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THE
PRELIMINARY
LECTION
INCLVDING THE
HISTORY
LECTION



PUBLICATION IN CLASS A

IMPRIMATUR. V. V. V. V. V. Pro Coll. Summ.

D. D. S.	}	Pro Coll. Int.
O. M.		

V. N.	}	Pro Coll. Ext.
P.		
P. A.		

O. S. V.

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LXI

THE PRELIMINARY LECTION

In the Name of the Initiator, Amen.

1. In the beginning was Initiation. The flesh profiteth nothing; the mind profiteth nothing; that which is unknown to you and above these, while firmly based upon their equilibrium, giveth life.

2. In all systems of religion is to be found a system of Initiation, which may be defined as the process by which a man comes to learn that unknown Crown.

3. Though none can communicate either the knowledge or the power to achieve this, which we may call the Great Work, it is yet possible for initiates to guide others.

4. Every man must overcome his own obstacles, expose his own illusions. Yet others may assist him to do both, and they may enable him altogether to avoid many of the false

paths, leading no whither, which tempt the weary feet of the uninitiated pilgrim. They can further insure that he is duly tried and tested, for there are many who think themselves to be Masters who have not even begun to tread the Way of Service that leads thereto.

5. Now the Great Work is one, and the Initiation is one, and the Reward is one, however diverse are the symbols wherein the Unutterable is clothed.

6. Hear then the history of the system which this lection gives you the opportunity of investigating.

Listen, we pray you, with attention: for once only does the Great Order knock at any one door.

Whosoever knows any member of that Order as such, can never know another, until he too has attained to mastery.

Here, therefore, we pause, that you may thoroughly search yourself, and consider if you are yet fitted to take an irrevocable step.

For the reading of that which follows is Recorded.

THE HISTORY LECTION

7. Some years ago a number of cipher MSS. were discovered and deciphered by certain students. They attracted much attention, as they purported to derive from the Rosicrucians. You will readily understand that the genuineness of the claim matters no whit, such literature being judged by itself, not by its reputed sources.

8. Among the MSS. was one which gave the address of a certain person in Germany, who is known to us as S. D. A. Those who discovered the ciphers wrote to S. D. A., and in accordance with instructions received, an Order was founded which worked in a semi-secret manner.

9. After some time S. D. A. died: further requests for help were met with a prompt refusal from the colleagues of S. D. A. It was written by one of them that S. D. A.'s scheme had always been regarded with disapproval.

But since the absolute rule of the adepts is never to interfere with the judgement of any other person whomsoever—how much more, then, one of themselves, and that one most highly revered!—they had refrained from active opposition. The adept who wrote this added that the Order had already quite enough knowledge to enable it or its members to formulate a magical link with the adepts.

10. Shortly after this, one called S. R. M. D. announced that he had formulated such a link, and that himself with two others was to govern the Order. New and revised rituals were issued, and fresh knowledge poured out in streams.

11. We must pass over the unhappy juggleries which characterized the next period. It has throughout proved impossible to elucidate the complex facts.

We content ourselves, then, with observing that the death of one of his two colleagues, and the weakness of the other, secured to S. R. M. D. the sole authority. The rituals were elaborated, though scholarly enough, into verbose and pretentious nonsense: the knowledge proved worthless, even where it was correct: for it is in vain that pearls, be they

never so clear and precious, are given to the swine.

The ordeals were turned into contempt, it being impossible for any one to fail therein. Unsuitable candidates were admitted for no better reason than that of their worldly possessions.

In short, the Order failed to initiate.

12. Scandal arose and with it schism.

13. In 1900 one P., a brother, instituted a rigorous test of S. R. M. D. on the one side and the Order on the other.

14. He discovered that S. R. M. D., though a scholar of some ability and a magician of remarkable powers, had never attained complete initiation: and further had fallen from his original place, he having imprudently attracted to himself forces of evil too great and terrible for him to withstand.

The claim of the Order that the true adepts were in charge of it was definitely disproved.

15. In the Order, with two certain exceptions and two doubtful ones, he found no persons prepared for initiation of any sort.

16. He thereupon by his subtile wisdom destroyed both the Order and its chief.

17. Being himself no perfect adept, he was driven of the Spirit into the Wilderness, where he abode for six years, studying by the light of reason the sacred books and secret systems of initiation of all countries and ages.

18. Finally, there was given unto him a certain exalted grade whereby a man becomes master of knowledge and intelligence, and no more their slave. He perceived the inadequacy of science, philosophy, and religion; and exposed the self-contradictory nature of the thinking faculty.

19. Returning to England, he laid his achievements humbly at the feet of a certain adept D. D. S., who welcomed him brotherly and admitted his title to that grade which he had so hardly won.

20. Thereupon these two adepts conferred together, saying: May it not be written that the tribulations shall be shortened? Wherefore they resolved to establish a new Order which should be free from the errors and deceits of the former one.

21. Without Authority they could not do this, exalted as their rank was among adepts. They resolved to prepare all things, great and

small, against that day when such Authority should be received by them, since they knew not where to seek for higher adepts than themselves, but knew that the true way to attract the notice of such was to equilibrate the symbols. The temple must be builded before the God can indwell it.

22. Therefore by order of D. D. S. did P. prepare all things by his arcane science and wisdom, choosing only those symbols which were common to all systems, and rigorously rejecting all names and words which might be supposed to imply any religious or metaphysical theory. To do this utterly was found impossible, since all language has a history, and the use (for example) of the word "spirit" implies the Scholastic Philosophy and the Hindu and Taoist theories concerning the breath of man. So was it difficult to avoid implication of some undesirable bias by using the words "order," "circle," "chapter," "society," "brotherhood," or any other to designate the body of initiates.

23. Deliberately, therefore, did he take refuge in vagueness. Not to veil the truth to the Neophyte, but to warn him against valu-

ing non-essentials. Should therefore the candidate hear the name of any God, let him not rashly assume that it refers to any known God, save only the God known to himself. Or should the ritual speak in terms (however vague) which seem to imply Egyptian, Taoist, Buddhist, Indian, Persian, Greek, Judaic, Christian, or Moslem philosophy, let him reflect that this is a defect of language; the literary limitation and not the spiritual prejudice of the man P.

24. Especially let him guard against the finding of definite sectarian symbols in the teaching of his master, and the reasoning from the known to the unknown which assuredly will tempt him.

We labour earnestly, dear brother, that you may never be led away to perish upon this point; for thereon have many holy and just men been wrecked. By this have all the visible systems lost the essence of wisdom.

We have sought to reveal the Arcanum; we have only profaned it.

25. Now when P. had thus with bitter toil prepared all things under the guidance of D. D. S. (even as the hand writes, while the

conscious brain, though ignorant of the detailed movements, applauds or disapproves the finished work) there was a certain time of repose, as the earth lieth fallow.

26. Meanwhile these adepts busied themselves intently with the Great Work.

27. In the fullness of time, even as a blossoming tree that beareth fruit in its season, all these pains were ended, and these adepts and their companions obtained the reward which they had sought—they were to be admitted to the Eternal and Invisible Order that hath no name among men.

28. They therefore who had with smiling faces abandoned their homes, their possessions, their wives, their children, in order to perform the Great Work, could with steady calm and firm correctness abandon the Great Work itself: for this is the last and greatest projection of the alchemist.

29. Also one V. V. V. V. V. arose, an exalted adept of the rank of Master of the Temple (or this much He disclosed to the Exempt Adepts) and His utterance is enshrined in the Sacred Writings.

30. Such are Liber Legis, Liber Cordis

Cincti Serpente, Liber Liberi vel Lapidis Lazuli and such others whose existence may one day be divulged unto you. Beware lest you interpret them either in the Light or in the darkness, for only in L. V. X. may they be understood.

31. Also he conferred upon D. D. S., O. M., and another, the Authority of the Triad, who in turn have delegated it unto others, and they yet again, so that the Body of Initiates may be perfect, even from the Crown unto the Kingdom and beyond.

32. For Perfection abideth not in the Pinnacles, or in the Foundations, but in the ordered Harmony of one with all.



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I

1. I am the Heart; and the Snake is entwined

About the invisible core of the mind.

Rise, O my snake! It is now is the hour
Of the hooded and holy ineffable flower.

Rise, O my snake, into brilliance of bloom
On the corpse of Osiris afloat in the tomb!

O heart of my mother, my sister, mine own,
Thou art given to Nile, to the terror Typhon!

Ah me! but the glory of ravening storm
Enswathes thee and wraps thee in frenzy of
form.

Be still, O my soul! that the spell may dissolve
As the wands are upraised, and the aeons
revolve.

Behold! in my beauty how joyous Thou art,
O Snake that caresses the crown of mine heart!
Behold! we are one, and the tempest of years
Goes down to the dusk, and the Beetle appears.

O Beetle! the drone of Thy dolorous note
Be ever the trance of this tremulous throat!
I await the awaking! The summons on high
From the Lord Adonai, from the Lord Adonai!

2. Adonai spake unto V. V. V. V. V., saying:
There must ever be division in the word.

3. For the colours are many, but the light is one.

4. Therefore thou writest that which is of mother of emerald, and of lapis-lazuli, and of turquoise, and of alexandrite.

5. Another writeth the words of topaz, and of deep amethyst, and of gray sapphire, and of deep sapphire with a tinge as of blood.

6. Therefore do ye fret yourselves because of this.

7. Be not contented with the image.

8. I who am the Image of an Image say this.

9. Debate not of the image, saying Beyond! Beyond!

One mounteth unto the Crown by the moon and by the Sun, and by the arrow, and by the Foundation, and by the dark home of the stars from the black earth.

10. Not otherwise may ye reach unto the Smooth Point.

11. Nor is it fitting for the cobbler to prate of the Royal matter. O cobbler! mend me this shoe, that I may walk. O king! if I be thy son, let us speak of the Embassy to the King thy Brother.

12. Then was there silence. Speech had done with us awhile.

There is a light so strenuous that it is not perceived as light.

13. Wolf's bane is not so sharp as steel; yet it pierceth the body more subtly.

14. Even as evil kisses corrupt the blood, so do my words devour the spirit of man.

15. I breathe, and there is infinite dis-ease in the spirit.

16. As an acid eats into steel, as a cancer that utterly corrupts the body; so am I unto the spirit of man.

17. I shall not rest until I have dissolved it all.

18. So also the light that is absorbed. One absorbs little, and is called white and glistening; one absorbs all and is called black.

19. Therefore, O my darling, art thou black.

20. O my beautiful, I have likened thee to
a jet Nubian slave, a boy of melancholy
eyes.

21. O the filthy one! the dog! they cry
against thee.

Because thou art my beloved.

22. Happy are they that praise thee; for
they see thee with Mine eyes.

23. Not aloud shall they praise thee; but in
the night watch one shall steal close, and grip
thee with the secret grip; another shall privily
cast a crown of violets over thee; a third shall
greatly dare, and press mad lips to thine.

24. Yea! the night shall cover all, the night
shall cover all.

25. Thou wast long seeking Me; thou didst
run forward so fast that I was unable to come
up with thee.

O thou darling fool! what bitterness thou
didst crown thy days withal.

26. Now I am with thee; I will never leave
thy being.

27. For I am the soft sinuous one entwined
about thee, heart of gold!

28. My head is jewelled with twelve stars;
My body is white as milk of the stars; it is

bright with the blue of the abyss of stars invisible.

29. I have found that which could not be found; I have found a vessel of quicksilver.

30. Thou shalt instruct thy servant in his ways, thou shalt speak often with him.

31. (The scribe looketh upwards and crieth) Amen! Thou hast spoken it, Lord God!

32. Further Adonai spake unto V. V. V. V. V. and said:

33. Let us take our delight in the multitude of men!

Let us shape unto ourselves a boat of mother-of-pearl from them, that we may ride upon the river of Amrit!

34. Thou seest yon petal of amaranth, blown by the wind from the low sweet brows of Hathor?

35. (The Magister saw it and rejoiced in the beauty of it.) Listen!

36. (From a certain world came an infinite wail.)

That falling petal seemed to the little ones a wave to engulf their continent.

37. So they will reproach thy servant, saying: Who hath set thee to save us?

38. He will be sore distressed.

39. All they understand not that thou and I are fashioning a boat of mother-of-pearl. We will sail down the river of Amrit even to the yew-groves of Yama, where we may rejoice exceedingly.

40. The joy of men shall be our silver gleam, their woe our blue gleam—all in the mother-of-pearl.

41. (The scribe was wroth thereat. He spake:

O Adonai and my master, I have borne the inkhorn and the pen without pay, in order that I might search this river of Amrit, and sail thereon as one of ye. This I demand for my fee, that I partake of the echo of your kisses.)

42. (And immediately it was granted unto him.)

43. (Nay; but not therewith was he content. By an infinite abasement unto shame did he strive. Then a voice:)

44. Thou strivest ever; even in thy yielding thou strivest to yield—and lo! thou yieldest not.

45. Go thou unto the outermost places and subdue all things.

46. Subdue thy fear and thy disgust. Then—yield!

47. There was a maiden that strayed among the corn, and sighed; then grew a new birth, a narcissus, and therein she forgot her sighing and her loneliness.

48. Even instantly rode Hades heavily upon her, and ravished her away.

49. (Then the scribe knew the narcissus in his heart; but because it came not to his lips, therefore was he shamed and spake no more.)

50. Adonai spake yet again with V. V. V. V. V. and said:

The earth is ripe for vintage; let us eat of her grapes, and be drunken thereon.

51. And V. V. V. V. V. answered and said: O my lord, my dove, my excellent one, how shall this word seem unto the children of men?

52. And He answered him: Not as thou canst see.

It is certain that every letter of this cipher hath some value; but who shall determine the value? For it varieth ever, according to the subtlety of Him that made it.

53. And He answered Him: Have I not the key thereof?

I am clothed with the body of flesh; I am one with the Eternal and Omnipotent God.

54. Then said Adonai: Thou hast the Head of the Hawk, and thy Phallus is the Phallus of Asar. Thou knowest the white, and thou knowest the black, and thou knowest that these are one. But why seekest thou the knowledge of their equivalence?

55. And he said: That my Work may be right.

56. And Adonai said: The strong brown reaper swept his swathe and rejoiced. The wise man counted his muscles, and pondered, and understood not, and was sad.

Reap thou, and rejoice!

