

## THE COMPANIONS OF THE STONE

The Companions of the Stone (COTS) is a Hermetic magical order based in the Puget Sound area. It was founded in 1993 as a working group of Hermetic magicians interested in traditional lodge methods and their magical applications. After a period of developmental work, establishing basic approaches to ritual and magical practice, the working group took on the formal structure of a lodge and opened its doors to new members.

The COTS and its system of magical practice draw on a range of sources: the tradition of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn; the writings of philosopher-magicians of the Renaissance such as Cornelius Agrippa and Robert Fludd; ancient Hermetic, Pythagorean and Neoplatonic traditions of magical and spiritual thought; and the broad tradition of lodge technique developed in fraternal lodge organizations such as the Masons and the Odd Fellows. It's important to note, though, that the COTS doesn't claim any sort of descent or "apostolic succession" from these sources, or any other.

The basic elements of the COTS approach, inspired by these sources, can be summed up under two headings. First of all, the COTS is a magical lodge: that is, it uses the full system of traditional lodge technique, which includes structural, ritual and symbolic elements. In the process, it makes use of some aspects of the traditional system (such as a democratic approach to governing the lodge) which haven't often been put to use in magical lodge groups. Secondly, the COTS is a magical lodge: that is, it uses these methods as a set of tools for developing the higher and more secret powers of the human individual, and expands on them with methods of personal training drawn from the armory of Hermetic magical methods.

Membership in the COTS is open to men and women 18 years of age or older. People of any race or religion are welcome, and other traditions or systems of magical or spiritual practice may be studied along with the COTS curriculum. Because the combination of lodge work and individual practice is central to the COTS system, however, the COTS normally does not accept members from outside the Puget Sound area.

If you would like to learn more about the COTS, please send \$1 (US) to COTS, P.O. Box 95536, Seattle, WA 98145, for our introductory packet. This includes information about the Companions and a set of basic magical exercises, intended both to provide a glimpse at the kind of magical work we do and to give some preparation to new members before their initiation. The introductory packet also includes a membership application.