took an apprenticeship under her friend, May Morris who headed the embroidery workshop for her father's craft and design company. May's father, William Morris, was involved in the Socialist League. The Socialist League was one of the many discussion groups that existed during this time period. However, the Socialist League included some of the greatest of intellectual minds, such as Bernard Shaw. While working into the evenings Florence had many opportunities to meet some of these individuals especially Bernard Shaw. Later she also met William Yeats, who introduced her to the Golden Dawn.

Florence went back to acting and remained active in the Theatre for most of her life. She acted in countless plays in her lifetime. Most of her plays were either controversial for the time or plays that were steeped in ancient religion and ritual. Florence continued to develop her voice. She felt that it was one of her strongest gifts. She used it later quite eloquently in rituals of the Golden Dawn. She was said to be an exceptional actress. Although he fell for her, Shaw gave her raving reviews, so he might have a slight bias towards her. Yeats raved that she was "an almost perfect poetic actress". She even for a while tried to manage a small theatre.

Yeats introduced Florence to MacGregor and Moina Mathers. In July 1890, Florence was initiated into the Golden Dawn temple, Isis-Urania. She took the magical motto, *Sapientia Sapienti Dono Data*, which means "Wisdom is the gift given to the wise." She took her personal studies very seriously. Spending a great amount of time in the British Museum reading room and studying the artifacts of the British Museum. Since she was a skilled artisan, Florence reproduced some of the artifacts for decoration and for use in ceremonial magic.



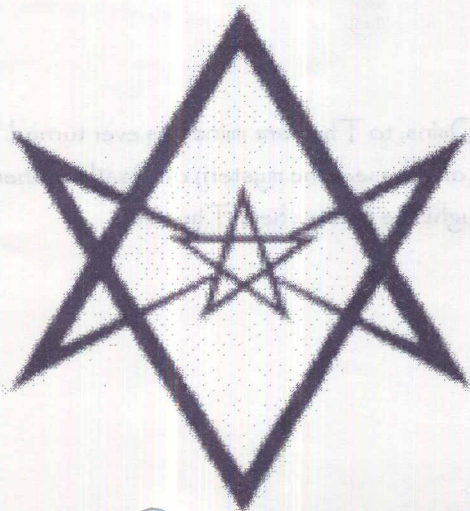
## Letter from the Editor

We might as well call this the "Holy Stuff" issue. This is the time of the Supreme Ritual (Invocation of Horus on March 20) welcoming the Thelemic New Year, the Vernal (Spring) Equinox in which we see a rebirth of the land and nature flourishing with new life as well as celebrate the Feast of the Equinox of the Gods commemorating the founding of Thelema; and last but not least, the Feast for the three days of the writing of the Book of the Law on April 8, 9 and 10.

Let me just write this:

To the New Aeon in Love,

AHBH



## ophiuchus myth



Ophiuchus, the Snake Charmer is the thirteenth of the twelve constellations of the Zodiac. It is the forgotten constellation; perhaps, for the Sun actually spends more time before the stars of Ophiuchus (19 days) than it does in neighboring Scorpius (6 days).

Æsculapius was an immortal man who had been schooled by the centaur Chiron in the arts of botany and medicine. So he was knowledgeable of the various herbs and plants and a student of nature. One day, it is said, he was in the house of a friend when he killed a snake. He watched in astonishment when another snake slithered into the room with a particular herb in its mouth and with it restored the slain reptile to life. Recognizing the plant, Æsculapius soon had learned to use its mystical powers to heal the sick and resurrect the dead. It is from this history and from the ability of a snake to cast off its skin and assume a new revitalization that serpents have become symbols for healing. The staff of Æsculapius, with a snake coiling about the rod, is well known in today's medicine. Unfortunately, this symbol is often confused with the caduceus of Mercury, which is a doubly-winged wand entwined by two snakes. Truly, however, the symbol of Mercury is the symbol of messengers.