57. Then was the Adept glad, and lifted his arm.

Lo! an earthquake, and plague, and terror on the earth!

A casting down of them that sate in high places; a famine upon the multitude!

58. And the grape fell ripe and rich into his mouth.

59. Stained is the purple of thy mouth, O brilliant one, with the white glory of the lips of Adonai.

60. The foam of the grape is like the storm upon the sea; the ships tremble and shudder; the shipmaster is afraid.

61. That is thy drunkenness, O holy one, and the winds whirl away the soul of the scribe into the happy haven.

62. O Lord God! let the haven be cast down by the fury of the storm! Let the foam of the grape tincture my soul with Thy light!

63. Bacchus grew old, and was Silenus; Pan was ever Pan for ever and ever more throughout the aeons.

64. Intoxicate the inmost, O my lover, not the outermost!

65. So was it—ever the same! I have aimed at the peeled wand of my God, and I have hit; yea, I have hit.

II

1. I passed into the mountain of lapis-lazuli, even as a green hawk between the pillars of turquoise that is seated upon the throne of the East.

2. So came I to Duant, the starry abode, and I heard voices crying aloud.

3. O Thou that sittest upon the Earth! (so spake a certain Veiled One to me) thou art not greater than thy mother! Thou speck of dust infinitesimal!

Thou art the Lord of Glory, and the unclean dog.

4. Stooping down, dipping my wings, I came unto the darkly-splendid abodes. There in that formless abyss was I made a partaker of the Mysteries Averse.

5. I suffered the deadly embrace of the Snake and of the Goat; I paid the infernal homage to the shame of Khem.

6. Therein was this virtue, that the One became the all.

7. Moreover I beheld a vision of a river. There was a little boat thereon; and in it under purple sails was a golden woman, an image of Asi wrought in finest gold. Also the river was of blood, and the boat of shining steel. Then I loved her; and, loosing my girdle, cast myself into the stream.

8. I gathered myself into the little boat, and for many days and nights did I love her, burning beautiful incense before her.

9. Yea! I gave her of the flower of my youth.

10. But she stirred not; only by my kisses I defiled her so that she turned to blackness before me.

11. Yet I worshipped her, and gave her of the flower of my youth.

12. Also it came to pass, that thereby she sickened, and corrupted before me. Almost I cast myself into the stream.

13. Then at the end appointed her body was whiter than the milk of the stars, and her lips red and warm as the sunset, and her life of a white heat like the heat of the midmost sun.

14. Then rose she up from the abyss of Ages of Sleep, and her body embraced me. Altogether I melted into her beauty and was glad.

15. The river also became the river of Amrit, and the little boat was the chariot of the flesh, and the sails thereof the blood of the heart that beareth me, that beareth me.

16. O serpent woman of the stars! I, even I, have fashioned Thee from a pale image of fine gold.

17. Also the Holy One came upon me, and I beheld a white swan floating in the blue.

18. Between its wings I sate, and the aeons fled away.

19. Then the swan flew and dived and soared, yet no whither we went.

20. A little crazy boy that rode with me spake unto the swan, and said:

21. Who art thou that dost float and fly and dive and soar in the inane? Behold, these many aeons have passed; whence camest thou? Whither wilt thou go?

22. And laughing I chid him, saying: No whence! No whither!

23. The swan being silent, he answered: Then, if with no goal, why this eternal journey?

24. And I laid my head against the Head of the Swan, and laughed, saying: Is there not joy ineffable in this aimless winging? Is there not weariness and impatience for who would attain to some goal?

25. And the swan was ever silent. Ah! but we floated in the infinite Abyss. Joy! Joy!

White swan, bear thou ever me up between thy wings!

26. O silence! O rapture! O end of things visible and invisible! This is all mine, who am Not.

27. Radiant God! Let me fashion an image of gems and gold for Thee! that the people may cast it down and trample it to dust! That Thy glory may be seen of them.

28. Nor shall it be spoken in the markets that I am come who should come; but Thy coming shall be the one word.

29. Thou shalt manifest Thyself in the unmanifest; in the secret places men shall meet with thee, and Thou shalt overcome them.

30. I saw a pale sad boy that lay upon the marble in the sunlight, and wept. By his side was the forgotten lute. Ah! but he wept.

31. Then came an eagle from the abyss of

glory and overshadowed him. So black was the shadow that he was no more visible.

32. But I heard the lute lively discoursing through the blue still air.

33. Ah! messenger of the beloved One, let Thy shadow be over me!

34. Thy name is Death, it may be, or Shame, or Love.

So thou bringest me tidings of the Beloved One, I shall not ask thy name.

35. Where is now the Master? cry the little crazy boys.

He is dead! He is shamed! He is wedded! and their mockery shall ring round the world.

36. But the Master shall have had his reward. The laughter of the mockers shall be a ripple in the hair of the Beloved One.

37. Behold! the Abyss of the Great Deep. Therein is a mighty dolphin, lashing his sides with the force of the waves.

38. There is also an harper of gold, playing infinite tunes.

39. Then the dolphin delighted therein, and put off his body, and became a bird.

40. The harper also laid aside his harp, and played infinite tunes upon the Pan-pipe.

41. Then the bird desired exceedingly this bliss, and laying down its wings became a faun of the forest.

42. The harper also laid down his Pan-pipe, and with the human voice sang his infinite tunes.

43. Then the faun was enraptured, and followed far; at last the harper was silent, and the faun became Pan in the midst of the primal forest of Eternity.

44. Thou canst not charm the dolphin with silence, O my prophet!

45. Then the adept was rapt away in bliss, and the beyond of bliss, and exceeded the excess of excess.

46. Also his body shook and staggered with the burden of that bliss and that excess and that ultimate nameless.

47. They cried He is drunk or He is mad or He is in pain or He is about to die; and he heard them not.

48. O my Lord, my beloved! How shall I indite songs, when even the memory of the shadow of thy glory is a thing beyond all music of speech or of silence?

49. Behold! I am a man. Even a little child might not endure Thee. And lo!

50. I was alone in a great park, and by a certain hillock was a ring of deep enamelled grass wherein green-clad ones, most beautiful, played.

51. In their play I came even unto the land of Fairy Sleep.

All my thoughts were clad in green; most beautiful were they.

52. All night they danced and sang; but Thou art the morning, O my darling, my serpent that twinest Thee about this heart.

53. I am the heart, and Thou the serpent. Wind Thy coils closer about me, so that no light nor bliss may penetrate.

54. Crush out the blood of me, as a grape upon the tongue of a white Doric girl that languishes with her lover in the moonlight.

55. Then let the End awake. Long hast thou slept, O great God Terminus! Long ages hast thou waited at the end of the city and the roads thereof.

Awake Thou! wait no more!

56. Nay, Lord! but I am come to Thee. It is I that wait at last.

57. The prophet cried against the mountain; come thou hither, that I may speak with thee!

58. The mountain stirred not. Therefore went the prophet unto the mountain, and spake unto it. But the feet of the prophet were weary, and the mountain heard not his voice.

59. But I have called unto Thee, and I have journeyed unto Thee, and it availed me not.

60. I waited patiently, and Thou wast with me from the beginning.

61. This now I know, O my beloved, and we are stretched at our ease among the vines.

62. But these thy prophets; they must cry aloud and scourge themselves; they must cross trackless wastes and unfathomed oceans; to await Thee is the end, not the beginning.

63. Let darkness cover up the writing! Let the scribe depart among his ways.

64. But thou and I are stretched at our ease among the vines; what is he?

65. O Thou beloved One! is there not an end? Nay, but there is an end. Awake! arise! gird up thy limbs, O thou runner; bear thou the Word unto the mighty cities, yea, unto the mighty cities.

III

1. Verily and Amen! I passed through the deep sea, and by the rivers of running water that abound therein, and I came unto the Land of No Desire.

2. Wherein was a white unicorn with a silver collar, whereon was graven the aphorism *Linea viridis gyrat universa*.

3. Then the word of Adonai came unto me by the mouth of the Magister mine, saying: O heart that art girt about with the coils of the old serpent, lift up thyself unto the mountain of initiation!

4. But I remembered. Yea, Than, yea, Theli, yea, Lilith! these three were about me from of old. For they are one.

5. Beautiful wast thou, O Lilith, thou serpent-woman!

6. Thou wast lithe and delicious to the taste, and thy perfume was of musk mingled with ambergris.

7. Close didst thou cling with thy coils unto the heart, and it was as the joy of all the spring.

8. But I beheld in thee a certain taint, even in that wherein I delighted.

9. I beheld in thee the taint of thy father the ape, of thy grandsire the Blind Worm of Slime.

10. I gazed upon the Crystal of the Future, and I saw the horror of the End of thee.

11. Further, I destroyed the time Past, and the time to Come—had I not the Power of the Sand-glass?

12. But in the very hour I beheld corruption.

13. Then I said: O my beloved, O Lord Adonai, I pray thee to loosen the coils of the serpent!

14. But she was closed fast upon me, so that my Force was stayed in its inception.

15. Also I prayed unto the Elephant God, the Lord of Beginnings, who breaketh down obstruction.

16. These gods came right quickly to mine aid. I beheld them; I joined myself unto them; I was lost in their vastness.

17. Then I beheld myself compassed about

with the Infinite Circle of Emerald that encloseth the Universe.

18. O Snake of Emerald, Thou hast no time Past, no time To Come. Verily Thou art not.

19. Thou art delicious beyond all taste and touch, Thou art not-to-be-beheld for glory, Thy voice is beyond the Speech and the Silence and the Speech therein, and Thy perfume is of pure ambergris, that is not weighed against the finest gold of the fine gold.

20. Also Thy coils are of infinite range; the Heart that Thou dost encircle is an Universal Heart.

21. I, and Me, and Mine were sitting with lutes in the market-place of the great city, the city of the violets and the roses.

22. The night fell, and the music of the lutes was stilled.

23. The tempest arose, and the music of the lutes was stilled.

24. The hour passed, and the music of the lutes was stilled.

25. But Thou art Eternity and Space; Thou art Matter and Motion; and Thou art the negation of all these things.

26. For there is no Symbol of Thee.

27. If I say Come up upon the mountains!
the celestial waters flow at my word. But thou
art the Water beyond the waters.

28. The red three-angled heart hath been set
up in Thy shrine; for the priests despised
equally the shrine and the god.

29. Yet all the while Thou wast hidden
therein, as the Lord of Silence is hidden in the
buds of the lotus.

30. Thou art Sebek the crocodile against
Asar; thou art Mati, the Slayer in the Deep.
Thou art Typhon, the Wrath of the Elements,
O Thou who transcendest the Forces in their
Concourse and Cohesion, in their Death and
their Disruption. Thou art Python, the terrible
serpent about the end of all things!

31. I turned me about thrice in every way;
and always I came at the last unto Thee.

32. Many things I beheld mediate and im-
mediate; but, beholding them no more, I
beheld Thee.

33. Come thou, O beloved One, O Lord
God of the Universe, O Vast One, O Minute
One! I am Thy beloved.

34. All day I sing of Thy delight; all night
I delight in Thy song.

35. There is no other day or night than this.

36. Thou art beyond the day and the night;
I am Thyself, O my Maker, my Master, my
Mate!

37. I am like the little red dog that sitteth
upon the knees of the Unknown.

38. Thou hast brought me into great delight.
Thou hast given me of Thy flesh to eat and of
Thy blood for an offering of intoxication.

39. Thou hast fastened the fangs of Eternity
in my soul, and the Poison of the Infinite hath
consumed me utterly.

40. I am become like a luscious devil of
Italy; a fair strong woman with worn cheeks,
eaten out with hunger for kisses. She hath
played the harlot in divers palaces; she hath
given her body to the beasts.

41. She hath slain her kinsfolk with
strong venom of toads; she hath been scourged
with many rods.

42. She hath been broken in pieces upon
the Wheel; the hands of the hangman have
bound her unto it.

43. The fountains of water have been loosed
upon her; she hath struggled with exceeding
torment.

44. She hath burst in sunder with the weight of the waters; she hath sunk into the awful Sea.

45. So am I, O Adonai, my lord, and such are the waters of Thine intolerable Essence.

46. So am I, O Adonai, my beloved, and Thou hast burst me utterly in sunder.

47. I am shed out like spilt blood upon the mountains; the Ravens of Dispersion have borne me utterly away.

48. Therefore is the seal unloosed, that guarded the Eighth abyss; therefore is the vast sea as a veil; therefore is there a rending asunder of all things.

49. Yea, also verily Thou art the cool still water of the wizard fount. I have bathed in Thee, and lost me in Thy stillness.

50. That which went in as a brave boy of beautiful limbs cometh forth as a maiden, as a little child for perfection.

51. O Thou light and delight, ravish me away into the milky ocean of the stars!

52. O Thou Son of a light-transcending mother, blessed be Thy name, and the Name of Thy Name, throughout the ages!

53. Behold! I am a butterfly at the Source

of Creation ; let me die before the hour, falling
dead into Thine infinite stream !

54. Also the stream of the stars floweth ever
majestical unto the Abode ; bear me away upon
the Bosom of Nuit !

55. This is the world of the waters of Maim ;
this is the bitter water that becometh sweet.
Thou art beautiful and bitter, O golden one, O
my Lord Adonai, O thou Abyss of Sapphire !

56. I follow Thee, and the waters of Death
fight strenuously against me. I pass unto the
Waters beyond Death and beyond Life.

57. How shall I answer the foolish man?
In no way shall he come to the Identity of
Thee !

58. But I am the Fool that heedeth not the
Play of the Magician. Me doth the Woman of
the Mysteries instruct in vain ; I have burst the
bonds of Love and of Power and of Worship.

59. Therefore is the Eagle made one with
the Man, and the gallows of infamy dance with
the fruit of the just.

60. I have descended, O my darling, into
the black shining waters, and I have plucked
Thee forth as a black pearl of infinite precious-
ness.

61. I have gone down, O my God, into the abyss of the all, and I have found Thee in the midst under the guise of No Thing.

62. But as Thou art the Last, Thou art also the Next, and as the Next do I reveal Thee to the multitude.

63. They that ever desire Thee shall obtain Thee, even at the End of their Desire.

64. Glorious, glorious, glorious art Thou, O my lover supernal, O Self of myself.

65. For I have found Thee alike in the Me and the Thee; there is no difference, O my beautiful, my desirable One! In the One and the Many have I found Thee; yea, I have found Thee.

