

Companions of the Stone  
Emerald Lodge No. 3

On the Structure of Consciousness  
and its Implications for Magical Work

1: The Structure

1.1 The structure of consciousness of experience first presents itself in terms of experience of something -- which is to say, there is something. (This is why it can be hard to notice consciousness or awareness as such, since it is transparent.)

1.2 Experience of something is always by means of a structure. One looks at something through a "medium". The realm of probes, tools, languages, devices.

1.4 The subject/object polarity is not exactly inevitable: it emerges out of a strongly polarized field of experience. Experience may be more or less polarized -- and more or less limited to one pole or the other.

1.3 "Meaning" is the ordering or structuring or in-forming of the objects of experience by a structure located in the "between." Things lose their meaning as they become unavailable to such an ordering principle, as in the antics of a person seen through the walls of a telephone booth, or the eldritch quality of a TV program when the sound is turned off. Oliver Sacks provides a good description in *A Leg to Stand On*.

1.5 Plotinus calls experiencing "noesis," and the object of experience "noema" (plural "noemata"). Samuel Alexander (*Space, Time and Deity*) refers to "contemplation" and "enjoyment" (Plotinus' "participation"). Michael Polanyi (*Personal Knowledge; The Tacit Dimension*) talks about object vs. instrument. Proclus schematizes the "between". Why the realm of shells lies beneath Malkuth; why matter is evil; why the material world is not evil.

## 2: How to do things with consciousness

2.1 Intentionality.

2.2 Relaxation, physical and mental. The abolition of resistance.

2.3 Archetypes and other hidden structures. The image is not the archetype; the map is not the territory.

2.4 Jacob's ladder: rising on the planes (concrete consciousness, image consciousness, and beyond); "upward" vs. "inward"

2.5 Self-Transformation and work on oneself.

## 3: Magic

3.1 Sutra and tantra: the question of technique.

3.2 The Greatest Medicine is the Greatest Poison. The involvement of the whole person.

3.3 Objective correlatives: why complexity is not merely baroque ornamentation

3.4 Closing doors: banishing and otherwise saying no.

3.5 The Sphere of Sensation: work on oneself, work in the world. Turning fully outward without anxiety or regret.