Æsculapius, the first doctor, sailed on the famous voyage of the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece. Following the journey, he continued to heal the sick and to advance the practice of medicine. On the death of Orion, he was about to attempt to restore the life of this great hero when Pluto, lord of the underworld, intervened. Pluto reasoned that his realm would decline if Æsculapius were allowed to revive the dead. He appealed to his brother Jupiter to agree that death should be the ultimate end of mortal man, not to be trifled with even by the most skilled of physicians. Jupiter, king of the gods, struck Æsculapius with a thunderbolt and ended his life on Earth. But in tribute to the accomplishments and skill of the great physician, Jupiter placed him among the stars, where today he is known as Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer.

Eastbay Astronomical Society  
<http://alcorenv.com/~cas/index.htm>

Excerpt from:

# Equinox of the Gods

Aleister Crowley

||

1. By the name of Ra, I invoke Thee, Hawk of the Sun, the glorius one!
2. By thy name Harmachis, youth of the Brilliant Morning, I invoke Thee!
3. By thy name Mau, I invoke Thee, Lion of the Midday Sun!
4. By thy name Tum, Hawk of the Even, crimson splendour of the Sunset, I invoke Thee!
5. By they name Khep-Ra I invoke Thee, O Beetle of the hidden Mastery of Midnight!
- A. By thy name Heru-pa-Kraat, Lord of Silence, Beautiful Child that standest on the Dragons of the Deep, I invoke Thee!
- B. By thy name Apollo, I invoke Thee, O man of Strength and splendour, O poet, O father!
- C. By thy name of Phoebus, that drivest thy chariot throught the Heaven of Zeus, I invoke Thee!
- D. By thy name of Odin I invoke Thee, O warrior of the North, O renown of the Sagas!
- E. By thy name of Jeheshua, O child of the Flaming Star, I invoke Thee!
- F. By Thine own, Thy secret name Hoori, Thee I invoke!

The Names are Five

The Names are Six

Eleven are the Names!

Abrahadabra!

Behold! I stand in the midst. Mine is the symbol of Osiris; to Thee are mine eyes ever turned.  
Unto the splendour of Geburah, the Magnificence of Chesed, the mystery of Daath, thither  
I lift up mine eyes. This have I sought, and I have sought the Unity: hear Thou me!

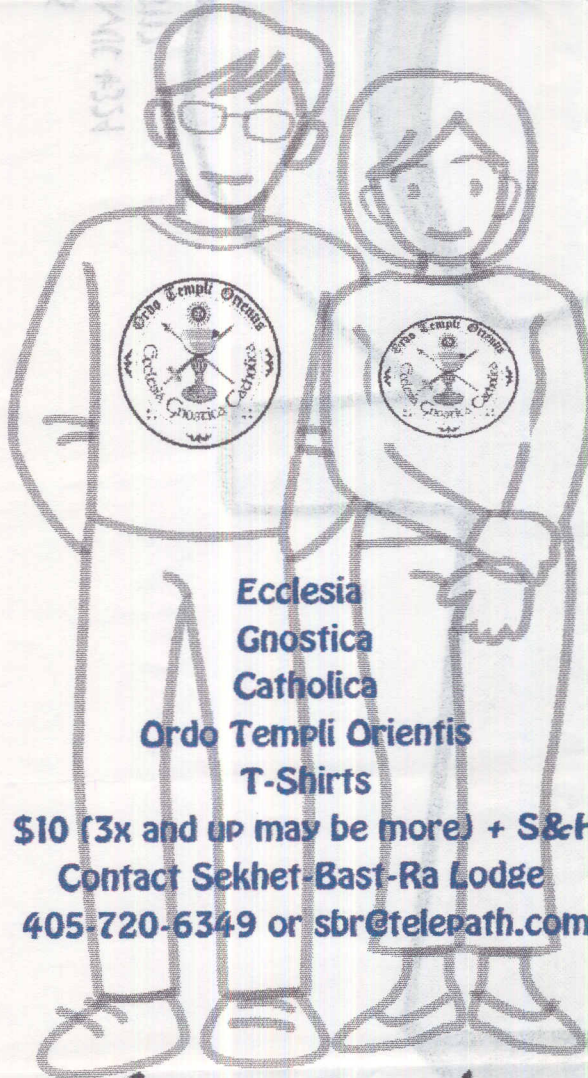
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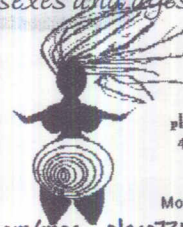
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