IV

1. O crystal heart ! I the Serpent clasp
Thee ; I drive home mine head into the
central core of Thee, O God my beloved.

2. Even as on the resounding wind-swept
heights of Mitylene some god-like woman
casts aside the lyre, and with her locks aflame
as an aureole, plunges into the wet heart of
the creation, so I, O Lord my God !

3. There is a beauty unspeakable in this
heart of corruption, where the flowers are
aflame.

4. Ah me ! but the thirst of Thy joy parches
up this throat, so that I cannot sing.

5. I will make me a little boat of my tongue,
and explore the unknown rivers. It may be
that the everlasting salt may turn to sweetness,
and that my life may be no longer athirst.

6. O ye that drink of the brine of your desire,
ye are nigh to madness ! Your torture increaseth
as ye drink, yet still ye drink. Come up through

the creeks to the fresh water; I shall be waiting for you with my kisses.

7. As the bezoar-stone that is found in the belly of the cow, so is my lover among lovers.

8. O honey boy! Bring me Thy cool limbs hither! Let us sit awhile in the orchard, until the sun go down! Let us feast on the cool grass! Bring wine, ye slaves, that the cheeks of my boy may flush red.

9. In the garden of immortal kisses, O thou brilliant One, shine forth! Make Thy mouth an opium-poppy, that one kiss is the key to the infinite sleep and lucid, the sleep of Shiloh-am.

10. In my sleep I beheld the Universe like a clear crystal without one speck.

11. There are purse-proud penniless ones that stand at the door of the tavern and prate of their feats of wine-bibbing.

12. There are purse-proud penniless ones that stand at the door of the tavern and revile the guests.

13. The guests dally upon couches of mother-of-pearl in the garden; the noise of the foolish men is hidden from them.

14. Only the inn-keeper feareth lest the favour of the king be withdrawn from him.

15. Thus spake the Magister V. V. V. V. V. unto Adonai his God, as they played together in the starlight over against the deep black pool that is in the Holy Place of the Holy House beneath the Altar of the Holiest One.

16. But Adonai laughed, and played more languidly.

17. Then the scribe took note, and was glad. But Adonai had no fear of the Magician and his play.

For it was Adonai who had taught all his tricks to the Magician.

18. And the Magister entered into the play of the Magician. When the Magician laughed he laughed; all as a man should do.

19. And Adonai said: Thou art enmeshed in the web of the Magician. This He said subtly, to try him.

20. But the Magister gave the sign of the Magistracy, and laughed back on Him: O Lord, O beloved, did these fingers relax on Thy curls, or these eyes turn away from Thine eye?

21. And Adonai delighted in him exceedingly.

22. Yea, O my master, thou art the beloved of the Beloved One; the Bennu Bird is set up in Philae not in vain.

23. I who was the priestess of Ahathoor rejoice in your love. Arise, O Nile-God, and devour the holy place of the Cow of Heaven! Let the milk of the stars be drunk up by Sebek the dweller of Nile!

24. Arise, O serpent Apep, Thou art Adonai the beloved one! Thou art my darling and my lord, and Thy poison is sweeter than the kisses of Isis the mother of the Gods!

25. For Thou art He! Yea, Thou shalt swallow up Asi and Asar, and the children of Ptah. Thou shalt pour forth a flood of poison to destroy the works of the Magician. Only the Destroyer shall devour Thee; Thou shalt blacken his throat, wherein his spirit abideth. Ah, serpent Apep, but I love Thee!

26. My God! Let Thy secret fang pierce to the marrow of the little secret bone that I have kept against the Day of Vengeance of Hoor-Ra. Let Kheph-Ra sound his sharded drone! let the jackals of Day and Night howl in the wilderness of Time! let the Towers of the Universe totter, and the guardians hasten

away! For my Lord hath revealed Himself as a mighty serpent, and my heart is the blood of His body.

27. I am like a love-sick courtesan of Corinth. I have toyed with kings and captains, and made them my slaves. To-day I am the slave of the little asp of death; and who shall loosen our love?

28. Weary, weary! saith the scribe, who shall lead me to the sight of the Rapture of my master?

29. The body is weary and the soul is sore weary and sleep weighs down their eyelids; yet ever abides the sure consciousness of ecstasy, unknown, yet known in that its being is certain. O Lord, be my helper, and bring me to the bliss of the Beloved!

30. I came to the house of the Beloved, and the wine was like fire that flieth with green wings through the world of waters.

31. I felt the red lips of nature and the black lips of perfection. Like sisters they fondled me their little brother; they decked me out as a bride; they mounted me for Thy bridal chamber.

32. They fled away at Thy coming; I was alone before Thee.

33. I trembled at Thy coming, O my God,
for Thy messenger was more terrible than the
Death-star.

34. On the threshold stood the fulminant
figure of Evil, the Horror of emptiness, with
his ghastly eyes like poisonous wells. He
stood, and the chamber was corrupt; the air
stank. He was an old and gnarled fish more
hideous than the shells of Abaddon.

35. He enveloped me with his demon ten-
tacles; yea, the eight fears took hold upon
me.

36. But I was anointed with the right sweet
oil of the Magister; I slipped from the embrace
as a stone from the sling of a boy of the wood-
lands.

37. I was smooth and hard as ivory; the
horror gat no hold. Then at the noise of the
wind of Thy coming he was dissolved away,
and the abyss of the great void was unfolded
before me.

38. Across the waveless sea of eternity Thou
didst ride with Thy captains and Thy hosts;
with Thy chariots and horsemen and spearmen
didst Thou travel through the blue.

39. Before I saw Thee Thou wast already

with me; I was smitten through by Thy marvellous spear.

40. I was stricken as a bird by the bolt of the thunderer; I was pierced as the thief by the Lord of the Garden.

41. O my Lord, let us sail upon the sea of blood!

42. There is a deep taint beneath the ineffable bliss; it is the taint of generation.

43. Yea, though the flower wave bright in the sunshine, the root is deep in the darkness of earth.

44. Praise to thee, O beautiful dark earth, thou art the mother of a million myriads of myriads of flowers.

45. Also I beheld my God, and the countenance of Him was a thousandfold brighter than the lightning. Yet in his heart I beheld the slow and dark One, the ancient one, the devourer of His children.

46. In the height and the abyss, O my beautiful, there is no thing, verily, there is no thing at all, that is not altogether and perfectly fashioned for Thy delight.

47. Light cleaveth unto Light, and filth to filth; with pride one contemneth another. But

not Thou, who art all, and beyond it; who art absolved from the Division of the Shadows.

48. O day of Eternity, let Thy wave break in foamless glory of sapphire upon the laborious coral of our making !

49. We have made us a ring of glistening white sand, strewn wisely in the midst of the Delightful Ocean.

50. Let the palms of brilliance flower upon our island ; we shall eat of their fruit, and be glad.

51. But for me the lustral water, the great ablution, the dissolving of the soul in that resounding abyss.

52. I have a little son like a wanton goat ; my daughter is like an unfledged eaglet ; they shall get them fins, that they may swim.

53. That they may swim, O my beloved, swim far in the warm honey of Thy being, O blessed one, O boy of beatitude !

54. This heart of mine is girt about with the serpent that devoureth his own coils.

55. When shall there be an end, O my darling, O when shall the Universe and the Lord thereof be utterly swallowed up ?

56. Nay ! who shall devour the Infinite ?

who shall undo the Wrong of the Beginning?

57. Thou criest like a white cat upon the roof of the Universe; there is none to answer Thee.

58. Thou art like a lonely pillar in the midst of the sea; there is none to behold Thee, O Thou who beholdest all!

59. Thou dost faint, thou dost fail, thou scribe; cried the desolate Voice; but I have filled thee with a wine whose savour thou knowest not.

60. It shall avail to make drunken the people of the old gray sphere that rolls in the infinite Far-off; they shall lap the wine as dogs that lap the blood of a beautiful courtesan pierced through by the Spear of a swift rider through the city.

61. I too am the Soul of the desert; thou shalt seek me yet again in the wilderness of sand.

62. At thy right hand a great lord and a comely; at thy left hand a woman clad in gossamer and gold and having the stars in her hair. Ye shall journey far into a land of pestilence and evil; ye shall encamp in the river

of a foolish city forgotten; there shall ye meet with Me.

63. There will I make Mine habitation; as for bridal will I come bedecked and anointed; there shall the Consummation be accomplished.

64. O my darling, I also wait for the brilliance of the hour ineffable, when the universe shall be like a girdle for the midst of the ray of our love, extending beyond the permitted end of the endless One.

65. Then, O thou heart, will I the serpent eat thee wholly up; yea, I will eat thee wholly up.

V

1. Ah! my Lord Adonai, that dalliest with the Magister in the Treasure-House of Pearls, let me listen to the echo of your kisses.

2. Is not the starry heaven shaken as a leaf at the tremulous rapture of your love? Am not I the flying spark of light whirled away by the great wind of your perfection?

3. Yea, cried the Holy One, and from Thy spark will I the Lord kindle a great light; I will burn through the grey city in the old and desolate land; I will cleanse it from its great impurity.

4. And thou, O prophet, shalt see these things, and thou shalt heed them not.

5. Now is the Pillar established in the Void; now is Asi fulfilled of Asar; now is Hoor let down into the Animal Soul of Things like a fiery star that falleth upon the darkness of the earth.

6. Through the midnight thou art dropt, O

my child, my conqueror, my sword-girt captain,
O Hoor! and they shall find thee as a black
gnarl'd glittering stone, and they shall worship
thee.

7. My prophet shall prophesy concerning
thee; around thee the maidens shall dance,
and bright babes be born unto them. Thou
shalt inspire the proud ones with infinite
pride, and the humble ones with an ecstasy of
abasement; all this shall transcend the Known
and the Unknown with somewhat that hath no
name. For it is as the abyss of the Arcanum
that is opened in the secret Place of Silence.

8. Thou hast come hither, O my prophet,
through grave paths. Thou hast eaten of the
dung of the Abominable Ones; thou has pros-
trated thyself before the Goat and the Crocodile;
the evil men have made thee a plaything; thou
hast wandered as a painted harlot, ravishing
with sweet scent and Chinese colouring, in the
streets; thou hast darkened thine eyepits with
Kohl; thou hast tinted thy lips with vermilion;
thou hast plastered thy cheeks with ivory
enamels. Thou hast played the wanton in
every gate and by-way of the great city. The
men of the city have lusted after thee to abuse

thee and to beat thee. They have mouthed the golden spangles of fine dust wherewith thou didst bedeck thine hair ; they have scourged the painted flesh of thee with their whips ; thou hast suffered unspeakable things.

9. But I have burnt within thee as a pure flame without oil. In the midnight I was brighter than the moon ; in the daytime I exceeded utterly the sun ; in the byways of thy being I flamed, and dispelled the illusion.

10. Therefore thou art wholly pure before Me ; therefore thou art My virgin unto eternity.

11. Therefore I love thee with surpassing love ; therefore they that despise thee shall adore thee.

12. Thou shalt be lovely and pitiful toward them ; thou shalt heal them of the unutterable evil.

13. They shall change in their destruction, even as two dark stars that crash together in the abyss, and blaze up in an infinite burning.

14. All this while did Adonai pierce my being with his sword that hath four blades ; the blade of the thunderbolt, the blade of the Pylon, the blade of the serpent, the blade of the Phallus.

15. Also he taught me the holy unutterable word Ararita, so that I melted the sixfold gold into a single invisible point, whereof naught may be spoken.

16. For the Magistrty of this Opus is a secret magistrty and the sign of the master thereof is a certain ring of lapis-lazuli with the name of my master, who am I, and the Eye in the Midst thereof.

17. Also He spake and said: This is a secret sign, and thou shalt not disclose it unto the profane, nor unto the neophyte, nor unto the zelator, nor unto the practicus, nor unto the philosophus, nor unto the lesser adept, nor unto the greater adept.

18. But unto the exempt adept thou shalt disclose thyself if thou have need of him for the lesser operations of thine art.

19. Accept the worship of the foolish people, whom thou hatest. The Fire is not defiled by the altars of the Ghebers, nor is the Moon contaminated by the incense of them that adore the Queen of Night.

20. Thou shalt dwell among the people as a precious diamond among cloudy diamonds, and crystals, and pieces of glass. Only the eye of

the just merchant shall behold thee, and plunging in his hand shall single thee out and glorify thee before men.

21. But thou shalt heed none of this. Thou shalt be ever the heart, and I the serpent will coil close about thee. My coils shall never relax throughout the aeons. Neither change nor sorrow nor unsubstantiality shall have thee; for thou art passed beyond all these.

22. Even as the diamond shall glow red for the rose, and green for the rose-leaf; so shalt thou abide apart from the Impressions.

23. I am thou, and the Pillar is 'stablished in the void.

24. Also thou art beyond the stabilities of Being and of Consciousness and of Bliss; for I am thou, and the Pillar is 'stablished in the void.

25. Also thou shalt discourse of these things unto the man that writeth them, and he shall partake of them as a sacrament; for I who am thou am he, and the Pillar is 'stablished in the void.

26. From the Crown to the Abyss, so goeth it single and erect. Also the limitless sphere shall glow with the brilliance thereof.

27. Thou shalt rejoice in the pools of adorable water ; thou shalt bedeck thy damsels with pearls of fecundity ; thou shalt light flame like licking tongues of liquor of the Gods between the pools.

28. Also thou shalt convert the all-sweeping air into the winds of pale water, thou shalt transmute the earth into a blue abyss of wine.

29. Ruddy are the gleams of ruby and gold that sparkle therein ; one drop shall intoxicate the Lord of the Gods my servant.

30. Also Adonai spake unto V. V. V. V. V. saying : O my little one, my tender one, my little amorous one, my gazelle, my beautiful, my boy, let us fill up the pillar of the Infinite with an infinite kiss !

31. So that the stable was shaken and the unstable became still.

32. They that beheld it cried with a formidable affright : The end of things is come upon us.

33. And it was even so.

34. Also I was in the spirit vision and beheld a parricidal pomp of atheists, coupled by two and by two in the supernal ecstasy of the stars. They did laugh and rejoice exceedingly,

being clad in purple robes and drunken with purple wine, and their whole soul was one purple flower-flame of holiness.

35. They beheld not God; they beheld not the Image of God; therefore were they arisen to the Palace of the Splendour Ineffable. A sharp sword smote out before them, and the worm Hope writhed in its death-agony under their feet.

36. Even as their rapture shore asunder the visible Hope, so also the Fear Invisible fled away and was no more.

37. O ye that are beyond Aormuzdi and Ahrimanes! blessed are ye unto the ages.

38. They shaped Doubt as a sickle, and reaped the flowers of Faith for their garlands.

39. They shaped Ecstasy as a spear, and pierced the ancient dragon that sat upon the stagnant water.

40. Then the fresh springs were unloosed, that the folk athirst might be at ease.

41. And again I was caught up into the presence of my Lord Adonai, and the knowledge and Conversation of the Holy One, the Angel that Guardeth me.

42. O Holy Exalted One, O Self beyond

self, O Self-Luminous Image of the Unimaginable Naught, O my darling, my beautiful, come Thou forth and follow me.

43. Adonai, divine Adonai, let Adonai initiate refulgent dalliance! Thus I concealed the name of Her name that inspireth my rapture, the scent of whose body bewildereth the soul, the light of whose soul abaseth this body unto the beasts.

44. I have sucked out the blood with my lips; I have drained Her beauty of its sustenance; I have abased Her before me, I have mastered Her, I have possessed Her, and Her life is within me. In Her blood I inscribe the secret riddles of the Sphinx of the Gods, that none shall understand,—save only the pure and voluptuous, the chaste and obscene, the androgyne and the gynander that have passed beyond the bars of the prison that the old Slime of Khem set up in the Gates of Amennti.

45. O my adorable, my delicious one, all night will I pour out the libation on Thine altars; all night will I burn the sacrifice of blood; all night will I swing the thurible of my delight before Thee, and the fervour of the orisons shall intoxicate Thy nostrils.

46. O Thou who camest from the land of the Elephant, girt about with the tiger's pell, and garlanded with the lotus of the spirit, do Thou inebriate my life with Thy madness, that She leap at my passing.

47. Bid Thy maidens who follow Thee bestrew us a bed of flowers immortal, that we may take our pleasure thereupon. Bid Thy satyrs heap thorns among the flowers, that we may take our pain thereupon. Let the pleasure and pain be mingled in one supreme offering unto the Lord Adonai!

48. Also I heard the voice of Adonai the Lord the desirable one concerning that which is beyond.

49. Let not the dwellers in Thebai and the temples thereof prate ever of the Pillars of Hercules and the Ocean of the West. Is not the Nile a beautiful water?

50. Let not the priest of Isis uncover the nakedness of Nuit, for every step is a death and a birth. The priest of Isis lifted the veil of Isis, and was slain by the kisses of her mouth. Then was he the priest of Nuit, and drank of the milk of the stars.

51. Let not the failure and the pain turn

aside the worshippers. The foundations of the pyramid were hewn in the living rock ere sunset; did the king weep at dawn that the crown of the pyramid was yet unquarried in the distant land?

52. There was also an humming-bird that spake unto the horned cerastes, and prayed him for poison. And the great snake of Khem the Holy One, the royal Uraeus serpent, answered him and said:

53. I sailed over the sky of Nu in the car called Millions-of-Years, and I saw not any creature upon Seb that was equal to me. The venom of my fang is the inheritance of my father, and of my father's father; and how shall I give it unto thee? Live thou and thy children as I and my fathers have lived, even unto an hundred millions of generations, and it may be that the mercy of the Mighty Ones may bestow upon thy children a drop of the poison of eld.

54. Then the humming-bird was afflicted in his spirit, and he flew unto the flowers, and it was as if naught had been spoken between them. Yet in a little while a serpent struck him that he died.

55. But an Ibis that meditated upon the bank of Nile the beautiful god listened and heard. And he laid aside his Ibis ways, and became as a serpent, saying Peradventure in an hundred millions of millions of generations of my children, they shall attain to a drop of the poison of the fang of the Exalted One.

56. And behold! ere the moon waxed thrice he became an Uraeus serpent, and the poison of the fang was established in him and his seed even for ever and for ever.

57. O thou Serpent Apep, my Lord Adonai, it is a speck of minutest time, this travelling through eternity, and in Thy sight the landmarks are of fair white marble untouched by the tool of the graver. Therefore Thou art mine, even now and for ever and for everlasting. Amen.

58. Moreover, I heard the voice of Adonai: Seal up the book of the Heart and the Serpent; in the number five and sixty seal thou the holy book.

As fine gold that is beaten into a diadem for the fair queen of Pharaoh, as great stones that are cemented together into the Pyramid of the ceremony of the Death of Asar, so do thou bind

together the words and the deeds, so that in all is one Thought of Me thy delight Adonai.

59. And I answered and said: It is done even according unto Thy word. And it was done. And they that read the book and debated thereon passed into the desolate land of Barren Words. And they that sealed up the book into their blood were the chosen of Adonai, and the Thought of Adonai was a Word and a Deed; and they abode in the Land that the far-off travellers call Naught.

60. O land beyond honey and spice and all perfection! I will dwell therein with my Lord for ever.

61. And the Lord Adonai delighteth in me, and I bear the Cup of His gladness unto the weary ones of the old grey land.

62. They that drink thereof are smitten of disease; the abomination hath hold upon them, and their torment is like the thick black smoke of the evil abode.

63. But the chosen ones drank thereof, and became even as my Lord, my beautiful, my desirable one. There is no wine like unto this wine.

64. They are gathered together into a glow-

ing heart, as Ra that gathered his clouds about Him at eventide into a molten sea of joy; and the snake that is the crown of Ra bindeth them about with the golden girdle of the death-kisses.

65. So also is the end of the book, and the Lord Adonai is about it on all sides like a Thunderbolt, and a Pylon, and a Snake, and a Phallus, and in the midst thereof He is like the Woman that jetteth out the milk of the stars from her paps; yea, the milk of the stars from her paps.

The full knowledge of the interpretation of this book is concealed from all, save only the Shining Triangle.

The Probationer must nevertheless acquire a copy and thoroughly acquaint himself with the contents. He must commit one chapter to memory.

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VII

Being the Voluntary
Emancipation of a cer-
tain Exempt Adept
from his Adeptship.
These are the Birth-
Words of a Master of
the Temple.



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PROLOGUE OF THE UNBORN

1. Into my loneliness comes—
2. The sound of a flute in dim groves that
haunt the uttermost hills.
3. Even from the brave river they reach to
the edge of the wilderness.
4. And I behold Pan.
5. The snows are eternal above, above—
6. And their perfume smokes upward into
the nostrils of the stars.
7. But what have I to do with these?
8. To me only the distant flute, the abiding
vision of Pan.
9. On all sides Pan to the eye, to the ear;
10. The perfume of Pan pervading, the
taste of him utterly filling my mouth, so that
the tongue breaks forth into a weird and mon-
strous speech.
11. The embrace of him intense on every
centre of pain and pleasure.

12. The sixth interior sense aflame with the
inmost self of Him,
13. Myself flung down the precipice of
being
14. Even to the abyss, annihilation.
15. An end to loneliness, as to all.
16. Pan! Pan! Io Pan! Io Pan!

I

1. My God, how I love Thee!
2. With the vehement appetite of a beast
I hunt Thee through the Universe.
3. Thou art standing as it were upon a pinnacle at the edge of some fortified city. I am a white bird, and perch upon Thee.
4. Thou art My Lover: I see Thee as a nymph with her white limbs stretched by the spring.
5. She lies upon the moss; there is none other but she:
6. Art Thou not Pan?
7. I am He. Speak not, O my God! Let the work be accomplished in silence.
8. Let my cry of pain be crystallized into a little white fawn to run away into the forest!
9. Thou art a centaur, O my God, from the violet-blossoms that crown Thee to the hoofs of the horse.

10. Thou art harder than tempered steel;
there is no diamond beside Thee.

11. Did I not yield this body and soul?

12. I woo thee with a dagger drawn across
my throat.

13. Let the spout of blood quench Thy
blood-thirst, O my God !

14. Thou art a little white rabbit in the
burrow Night.

15. I am greater than the fox and the
hole.

16. Give me Thy kisses, O Lord God !

17. The lightning came and licked up the
little flock of sheep.

18. There is a tongue and a flame; I see
that trident walking over the sea.

19. A phoenix hath it for its head; below
are two prongs. They spear the wicked.

20. I will spear Thee, O Thou little grey god,
unless Thou beware !

21. From the grey to the gold ; from the gold
to that which is beyond the gold of Ophir.

22. My God ! but I love Thee !

23. Why hast Thou whispered so ambiguous
things? Wast Thou afraid, O goat-hoofed One,
O horned One, O pillar of lightning?

24. From the lightning fall pearls; from the pearls black specks of nothing.

25. I based all on one, one on naught.

26. Afloat in the aether, O my God, my God!

27. O Thou great hooded sun of glory, cut off these eyelids!

28. Nature shall die out; she hideth me, closing mine eyelids with fear, she hideth me from My destruction, O Thou open eye.

29. O ever-weeping One!

30. Not Isis my mother, nor Osiris my self; but the incestuous Horus given over to Typhon, so may I be!

31. There thought; and thought is evil.

32. Pan! Pan! Io Pan! it is enough.

33. Fall not into death, O my soul! Think that death is the bed into which you are falling!

34. O how I love Thee, O my God! Especially is there a vehement parallel light from infinity, vilely diffracted in the haze of this mind.

35. I love Thee.

I love Thee.

I love Thee.

36. Thou art a beautiful thing whiter than a woman in the column of this vibration.

37. I shoot up vertically like an arrow, and become that Above.

38. But it is death, and the flame of the pyre.

39. Ascend in the flame of the pyre, O my soul! Thy God is like the cold emptiness of the utmost heaven, into which thou radiatest thy little light.

40. When Thou shall know me, O empty God, my flame shall utterly expire in Thy great N. O. X.

41. What shalt Thou be, my God, when I have ceased to love Thee?

42. A worm, a nothing, a nidding knave!

43. But Oh! I love Thee.

44. I have thrown a million flowers from the basket of the Beyond at Thy feet, I have anointed Thee and Thy Staff with oil and blood and kisses.

45. I have kindled Thy marble into life—ay! into death.

46. I have been smitten with the reek of Thy mouth, that drinketh never wine but life.

47. How the dew of the Universe whitens
the lips!

48. Ah! trickling flow of the stars of the
mother Supernal, begone!

49. I Am She that should come, the Virgin
of all men.

50. I am a boy before Thee, O Thou satyr
God.

51. Thou wilt inflict the punishment of
pleasure—Now! Now! Now!

52. Io Pan! Io Pan! I love Thee. I love
Thee.

53. O my God, spare me!

54. Now!

It is done! Death.

55. I cried aloud the word—and it was a
mighty spell to bind the Invisible, an enchant-
ment to unbind the bound; yea, to unbind the
bound.

II

1. O my God! use Thou me again, alway.
For ever! For ever!

2. That which came fire from Thee cometh
water from me; let therefore Thy Spirit lay
hold on me, so that my right hand loose the
lightning.

3. Travelling through space, I saw the on-
rush of two galaxies, butting each other and
goring like bulls upon earth. I was afraid.

4. Thus they ceased fight, and turned upon
me, and I was sorely crushed and torn.

5. I had rather have been trampled by the
World-Elephant.

6. O my God! Thou art my little pet
tortoise!

7. Yet Thou sustainest the World-Elephant.

8. I creep under Thy carapace, like a lover
into the bed of his beautiful; I creep in, and
sit in Thine heart, as cubby and cosy as may be.

9. Thou shelterest me, that I hear not the trumpeting of that World-Elephant.

10. Thou art not worth an obol in the agora; yet Thou art not to be bought at the ransom of the whole Universe.

11. Thou art like a beautiful Nubian slave leaning her naked purple against the green pillars of marble that are above the bath.

12. Wine jets from her black nipples.

13. I drank wine awhile ago in the house of Pertinax. The cup-boy favoured me, and gave me of the right sweet Chian.

14. There was a Doric boy, skilled in feats of strength, an athlete. The full moon fled away angrily down the wrack.

Ah! but we laughed.

15. I was pernicious drunk, O my God! Yet Pertinax brought me to the bridal.

16. I had a crown of thorns for all my dower.

17. Thou art like a goat's horn from Astor, O Thou God of mine, gnarl'd and crook'd and devilish strong.

18. Colder than all the ice of all the glaciers of the Naked Mountain was the wine it poured for me.

19. A wild country and a waning moon.
Clouds scudding over the sky.
A circuit of pines, and of tall yews beyond.
Thou in the midst!
20. O all ye toads and cats, rejoice! Ye
slimy things, come hither!
21. Dance, dance to the Lord our God!
22. He is he! He is he! He is he!
23. Why should I go on?
24. Why? Why? comes the sudden cackle
of a million imps of hell.
25. And the laughter runs.
26. But sickens not the Universe; but shakes
not the stars.
27. God! how I love Thee!
28. I am walking in an asylum; all the men
and women about me are insane.
29. Oh madness! madness! madness! de-
sirable art thou!
30. But I love Thee, O God!
31. These men and women rave and howl;
they froth out folly.
32. I begin to be afraid. I have no check;
I am alone. Alone. Alone.
33. Think, O God, how I am happy in Thy
love.

34. O marble Pan! O false leering face! I love Thy dark kisses, bloody and stinking! O marble Pan! Thy kisses are like sunlight on the blue Ægean; their blood is the blood of the sunset over Athens; their stink is like a garden of Roses of Macedonia.

35. I dreamt of sunset and roses and vines; Thou wast there, O my God, Thou didst habit Thyself as an Athenian courtesan, and I loved Thee.

36. Thou art no dream, O Thou too beautiful alike for sleep and waking!

37. I disperse the insane folk of the earth; I walk alone with my little puppets in the garden.

38. I am Gargantuan great; yon galaxy is but the smoke-ring of mine incense.

39. Burn Thou strange herbs, O God!

40. Brew me a magic liquor, boys, with your glances!

41. The very soul is drunken.

42. Thou art drunken, O my God, upon my kisses.

43. The Universe reels; Thou hast looked upon it.

44. Twice, and all is done.

45. Come, O my God, and let us embrace !
46. Lazily, hungrily, ardently, patiently ; so
will I work.
47. There shall be an End.
48. O God ! O God !
49. I am a fool to love Thee ; Thou art
cruel, Thou withholdest Thyself.
50. Come to me now ! I love Thee ! I love
Thee !
51. O my darling, my darling—Kiss me !
Kiss me ! Ah ! but again.
52. Sleep, take me ! Death, take me ! This
life is too full ; it pains, it slays, it suffices.
53. Let me go back into the world ; yea,
back into the world.

III

1. I was the priest of Ammon-Ra in the temple of Ammon-Ra at Thebai.

2. But Bacchus came singing with his troops of vine-clad girls, of girls in dark mantles; and Bacchus in the midst like a fawn!

3. God! how I ran out in my rage and scattered the chorus!

4. But in my temple stood Bacchus as the priest of Ammon-Ra.

5. Therefore I went wildly with the girls into Abyssinia; and there we abode and rejoiced.

6. Exceedingly; yea, in good sooth!

7. I will eat the ripe and the unripe fruit for the glory of Bacchus.

8. Terraces of ilex, and tiers of onyx and opal and sardonyx leading up to the cool green porch of malachite.

9. Within is a crystal shell, shaped like an oyster—O glory of Priapus! O beatitude of the Great Goddess!

10. Therein is a pearl.

11. O Pearl! thou hast come from the majesty of dread Ammon-Ra.

12. Then I the priest beheld a steady glitter in the heart of the pearl.

13. So bright we could not look! But behold! a blood-red rose upon a rood of glowing gold!

14. So I adored the God. Bacchus! thou art the lover of my God!

15. I who was priest of Ammon-Ra, who saw the Nile flow by for many moons, for many, many moons, am the young fawn of the grey land.

16. I will set up my dance in your conventicles, and my secret loves shall be sweet among you.

17. Thou shalt have a lover among the lords of the grey land.

18. This shall he bring unto thee, without which all is in vain; a man's life spilt for thy love upon Mine Altars.

19. Amen.

20. Let it be soon, O God, my God! I ache for Thee, I wander very lonely among the mad folk, in the grey land of desolation.

21. Thou shalt set up the abominable lonely Thing of wickedness. Oh joy! to lay that corner-stone!

22. It shall stand erect upon the high mountain; only my God shall commune with it.

23. I will build it of a single ruby; it shall be seen from afar off.

24. Come! let us irritate the vessels of the earth: they shall distil strange wine.

25. It grows under my hand: it shall cover the whole heaven.

26. Thou art behind me: I scream with a mad joy.

27. Then said Ithuriel the strong; let Us also worship this invisible marvel!

28. So did they, and the archangels swept over the heaven.

29. Strange and mystic, like a yellow priest invoking mighty flights of great grey birds from the North, so do I stand and invoke Thee!

30. Let them obscure not the sun with their wings and their clamour!

31. Take away form and its following!

32. I am still.

33. Thou art like an osprey among the rice, I am the great red pelican in the sunset waters.

34. I am like a black eunuch ; and Thou art the scimitar. I smite off the head of the light one, the breaker of bread and salt.

35. Yea ! I smite—and the blood makes as it were a sunset on the lapis lazuli of the King's Bedchamber.

36. I smite. The whole world is broken up into a mighty wind, and a voice cries aloud in a tongue that men cannot speak.

37. I know that awful sound of primal joy ; let us follow on the wings of the gale even unto the holy house of Hathor ; let us offer the five jewels of the cow upon her altar !

38. Again the inhuman voice !

39. I rear my Titan bulk into the teeth of the gale, and I smite and prevail, and swing me out over the sea.

40. There is a strange pale God, a god of pain and deadly wickedness.

41. My own soul bites into itself, like a scorpion ringed with fire.

42. That pallid God with face averted, that God of subtlety and laughter, that young Doric God, him will I serve.

43. For the end thereof is torment unspeakable.

44. Better the loneliness of the great grey sea!

45. But ill befall the folk of the grey land, my God!

46. Let me smother them with my roses!

47. Oh Thou delicious God, smile sinister!

48. I pluck Thee, O my God, like a purple plum upon a sunny tree. How Thou dost melt in my mouth, Thou consecrated sugar of the Stars!

49. The world is all grey before mine eyes; it is like an old worn wine-skin.

50. All the wine of it is on these lips.

51. Thou hast begotten me upon a marble Statue, O my God!

52. The body is icy cold with the coldness of a million moons; it is harder than the adamant of eternity. How shall I come forth into the light?

53. Thou art He, O God! O my darling! my child! my plaything! Thou art like a cluster of maidens, like a multitude of swans upon the lake.

54. I feel the essence of softness.

55. I am hard and strong and male; but come Thou! I shall be soft and weak and feminine.

56. Thou shalt crush me in the wine-press of Thy love. My blood shall stain Thy fiery feet with litanies of Love in Anguish.

57. There shall be a new flower in the fields, a new vintage in the vineyards.

58. The bees shall gather a new honey; the poets shall sing a new song.

59. I shall gain the Pain of the Goat for my prize; and the God that sitteth upon the shoulders of Time shall drowse.

60. Then shall all this which is written be accomplished: yea, it shall be accomplished.

IV

1. I am like a maiden bathing in a clear pool of fresh water.

2. O my God! I see Thee dark and desirable, rising through the water as a golden smoke.

3. Thou art altogether golden, the hair and the eyebrows and the brilliant face; even into the finger-tips and toe-tips Thou art one rosy dream of gold.

4. Deep into Thine eyes that are golden my soul leaps, like an archangel menacing the sun.

5. My sword passes through and through Thee; crystalline moons ooze out of Thy beautiful body that is hidden behind the ovals of Thine eyes.

6. Deeper, ever deeper. I fall, even as the whole Universe falls down the abyss of Years.

7. For Eternity calls; the Overworld calls; the world of the Word is awaiting us.

8. Be done with speech, O God! Fasten the fangs of the hound Eternity in this my throat!

9. I am like a wounded bird flapping in circles.

10. Who knows where I shall fall?

11. O blesséd One! O God! O my devourer!

12. Let me fall, fall down, fall away, afar, alone!

13. Let me fall!

14. Nor is there any rest, Sweet Heart, save in the cradle of royal Bacchus, the thigh of the most Holy One.

15. There rest, under the canopy of night.

16. Uranus chid Eros; Marsyas chid Olympus; I chid my beautiful lover with his sunray mane; shall I not sing?

17. Shall not mine incantations bring around me the wonderful company of the wood-gods, their bodies glistening with the ointment of moonlight and honey and myrrh?

18. Worshipful are ye, O my lovers; let us forward to the dimmest hollow!

19. There we will feast upon mandrake and upon moly!

20. There the lovely One shall spread us

His holy banquet. In the brown cakes of corn we shall taste the food of the world, and be strong.

21. In the ruddy and awful cup of death we shall drink the blood of the world, and be drunken!

22. Ohé! the song to Iao, the song to Iao!

23. Come, let us sing to thee, Iacchus invisible, Iacchus triumphant, Iacchus indincible!

24. Iacchus, O Iacchus, O Iacchus, be near us!

25. Then was the countenance of all time darkened, and the true light shone forth.

26. There was also a certain cry in an unknown tongue, whose stridency troubled the still waters of my soul, so that my mind and my body were healed of their disease, self-knowledge.

27. Yea, an angel troubled the waters.

28. This was the cry of Him: IIIIOOShBTh-IO-IIIAMAMThIBI-II.

29. Nor did I sing this for a thousand times a night for a thousand nights before Thou camest, O my flaming God, and pierced me with Thy spear. Thy scarlet robe unfolded the whole

heavens, so that the Gods said: All is burning:
it is the end.

30. Also Thou didst set Thy lips to the wound
and suck out a million eggs. And Thy mother
sat upon them, and lo! stars and stars and
ultimate Things whereof stars are the atoms.

31. Then I perceived Thee, O my God, sit-
ting like a white cat upon the trellis-work of
the arbour; and the hum of the spinning worlds
was but Thy pleasure.

32. O white cat, the sparks fly from Thy
fur! Thou dost crackle with splitting the
worlds.

33. I have seen more of Thee in the white
cat than I saw in the Vision of Aeons.

34. In the boat of Ra did I travel, but I
never found upon the visible Universe any being
like unto Thee!

35. Thou wast like a winged white horse,
and I raced Thee through eternity against the
Lord of the Gods.

36. So still we race!

37. Thou wast like a flake of snow falling
in the pine-clad woods.

38. In a moment Thou wast lost in a wilder-
ness of the like and the unlike.

39. But I beheld the beautiful God at the back of the blizzard—and Thou wast He!

40. Also I read in a great Book.

41. On ancient skin was written in letters of gold: Verbum fit Verbum.

42. Also Vitriol and the hierophant's name

V. V. V. V. V.

43. All this wheeled in fire, in star-fire, rare and far and utterly lonely—even as Thou and I, O desolate soul my God!

44. Yea, and the writing



It is well.

This is the voice which shook the earth.

45. Eight times he cried aloud, and by eight and by eight shall I count Thy favours, Oh Thou Elevenfold God 418!

46. Yea, and by many more; by the ten in the twenty-two directions; even as the perpendicular of the Pyramid—so shall Thy favours be.

47. If I number them, they are One.

48. Excellent is Thy love, Oh Lord! Thou art revealed by the darkness, and he who gropeth in the horror of the groves shall haply catch Thee, even as a snake that seizeth on a little singing-bird.

49. I have caught Thee, O my soft thrush; I am like a hawk of mother-of-emerald; I catch Thee by instinct, though my eyes fail from Thy glory.

50. Yet they are but foolish folk yonder. I see them on the yellow sand, all clad in Tyrian purple.

51. They draw their shining God unto the land in nets; they build a fire to the Lord of Fire, and cry unhallowed words, even the dreadful curse Amri maratza, maratza, atman deona lastadza maratza maritza—marán!

52. Then do they cook the shining god, and gulp him whole.

53. These are evil folk, O beautiful boy! let us pass on to the Otherworld.

54. Let us make ourselves into a pleasant bait, into a seductive shape!

55. I will be like a splendid naked woman with ivory breasts and golden nipples; my whole body shall be like the milk of the stars.

I will be lustrous and Greek, a courtesan of Delos, of the unstable Isle.

56. Thou shalt be like a little red worm on a hook.

57. But thou and I will catch our fish alike.

58. Then wilt thou be a shining fish with golden back and silver belly: I will be like a violent beautiful man, stronger than two score bulls, a man of the West bearing a great sack of precious jewels upon a staff that is greater than the axis of the all.

59. And the fish shall be sacrificed to Thee and the strong man crucified for Me, and Thou and I will kiss, and atone for the wrong of the Beginning; yea, for the wrong of the beginning.

V

1. O my beautiful God ! I swim in Thy heart
like a trout in the mountain torrent.

2. I leap from pool to pool in my joy ; I am
goodly with brown and gold and silver.

3. Why, I am lovelier than the russet autumn
woods at the first snowfall.

4. And the crystal cave of my thought is
lovelier than I.

5. Only one fish-hook can draw me out ; it
is a woman kneeling by the bank of the stream.
It is she that pours the bright dew over herself,
and into the sand so that the river gushes
forth.

6. There is a bird on yonder myrtle ; only
the song of that bird can draw me out of the
pool of Thy heart, O my God !

7. Who is this Neapolitan boy that laughs in
his happiness ? His lover is the mighty crater
of the Mountain of Fire. I saw his charred

limbs borne down the slopes in a stealthy tongue of liquid stone.

8. And Oh! the chirp of the cicada!

9. I remember the days when I was cacique in Mexico.

10. O my God, wast Thou then as now my beautiful lover?

11. Was my boyhood then as now Thy toy, Thy joy?

12. Verily, I remember those iron days.

13. I remember how we drenched the bitter lakes with our torrent of gold; how we sank the treasurable image in the crater of Citlaltepētl.

14. How the good flame lifted us even unto the lowlands, setting us down in the impenetrable forest.

15. Yea, Thou wast a strange scarlet bird with a bill of gold. I was Thy mate in the forests of the lowland; and ever we heard from afar the shrill chant of mutilated priests and the insane clamour of the Sacrifice of Maidens.

16. There was a weird winged God that told us of his wisdom.

17. We attained to be starry grains of gold dust in the sands of a slow river.

18. Yea, and that river was the river of space and time also.

19. We parted thence ; ever to the smaller, ever to the greater, until now, O sweet God, we are ourselves, the same.

20. O God of mine, Thou art like a little white goat with lightning in his horns !

21. I love Thee, I love Thee.

22. Every breath, every word, every thought, every deed is an act of love with Thee.

23. The beat of my heart is the pendulum of love.

24. The songs of me are the soft sighs :

25. The thoughts of me are very rapture :

26. And my deeds are the myriads of Thy children, the stars and the atoms.

27. Let there be nothing !

28. Let all things drop into this ocean of love !

29. Be this devotion a potent spell to exorcise the demons of the Five !

30. Ah God, all is gone ! Thou dost consummate Thy rapture. Falútlí ! Falútlí !

31. There is a solemnity of the silence. There is no more voice at all.

32. So shall it be unto the end. We who

were dust shall never fall away into the dust.

33. So shall it be.

34. Then, O my God, the breath of the Garden of Spices. All these have a savour averse.

35. The cone is cut with an infinite ray; the curve of hyperbolic life springs into being.

36. Farther and farther we float; yet we are still. It is the chain of systems that is falling away from us.

37. First falls the silly world; the world of the old grey land.

38. Falls it unthinkably far, with its sorrowful bearded face presiding over it; it fades to silence and woe.

39. We to silence and bliss, and the face is the laughing face of Eros.

40. Smiling we greet him with the secret signs.

41. He leads us into the Inverted Palace.

42. There is the Heart of Blood, a pyramid reaching its apex down beyond the Wrong of the Beginning.

43. Bury me unto Thy Glory, O beloved, O princely lover of this harlot maiden, within the Sequestered Chamber of the Palace!

44. It is done quickly; yea, the seal is set upon the vault.

45. There is one that shall avail to open it.

46. Nor by memory, nor by imagination, nor by prayer, nor by fasting, nor by scourging, nor by drugs, nor by ritual, nor by meditation; only by passive love shall he avail.

47. He shall await the sword of the Beloved and bare his throat for the stroke.

48. Then shall his blood leap out and write me runes in the sky; yea, write me runes in the sky.

VI

1. Thou wast a priestess, O my God, among the Druids; and we knew the powers of the oak.

2. We made us a temple of stones in the shape of the Universe, even as thou didst wear openly and I concealed.

3. There we performed many wonderful things by midnight.

4. By the waning moon did we work.

5. Over the plain came the atrocious cry of wolves.

6. We answered; we hunted with the pack.

7. We came even unto the new Chapel and Thou didst bear away the Holy Graal beneath Thy Druid vestments.

8. Secretly and by stealth did we drink of the informing sacrament.

9. Then a terrible disease seized upon the folk of the grey land; and we rejoiced.

10. O my God, disguise Thy glory !

11. Come as a thief, and let us steal away
the Sacraments !

12. In our groves, in our cloistral cells, in
our honeycomb of happiness, let us drink, let
us drink !

13. It is the wine that tinges everything
with the true tincture of infallible gold.

14. There are deep secrets in these songs. It
is not enough to hear the bird ; to enjoy song
he must be the bird.

15. I am the bird, and Thou art my song, O
my glorious galloping God !

16. Thou reinest in the stars ; thou drivest
the constellations seven abreast through the
circus of Nothingness.

17. Thou Gladiator God !

18. I play upon mine harp ; Thou fightest
the beasts and the flames.

19. Thou takest Thy joy in the music, and I
in the fighting.

20. Thou and I are beloved of the Emperor.

21. See ! he has summoned us to the Im-
perial dais.

The night falls ; it is a great orgy of worship
and bliss.

22. The night falls like a spangled cloak
from the shoulders of a prince upon a slave.

23. He rises a free man !

24. Cast thou, O prophet, the cloak upon
these slaves !

25. A great night, and scarce fires therein ;
but freedom for the slave that its glory shall
encompass.

26. So also I went down into the great sad
city.

27. There dead Messalina bartered her crown
for poison from the dead Locusta ; there stood
Caligula, and smote the seas of forgetfulness.

28. Who wast Thou, O Caesar, that Thou
knewest God in an horse ?

29. For lo ! we beheld the White Horse of
the Saxon engraven upon the earth ; and we
beheld the Horses of the Sea that flame about
the old grey land, and the foam from their
nostrils enlightens us !

30. Ah ! but I love thee, God !

31. Thou art like a moon upon the ice-
world.

32. Thou art like the dawn of the utmost
snows upon the burnt-up flats of the tiger's
land.

33. By silence and by speech do I worship Thee.

34. But all is in vain.

35. Only Thy silence and Thy speech that worship me avail.

36. Wail, O ye folk of the grey land, for we have drunk your wine, and left ye but the bitter dregs.

37. Yet from these we will distil ye a liquor beyond the nectar of the Gods.

38. There is value in our tincture for a world of Spice and gold.

39. For our red powder of projection is beyond all possibilities.

40. There are few men; there are enough.

41. We shall be full of cup-bearers, and the wine is not stinted.

42. O dear my God! what a feast Thou hast provided.

43. Behold the lights and the flowers and the maidens!

44. Taste of the wines and the cates and the splendid meats!

45. Breathe in the perfumes and the clouds of little gods like wood-nymphs that inhabit the nostrils!

46. Feel with your whole body the glorious smoothness of the marble coolth and the generous warmth of the sun and the slaves!

47. Let the Invisible inform all the devouring Light of its disruptive vigour!

48. Yea! all the world is split apart, as an old grey tree by the lightning!

49. Come, O ye gods, and let us feast.

50. Thou, O my darling, O my ceaseless Sparrow-God, my delight, my desire, my deceiver, come Thou and chirp at my right hand!

51. This was the tale of the memory of Al A'in the priest; yea, of Al A'in the priest.

VII

1. By the burning of the incense was the Word revealed, and by the distant drug.

2. O meal and honey and oil! O beautiful flag of the moon, that she hangs out in the centre of bliss!

3. These loosen the swathings of the corpse; these unbind the feet of Osiris, so that the flaming God may rage through the firmament with his fantastic spear.

4. But of pure black marble is the sorry statue, and the changeless pain of the eyes is bitter to the blind.

5. We understand the rapture of that shaken marble, torn by the throes of the crowned child, the golden rod of the golden God.

6. We know why all is hidden in the stone, within the coffin, within the mighty sepulchre, and we too answer Olalám! Imál! Tutúlu! as it is written in the ancient book.

7. Three words of that book are as life to a new aeon ; no god has read the whole.

8. But Thou and I, O God, have written it page by page.

9. Ours is the elevenfold reading of the Elevenfold word.

10. These seven letters together make seven diverse words ; each word is divine, and seven sentences are hidden therein.

11. Thou art the Word, O my darling, my lord, my master !

12. O come to me, mix the fire and the water, all shall dissolve.

13. I await Thee in sleeping, in waking. I invoke Thee no more ; for Thou art in me, O Thou who hast made me a beautiful instrument tuned to Thy rapture.

14. Yet art Thou ever apart, even as I.

15. I remember a certain holy day in the dusk of the year, in the dusk of the Equinox of Osiris, when first I beheld Thee visibly ; when first the dreadful issue was fought out ; when the Ibis-headed One charmed away the strife.

16. I remember Thy first kiss, even as a maiden should. Nor in the dark byways was there another : Thy kisses abide.

17. There is none other beside Thee in the whole Universe of Love.

18. My God, I love Thee, O Thou goat with gilded horns !

19. Thou beautiful bull of Apis ! Thou beautiful serpent of Apep ! Thou beautiful child of the Pregnant Goddess !

20. Thou hast stirred in Thy sleep, O ancient sorrow of years ! Thou hast raised Thine head to strike, and all is dissolved into the Abyss of Glory.

21. An end to the letters of the words ! An end to the sevenfold speech.

22. Resolve me the wonder of it all into the figure of a gaunt swift camel striding over the sand.

23. Lonely is he, and abominable ; yet hath he gained the crown.

24. Oh rejoice ! rejoice !

25. My God ! O my God ! I am but a speck in the star-dust of ages ; I am the Master of the Secret of Things.

26. I am the Revealer and the Preparer. Mine is the Sword—and the Mitre and the Wingèd Wand !

27. I am the Initiator and the Destroyer.

Mine is the Globe—and the Bennu Bird and the Lotus of Isis my daughter!

28. I am the One beyond these all; and I bear the symbols of the mighty darkness.

29. There shall be a sigil as of a vast black brooding ocean of death and the central blaze of darkness, radiating its night upon all.

30. It shall swallow up that lesser darkness.

31. But in that profound who shall answer:
What is?

32. Not I.

33. Not Thou, O God!

34. Come, let us no more reason together;
let us enjoy! Let us be ourselves, silent, unique,
apart.

35. O lonely woods of the world! In what recesses will ye hide our love?

36. The forest of the spears of the Most High is called Night, and Hades, and the Day of Wrath; but I am His captain, and I bear His cup.

37. Fear me not with my spearmen! They shall slay the demons with their petty prongs.
Ye shall be free.

38. Ah, slaves! ye will not—ye know not
how to will.

39. Yet the music of my spears shall be a song of freedom.

40. A great bird shall sweep from the Abyss of Joy, and bear ye away to be my cup-bearers.

41. Come, O my God, in one last rapture let us attain to the Union with the Many!

42. In the silence of Things, in the Night of Forces, beyond the accursèd domain of the Three, let us enjoy our love!

43. My darling! My darling! away, away beyond the Assembly and the Law and the Enlightenment unto an Anarchy of Solitude and Darkness!

44. For even thus must we veil the brilliance of our Self.

45. My darling! My darling!

46. O my God, but the love in Me bursts over the bonds of Space and Time; my love is spilt among them that love not love.

47. My wine is poured out for them that never tasted wine.

48. The fumes thereof shall intoxicate them and the vigour of my love shall breed mighty children from their maidens.

49. Yea! without draught, without em-

brace:—and the Voice answered Yea! these things shall be.

50. Then I sought a Word for Myself; nay, for myself.

51. And the Word came: O Thou! it is well. Heed naught! I love Thee! I love Thee!

52. Therefore had I faith unto the end of all; yea, unto the end of all.

The full knowledge of the interpretation of this book is concealed from all save only the Sixfold Star.

The Neophyte must nevertheless acquire a copy and thoroughly acquaint himself with the contents. He must commit one chapter to memory.

This copy belongs to

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1. Had ! The manifestation of Nuit.
2. The unveiling of the company of heaven.
3. Every man and every woman is a star.
4. Every number is infinite: there is no difference.
5. Help me, O warrior lord of Thebes, in my unveiling before the children of men !
6. Be thou Hadit, my secret centre, my heart and my tongue !
7. Behold ! it is revealed by Aiwass the minister of Hoor-paar-Kraat.
8. The Khabs is in the Khu, not the Khu in the Khabs.
9. Worship then the Khabs, and behold my light shed over you !
10. Let my servants be few and secret: they shall rule the many and the known.
11. These are fools that men adore; both their Gods and their men are fools.

12. Come forth, O children, under the stars,
and take your fill of love !

13. I am above you and in you. My ecstasy
is in yours. My joy is to see your joy.

14. Above, the gemméd azure is
The naked splendour of Nuit ;
She bends in ecstasy to kiss
The secret ardours of Hadit.
The wingèd globe, the starry blue,
Are mine, O Ankh-af-na-khonsu !

15. Now ye shall know that the chosen
priest and apostle of infinite space is the prince-
priest the Beast ; and in his woman called the
Scarlet Woman is all power given. They shall
gather my children into their fold : they shall
bring the glory of the stars into the hearts of
men.

16. For he is ever a sun, and she is a moon.
But to him is the winged secret flame, and to
her the stooping starlight.

17. But ye are not so chosen.

18. Burn upon their brows, O splendid
serpent !

19. O azure-lidded woman, bend upon them !

20. The key of the rituals is in the Secret
word which I have given unto him.

21. With the God and the Adorer I am nothing: they do not see me. They are upon the earth; I am Heaven, and there is no other God than me, and my lord Hadit.

22. Now, therefore, I am known to ye by my name Nuit, and to him by a secret name which I will give him when at last he knoweth me. Since I am infinite space, and the infinite stars thereof do ye also thus. Bind nothing! Let there be no difference made among you between any one thing and any other thing; for thereby there cometh hurt.

23. But whoso availeth in this, let him be the chief of all!

24. I am Nuit, and my word is six and fifty.

25. Divide, add, multiply, and understand.

26. Then said the prophet and slave of the beauteous one: Who am I, and what shall be the sign? So she answered him, bending down, a lambent flame of blue, all-touching, all-penetrant, her lovely hands upon the black earth, and her lithe body arched for love, and her soft feet not hurting the little flowers: Thou knowest! And the sign shall be my ecstasy, the consciousness of the continuity of existence, the omnipresence of my body.

27. Then the priest answered and said unto the Queen of Space, kissing her lovely brows, and the dew of her light bathing his whole body in a sweet-smelling perfume of sweat: O Nuit, continuous one of Heaven, let it be ever thus; that men speak not of thee as One but as None; and let them speak not of thee at all, since thou art continuous!

28. None, breathed the light, faint and faery, of the stars, and two.

29. For I am divided for love's sake, for the chance of union.

30. This is the creation of the world, that the pain of division is as nothing, and the joy of dissolution all.

31. For these fools of men and their woes care not thou at all! They feel little; what is, is balanced by weak joys; but ye are my chosen ones.

32. Obey my prophet! follow out the ordeals of my knowledge! seek me only! Then the joys of my love will redeem ye from all pain. This is so; I swear it by the vault of my body; by my sacred heart and tongue; by all I can give, by all I desire of ye all.

33. Then the priest fell into a deep trance or

swoon and said unto the Queen of Heaven:
Write unto us the ordeals ; write unto us the
rituals ; write unto us the law !

34. But she said : The ordeals I write not :
the rituals shall be half known and half con-
cealed : the Law is for all.

35. This that thou writest is the threefold
book of Law.

36. My scribe Ankh-af-na-khonsu, the priest
of the princes, shall not in one letter change his
book ; but lest there be folly, he shall comment
thereupon by the wisdom of Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

37. Also the mantras and spells ; the obeah
and the wanga ; the work of the wand and the
work of the sword : these he shall learn and
teach.

38. He must teach ; but he may make severe
the ordeals.

39. The word of the law is *Θελημα*.

40. Who calls us Thelemites will do no
wrong, if he look but close into the word. For
there are therein three grades, the Hermit, and
the Lover, and the man of Earth. Do what
thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

41. The word of Sin is Restriction. O man !
refuse not thy wife, if she will ! O lover, if thou

wilt, depart! There is no bond that can unite the divided but love: all else is a curse. Accurséd! Accurséd! be it to the aeons! Hell!

42. Let it be that state of manyhood bound and loathing. So with thy all; thou hast no right but to do thy will.

43. Do that, and no other shall say nay.

44. For pure will, unassuaged of purpose, delivered from the lust of result, is every way perfect.

45. The Perfect and the Perfect are one Perfect and not two; nay, are none!

46. Nothing is a secret key of this law: sixty-one the Jews called it; I call it eight, eighty, four hundred and eighteen.

47. But they have the half: unite by thy art so that all disappear!

48. My prophet is a fool with his one, one, one; are not they the Ox, and none by the Book?

49. Abrogate are all rituals, all ordeals, all words and signs. Ra-Hoor-Khuit hath taken his seat in the East at the Equinox of the Gods; and let Asar be with Isa, who also are one. But they are not of me. Let Asar be the adorant,

Isa, the sufferer; Hoor in his secret name and splendour is the Lord initiating.

50. There is a word to say about the Hierophantic task. Behold! there are three ordeals in one, and it may be given in three ways. The gross must pass through fire; let the fine be tried in intellect, and the lofty chosen ones in the highest! Thus ye have star and star, system and system: let not one know well the other!

51. There are four gates to one palace; the floor of that palace is of silver and gold; lapis-lazuli and jasper are there; and all rare scents; jasmine and rose, and the emblems of death. Let him enter in turn or at once the four gates; let him stand on the floor of the palace. Will he not sink? Ho! warrior, if thy servant sink? But there are means and means. Be goodly therefore: dress ye all in fine apparel; eat rich foods and drink sweet wines and wines that foam! Also, take your fill and will of love as ye will, when, where and with whom ye will! But always unto me.

52. If this be not aright; if ye confound the space-marks, saying: They are one; or saying, They are many; if the ritual be not ever unto

me: then expect the direful judgments of Ra-Hoor-Khuit !

53. This shall regenerate the world, the little world my sister, my heart and my tongue, unto whom I send this kiss. Also, O scribe and prophet, though thou be of the princes, it shall not assuage thee nor absolve thee. But ecstasy be thine and joy of earth: ever To me ! To me !

54. Change not as much as the style of a letter; for behold ! thou, O prophet, shalt not behold all these mysteries hidden therein.

55. The child of thy bowels, *he* shall behold them.

56. Expect him not from the East, nor from the West; for from no expected house cometh that child. Aum ! All words are sacred and all prophets true; save only that they understand a little; solve the first half of the equation, leave the second unattacked. But thou hast all in the clean light, and some, though not all, in the dark.

57. Invoke me under my stars ! Love is the law, love under will. Nor let the fools mistake love; for there are love and love. There is the dove, and there is the serpent. Choose ye well !

He, my prophet, hath chosen, knowing the law of the fortress, and the great mystery of the House of God.

All these old letters of my Book are aright; but ν is not the Star. This also is secret: my prophet shall reveal it to the wise.

58. I give unimaginable joys on earth: certainty, not faith, while in life, upon death; peace unalterable, rest, ecstasy; nor do I demand aught in sacrifice.

59. My incense is of resinous woods and gums; and there is no blood therein: because of my hair the trees of Eternity.

60. My number is 11, as all their numbers who are of us. The Five Pointed Star, with a Circle in the Middle, and the circle is Red. My colour is black to the blind, but the blue and gold are seen of the seeing. Also I have a secret glory for them that love me.

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. Ye shall gather goods and store of women and spices; ye shall wear rich jewels; ye shall exceed the nations of earth in splendour and 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 head-dress. 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!

62. At all my meetings with you shall the priestess say—and her eyes shall burn with desire as she stands bare and rejoicing in my secret temple—To me! To me! calling forth the flame of the hearts of all in her love-chant.

63. Sing the rapturous love-song unto me! Burn to me perfumes! Wear to me jewels! Drink to me, for I love you! I love you!

64. I am the blue-lidded daughter of Sunset; I am the naked brilliance of the voluptuous night-sky.

65. To me! To me!

66. The Manifestation of Nuit is at an end.

1. Nu! the hiding of Hadit.
2. Come! all ye, and learn the secret that hath not yet been revealed. I, Hadit, am the complement of Nu, my bride. I am not extended, and Khabs is the name of my House.
3. In the sphere I am everywhere the centre, as she, the circumference, is nowhere found.
4. Yet she shall be known and I never.
5. Behold! the rituals of the old time are black. Let the evil ones be cast away; let the good ones be purged by the prophet! Then shall this knowledge go aright.
6. I am the flame that burns in every heart of man, and in the core of every star. I am Life, and the giver of Life; yet therefore is the knowledge of me the knowledge of death.
7. I am the Magician and the Exorcist. I am the axle of the wheel, and the cube in the circle. "Come unto me" is a foolish word: for it is I that go.

8. Who worshipped Heru-pa-kraath have worshipped me; ill, for I am the worshipper.

9. Remember all ye that existence is pure joy; that all the sorrows are but shadows; they pass and are done; but there is that which remains.

10. O prophet! thou hast ill will to learn this writing.

11. I see thee hate the hand and the pen; but I am stronger.

12. Because of me in Thee which thou knewest not.

13. For why? Because thou wast the knower, and me.

14. Now let there be a veiling of this shrine: now let the light devour men and eat them up with blindness!

15. For I am perfect, being Not; and my number is nine by the fools; but with the just I am eight, and one in eight: Which is vital, for I am none indeed. The Empress and the King are not of me; for there is a further secret.

16. I am the Empress and the Hierophant. Thus eleven, as my bride is eleven.

17. Hear me, ye people of sighing!

The sorrows of pain and regret

Are left to the dead and the dying,
The folk that not know me as yet.

18. These are dead, these fellows; they feel not. We are not for the poor and for the sad: the lords of the earth are our kinsfolk.

19. Is a God to live in a dog? No! but the highest are of us. They shall rejoice, our chosen: who sorroweth is not of us.

20. Beauty and strength, leaping laughter and delicious languor, force and fire, are of us.

21. We have nothing with the outcast and the unfit: let them die in their misery. For they feel not. Compassion is the vice of kings: stamp down the wretched and the weak: this is the law of the strong: this is our law and the joy of the world. Think not, O king, upon that lie: That Thou Must Die: verily thou shalt not die, but live. Now let it be understood: if the body of the King dissolve, he shall remain in pure ecstasy for ever. Nuit! Hadit! Ra-Hoor-Khuit! The Sun, Strength and Sight, Light; these are for the servants of the Star and the Snake.

22. I am the Snake that giveth Knowledge and Delight and bright glory, and stir the hearts of men with drunkenness. 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, man! lust, enjoy all things of sense and rapture: fear not that any God shall deny thee for this.

23. I am alone: there is no God where I am.

24. Behold! these be grave mysteries; for there are also of my friends who be hermits. Now think not to find them in the forest or on the mountain; but in beds of purple, caressed by magnificent beasts of women with large limbs, and fire and light in their eyes, and masses of flaming hair about them; there shall ye find them. Ye shall see them at rule, at victorious armies, at all the joy; and there shall be in them a joy a million times greater than this. Beware lest any force another, King against King! Love one another with burning hearts; on the low men triumph in the fierce lust of your pride, in the day of your wrath.

25. Ye are against the people, O my chosen!

26. I am the secret serpent coiled about to spring: in my coiling there is joy. If I lift up my head, I and my Nuit are one. If I droop

down mine head, and shoot forth venom, there is rapture of the earth, and I and the earth are one.

27. There is a great danger in me; for who doth not understand these runes shall make a great miss. He shall fall down into the pit called Because, and there he shall perish with the dogs of Reason.

28. Now a curse upon Because and his kin!

29. May Because be accurséd for ever!

30. If Will stops and cries Why, invoking Because, then Will stops and does nought.

31. If Power asks Why, then is Power weakness.

32. Also reason is a lie; for there is a factor infinite and unknown; and all their words are skew-wise.

33. Enough of Because! Be he damned for a dog!

34. But ye, O my people, rise up and awake!

35. Let the rituals be rightly performed with joy and beauty!

36. There are rituals of the elements and feasts of the times.

37. A feast for the first night of the Prophet and his Bride!

38. A feast for the three days of the writing of the Book of the Law.

39. A feast for Tahuti and the children of the Prophet—secret, O Prophet!

40. A feast for the Supreme Ritual, and a feast for the Equinox of the Gods.

41. A feast for fire and a feast for water; a feast for life and a greater feast for death!

42. A feast every day in your hearts in the joy of my rapture!

43. A feast every night unto Nu, and the pleasure of uttermost delight!

44. Aye! Feast! Rejoice! there is no dread hereafter. There is the dissolution, and eternal ecstasy in the kisses of Nu.

45. There is death for the dogs.

46. Dost thou fail? Art thou sorry? Is fear in thine heart?

47. Where I am these are not.

48. Pity not the fallen! I never knew them. I am not for them. I console not: I hate the consoled and the consoler.

49. I am unique and conqueror. I am not of the slaves that perish. Be they damned and dead! Amen. (This is of the 4: there is a fifth who is invisible, and therein am I as a babe in an egg.)

50. Blue am I and gold in the light of my bride: but the red gleam is in my eyes; and my spangles are purple and green.

51. Purple beyond purple: it is the light higher than eyesight.

52. There is a veil: that veil is black. It is the veil of the modest woman; it is the veil of sorrow, and the pall of death: this is none of me. Tear down that lying spectre of the centuries: veil not your vices in virtuous words: these vices are my services; ye do well, and I will reward you here and hereafter.

53. Fear not, O prophet, when these words are said, thou shalt not be sorry. Thou art emphatically my chosen; and blesséd are the eyes that thou shalt look upon with gladness. But I will hide thee in a mask of sorrow: they that see thee shall fear thou art fallen: but I lift thee up.

54. Now shall they who cry aloud the folly that thou meanest nought avail; thou shalt reveal it: thou availest; they are the slaves of because: they are not of me. The stops as thou wilt; the letters? change them not in style or value!

55. Thou shalt obtain the order and value

of the English Alphabet; thou shalt find new symbols to attribute them unto.

56. Begone! ye mockers; even though ye laugh in my honour ye shall laugh not long: then when you are sad know that I have forsaken you.

57. He that is righteous shall be righteous still; he that is filthy shall be filthy still.

58. Yea! deem not of change: ye shall be as ye are, and not other. Therefore the kings of the earth shall be kings for ever. The slaves shall serve. There is none that shall be cast down or lifted up: all is ever as it was. Yet there are masked ones my servants: it may be that yonder beggar is a King. A King may choose his garments as he will: there is no certain test: but a beggar cannot hide his poverty.

59. Beware therefore! Love all, lest perchance is a King concealed! Say you so? Fool! If he be a King, thou canst not hurt him.

60. Therefore strike hard and low, and to hell with them, master!

61. There is a light before thine eyes, O prophet, a light undesired, most desirable.

62. I am uplifted in thine heart; and the kisses of the stars rain hard upon thy body.

63. Thou art exhaust in the voluptuous fulness of the inspiration: the expiration is sweeter than death, more rapid and laughterful than a caress of Hell's own worm.

64. Oh! thou art overcome: we are upon thee; our delight is all over thee: hail! hail! prophet of Nu! prophet of Had! prophet of Ra-Hoor-Khu! Now rejoice! now come in our splendour and rapture! Come in our passionate peace, and write sweet words for the Kings!

65. I am the Master: thou art the Holy Chosen One.

66. Write, and find ecstasy in writing! Work, and be our bed in working! Thrill with the joy of life and death! Ah! thy death shall be lovely: whoso seeth it shall be glad. Thy death shall be the seal of the promise of our agelong love. Come! lift up thine heart and rejoice! We are one; we are none.

67. Hold! Hold! Bear up in thy rapture; fall not in swoon of the excellent kisses!

68. Harden! Hold up thyself! Lift thine head! breathe not so deep—die!

69. Ah! Ah! What do I feel? Is the word exhausted?

70. There is help and hope in other spells. Wisdom says: be strong! then canst thou bear more joy. Be not animal; refine thy rapture! If thou drink, drink by the eight and ninety rules of art: if thou love, exceed by delicacy; and if thou do aught joyous, let there be subtlety therein!

71. But exceed! exceed!

72. Strive ever to more! and if thou art truly mine—and doubt it not, an if thou art ever joyous!—death is the crown of all.

73. Ah! Ah! Death! Death! thou shalt long for death. Death is forbidden, O man, unto thee.

74. The length of thy longing shall be the strength of its glory. He that lives long and desires death much is ever the King among the Kings.

75. Aye! listen to the numbers and the words:

76. 4 6 3 8 A B K 2 4 A L G M O R 3
Y X 24 89 R P S T O V A L. What meaneth this, O prophet? Thou knowest not; nor shalt thou know ever. There cometh one to follow

thee: he shall expound it. But remember, O chosen one, to be me; to follow the love of Nu in the star-lit heaven; to look forth upon men, to tell them this glad word.

77. O be thou proud and mighty among men!

78. Lift up thyself! for there is none like unto thee among men or among Gods! Lift up thyself, O my prophet, thy stature shall surpass the stars. They shall worship thy name, foursquare, mystic, wonderful, the number of the man; and the name of thy house 418.

79. The end of the hiding of Hadit; and blessing and worship to the prophet of the lovely Star!

1. Abrahadabra! the reward of Ra-Hoor-Khut.

2. There is a division hither homeward; there is a word not known. Spelling is defunct; all is not aught. Before! Hold! Raise the spell of Ra-Hoor-Khuit!

3. Now let it be first understood that I am a god of War and of Vengeance. I shall deal hardly with them.

4. Choose ye an island!

5. Fortify it!

6. Dung it about with enginery of war!

7. I will give you a war-engine.

8. With it ye shall smite the peoples; and none shall stand before you.

9. Lurk! Withdraw! Upon them! this is the Law of the Battle of Conquest: thus shall my worship be about my secret house.

10. Get the stélé of revealing itself; set it in thy secret temple—and that temple is al-

ready aright disposed—and it shall be your Kiblah for ever. It shall not fade, but miraculous colour shall come back to it day after day. Close it in locked glass for a proof to the world.

11. This shall be your only proof. I forbid argument. Conquer! That is enough. I will make easy to you the abstruccion from the ill-ordered house in the Victorious City. Thou shalt thyself convey it with worship, O prophet, though thou likest it not. Thou shalt have danger and trouble. Ra-Hoor-Khu is with thee. Worship me with fire and blood; worship me with swords and with spears. Let the woman be girt with a sword before me: let blood flow to my name. Trample down the Heathen; be upon them, O warrior, I will give you of their flesh to eat!

12. Sacrifice cattle, little and big: after a child.

13. But not now.

14. Ye shall see that hour, O blessed Beast, and thou the Scarlet Concubine of his desire!

15. Ye shall be sad thereof.

16. Deem not too eagerly to catch the

promises; fear not to undergo the curses. Ye, even ye, know not this meaning all.

17. Fear not at all; fear neither men, nor Fates, nor gods, nor anything. Money fear not, nor laughter of the folk folly, nor any other power in heaven or upon the earth or under the earth. Nu is your refuge as Hadit your light; and I am strength, force, vigour of your arms.

18. Mercy let be off: damn them who pity! Kill and torture; spare not; be upon them!

19. That stélé they shall call the Abomination of Desolation; count well its name, and it shall be to you as 718.

20. Why? Because of the fall of Because, that he is not there again.

21. Set up my image in the East: thou shalt buy thee an image which I will show thee, especial, not unlike the one thou knowest. And it shall suddenly be easy for thee to do this.

22. The other images group around me to support me: let all be worshipped, for they shall cluster to exalt me. I am the visible object of worship; the others are secret; for the Beast and his Bride are they: and for the

winners of the Ordeal x. What is this? Thou shalt know.

23. For perfume mix meal and honey and thick leavings of red wine: then oil of Abramelin and olive oil, and afterward soften and smooth down with rich fresh blood!

24. The best blood is of the moon, monthly: then the fresh blood of a child, or dropping from the host of heaven: then of enemies; then of the priest or of the worshippers: last of some beast, no matter what.

25. This burn: of this make cakes and eat unto me. This hath also another use; let it be laid before me, and kept thick with perfumes of your orison: it shall become full of beetles as it were and creeping things sacred unto me.

26. These slay, naming your enemies; and they shall fall before you.

27. Also these shall breed lust and power of lust in you at the eating thereof.

28. Also ye shall be strong in war.

29. Moreover, be they long kept, it is better; for they swell with my force. All before me.

30. My altar is of open brass work: burn thereon in silver or gold!

31. There cometh a rich man from the West
who shall pour his gold upon thee.

32. From gold forge steel!

33. Be ready to fly or smite!

34. But your holy place shall be untouched
throughout the centuries: though with fire
and sword it be burnt down and shattered, yet
an invisible house there standeth, and shall
stand until the fall of the Great Equinox;
when Hrumachis shall arise and the double-
wanded one assume my throne and place.
Another prophet shall arise, and bring fresh
fever from the skies; another woman shall
awake the lust and worship of the Snake;
another soul of God and beast shall mingle in
the globéd priest; another sacrifice shall stain
the tomb; another king shall reign; and bless-
ing no longer be poured to the Hawk-headed
mystical Lord!

35. The half of the Word of Heru-ra-ha,
called Hoor-pa-kraat and Ra-Hoor-Khut.

36. Then said the prophet unto the God:

37. I adore thee in the song—

I am the Lord of Thèbes, and I

The inspired forth-speaker of Mentu;

For me unveils the veiled sky,
The self-slain Ankh-af-na-khonsu
Whose words are truth. I invoke, I greet
Thy presence, O Ra-Hoor-Khuit !

Unity uttermost showed !
I adore the might of Thy breath,
Supreme and terrible God,
Who makest the gods and death
To tremble before Thee :—
I, I adore thee !

Appear on the throne of Ra !
Open the ways of the Khu !
Lighten the ways of the Ka !
The ways of the Khabs run through
To stir me or to still me !
Aum ! let it fill me !

38. So that thy light is in me ; and its red
flame is as a sword in my hand to push thy
order. There is a secret door that I shall
make to establish thy way in all the quarters
(there are the adorations, as thou hast written)
as it is said :

The Light is mine ; its rays consume
Me : I have made a secret door

Into the House of Ra and Tum,
Of Khephra, and of Ahathoor.
I am thy Theban, O Mentu,
The prophet Ankh-af-na-khonsu !

By Bes-na-Maut my breast I beat ;
By wise Ta-Nech I weave my spell.
Show thy star-splendour, O Nuith !
Bid me within thine House to dwell,
O winged snake of light, Hadith !
Abide with me, Ra-Hoor-Khuit !

39. All this and a book to say how thou didst come hither and a reproduction of this ink and paper for ever—for in it is the word secret and not only in the English—and thy comment upon this the Book of the Law shall be printed beautifully in red ink and black upon beautiful paper made by hand ; and to each man and woman that thou meetest, were it but to dine or to drink at them, it is the Law to give. Then they shall chance to abide in this bliss or no ; it is no odds. Do this quickly !

40. But the work of the comment ? That is easy ; and Hadit burning in thy heart shall make swift and secure thy pen.

41. Establish at thy Kaaba a clerk-house:
all must be done well and with business way.

42. The ordeals thou shalt oversee thyself,
save only the blind ones. Refuse none, but
thou shalt know and destroy the traitors. I
am Ra-Hoor-Khuit; and I am powerful to
protect my servant. Success is thy proof:
argue not; convert not; talk not overmuch!
Them that seek to entrap thee, to overthrow
thee, them attack without pity or quarter;
and destroy them utterly. Swift as a trodden
serpent turn and strike! Be thou yet deadlier
than he! Drag down their souls to awful tor-
ment: laugh at their fear: spit upon them!

43. Let the Scarlet Woman beware! If
pity and compassion and tenderness visit her
heart; if she leave my work to toy with old
sweetnesses; then shall my vengeance be
known. I will slay me her child: I will
alienate her heart: I will cast her out from
men: as a shrinking and despised harlot shall
she crawl through dusk wet streets, and die
cold and an-hungered.

44. But let her raise herself in pride! Let
her follow me in my way! Let her work the
work of wickedness! Let her kill her heart!

Let her be loud and adulterous; let her be covered with jewels, and rich garments, and let her be shameless before all men!

45. Then will I lift her to pinnacles of power: then will I breed from her a child mightier than all the kings of the earth. I will fill her with joy: with my force shall she see and strike at the worship of Nu: she shall achieve Hadit.

46. I am the warrior Lord of the Forties: the Eighties cower before me, and are abased. I will bring you to victory and joy: I will be at your arms in battle and ye shall delight to slay. Success is your proof; courage is your ardour; go on, go on, in my strength; and ye shall turn not back for any!

47. This book shall be translated into all tongues: but always with the original in the writing of the Beast; for in the chance shape of the letters and their position to one another: in these are mysteries that no Beast shall divine. Let him not seek to try: but one cometh after him, whence I say not, who shall discover the key of it all. Then this line drawn is a key: then this circle squared in its failure is a key also. And Abrahadabra. It shall be his child

and that strangely. Let him not seek after this;
for thereby alone can he fall from it.

48. Now this mystery of the letters is done,
and I want to go on to the holier place.

49. I am a secret fourfold word, the blasphemy against all gods of men.

50. Curse them! Curse them! Curse them!

51. With my Hawk's head I peck at the
eyes of Jesus as he hangs upon the cross.

52. I flap my wings in the face of Mohammed
and blind him.

53. With my claws I tear out the flesh of the
Indian and the Buddhist, Mongol and Din.

54. Bahlasti! Ompehda! I spit on your
crapulous creeds.

55. Let Mary inviolate be torn upon wheels:
for her sake let all chaste women be utterly
despised among you!

56. Also for beauty's sake and love's!

57. Despise also all cowards; professional
soldiers who dare not fight, but play: all fools
despise!

58. But the keen and the proud, the royal
and the lofty; ye are brothers!

59. As brothers fight ye!

60. There is no law beyond Do what thou wilt.

61. There is an end of the word of the God enthroned in Ra's seat, lightening the girders of the soul.

62. To Me do ye reverence; to me come ye through tribulation of ordeal, which is bliss.

63. The fool readeth this Book of the Law, and its comment; and he understandeth it not.

64. Let him come through the first ordeal and it will be to him as silver.

65. Through the second gold.

66. Through the third, stones of precious water.

67. Through the fourth, ultimate sparks of the intimate fire.

68. Yet to all it shall seem beautiful. Its enemies who say not so, are mere liars.

69. There is success.

70. I am the Hawk-Headed Lord of Silence and of Strength; my nemyss shrouds the night-blue sky.

71. Hail! ye twin warriors about the pillars of the world! for your time is nigh at hand.

72. I am the Lord of the Double Wand of Power; the wand of the Force of Coph Nia—but my left hand is empty, for I have crushed an Universe; and nought remains.

73. Paste the sheets from right to left and from top to bottom: then behold!

74. There is a splendour in my name hidden and glorious, as the sun of midnight is ever the son.

75. The ending of the words is the Word Abrahadabra. The Book of the Law is Written and Concealed. Aum. Ha.

The full knowledge of the interpretation of this book is concealed from all.

The Zelator must nevertheless acquire a copy and thoroughly acquaint himself with the contents. He must commit one chapter to memory.

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XXVII

BEING

THE BOOK OF THE
TRIGRAMS OF THE
MUTATIONS OF
THE TAO WITH THE
YIN AND THE YANG



PUBLICATION IN CLASS A

IMPRIMATUR. V. V. V. V. V. Pro Coll. Summ.

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Imp.

THE BOOK OF THE TRIGRAMS OF
THE MUTATIONS OF THE TAO WITH
THE YIN AND THE YANG

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•

Here is Nothing under its three forms. It is
not, yet informeth all things.

•
•
—

Now cometh the glory of the Single One, as an
imperfection and stain.

•
•
— —

But by the Weak One the Mother was it equi-
brated.

•
—
•

Also the purity was divided by Strength, the
force of the Demiurge.



And the Cross was formulated in the Universe
that as yet was not.



But now the Imperfection became manifest,
presiding over the fading of perfection.



Also the Woman arose, and veiled the Upper
Heaven with her body of stars.



Now then a giant arose, of terrible strength;
and asserted the Spirit in a secret rite.



And the Master of the Temple balancing all
things arose; his stature was above the Heaven
and below Earth and Hell.



Against him the Brothers of the Left-hand Path, confusing the symbols. They concealed their horror [in this symbol]; for in truth they were $\overline{\overline{\cdot}}$



The master flamed forth as a star and set a guard of Water in every Abyss.



Also certain secret ones concealed the Light of Purity in themselves, protecting it from the Persecutions.



Likewise also did certain sons and daughters of Hermes and of Aphrodite, more openly



But the Enemy confused them. They pretended to conceal that Light, that they might betray it, and profane it.



Yet certain holy nuns concealed the secret in songs upon the lyre.



Now did the Horror of Time pervert all things, hiding the Purity with a loathsome thing, a thing unnameable.



Yea, and there arose sensualists upon the firmament, as a foul stain of storm upon the sky.



And the Black Brothers raised their heads; yea, they unveiled themselves without shame or fear.



Also there rose up a soul of filth and of weakness, and it corrupted all the rule of the Tao.



Then only was Heaven established to bear
sway; for only in the lowest corruption is form
manifest.



Also did Heaven manifest in violent light,



And in soft light.



Then were the waters gathered together from
the heaven,



And a crust of earth concealed the core of
flame.



Around the globe gathered the wide air,



And men began to light fires upon the earth.



Therefore was the end of it sorrow ; yet in that
sorrow a sixfold star of glory whereby they
might see to return unto the stainless Abode ;
yea, unto the Stainless Abode.

The full knowledge of the interpretation of this
book is concealed from all.

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I

8

فل هو الله احد الله الصمد لم يلد ولم يولد ولم
يكن له كفوا احد

o. O my God ! One is Thy Beginning ! One is Thy Spirit, and Thy Permutation One !

1. Let me extol Thy perfections before men.

2. In the Image of a Sixfold Star that flameth across the Vault inane, let me re-veil Thy perfections.

3. Thou hast appeared unto me as an aged God, a venerable God, the Lord of Time, bearing a sharp sickle.

4. Thou hast appeared unto me as a jocund and ruddy God, full of Majesty, a King, a Father in his prime. Thou didst bear the sceptre of the Universe, crowned with the Wheel of the Spirit.

5. Thou hast appeared unto me with sword and spear, a warrior God in flaming armour among Thine horsemen.

6. Thou hast appeared unto me as a young and brilliant God, a god of music and beauty, even as a young god in his strength, playing upon the lyre.

7. Thou hast appeared unto me as the white foam of Ocean gathered into limbs whiter than the foam, the limbs of a miracle of women, as a goddess of extreme love, bearing the girdle of gold.

8. Thou hast appeared to me as a young boy mischievous and lovely, with Thy winged globe and its serpents set upon a staff.

9. Thou hast appeared to me as an huntress among Thy dogs, as a goddess virginal chaste, as a moon among the faded oaks of the wood of years.

10. But I was deceived by none of these. All these I cast aside, crying : Begone ! So that all these faded from my vision.

11. Also I welded together the Flaming Star and the Sixfold Star in the forge of my soul, and behold ! a new star 418 that is above all these.

12. Yet even so was I not deceived ; for the crown hath twelve rays.

13. And these twelve rays are one.

II

7

o. Now then I saw these things averse and evil; and they were not, even as Thou art Not.

1. I saw the twin heads that ever battle against one another, so that all their thought is a confusion. I saw Thee in these.

2. I saw the darkeners of wisdom, like black apes chattering vile nonsense. I saw Thee in these.

3. I saw the devouring mothers of Hell, that eat up their children—O ye that are without understanding! I saw Thee in these.

4. I saw the merciless and the unmajestic like harpies tearing their foul food. I saw Thee in these.

5. I saw the burning ones, giants like volcanoes belching out the black vomit of fire and smoke in their fury. I saw Thee in these.

6. I saw the petty, the quarrelsome, the selfish,—they were like men, O Lord, they were even like unto men. I saw Thee in these.

7. I saw the ravens of death, that flew with hoarse cries upon the carrion earth. I saw Thee in these.

8. I saw the lying spirits like frogs upon the earth, and upon the water, and upon the treacherous metal that corrodeth all things and abideth not. I saw Thee in these.

9. I saw the obscene ones, bull-men linked in the abyss of putrefaction, that gnawed each other's tongues for pain. I saw Thee in these.

10. I saw the Woman. O my God, I beheld the image thereof, even as a lovely shape that concealeth a black monkey, even as a figure that draweth with her hands small images of men down into hell. I saw her from the head to the navel a woman, from the navel to the feet of her a man. I saw Thee even in her.

11. For mine was the keyword to the Closed Palace 418 and mine the reins of the Chariot of the Sphinxes, black and white.

But I was not deceived by anything of all these things.

12. For I expanded it by my subtlety into Twelve Rays of the Crown.

13. And these twelve rays were One.

III

N

o. Say thou that He God is one; God is the Everlasting One; nor hath He any Equal, or any Son, or any Companion. Nothing shall stand before His face.

1. Even for five hundred and eleven times nightly for one and forty days did I cry aloud unto the Lord the affirmation of His Unity.

2. Also did I glorify His wisdom, whereby He made the worlds.

3. Yea, I praised Him for His intelligible essence, whereby the universe became light.

4. I did thank Him for His manifold mercy; I did worship His magnificence and majesty.

5. I trembled before His might.

6. I delighted in the Harmony and Beauty of His Essence.

7. In His Victory I pursued His enemies; yea I drave them down the steep; I thundered after them into the utmost abyss; yea, therein I partook of the glory of my Lord.

8. His Splendour shone upon me ; I adored His adorable splendour.

9. I rested myself, admiring the Stability of Him, how the shaking of His Universe, the dissolution of all things, should move Him not.

10. Yea, verily, I the Lord Viceregent of His Kingdom, I, Adonai, who speak unto my servant V. V. V. V. V. did rule and govern in His place.

11. Yet also did I formulate the word of double power in the Voice of the Master, even the word 418.

12. And all these things deceived me not, for I expanded them by my subtlety into the Twelve Rays of the Crown.

13. And these twelve rays were One.

IV

7

o. Also the little child, the lover of Adonai, even V. V. V. V. V., reflecting the glory of Adonai, lifted up his voice and said :

1. Glory to God, and Thanksgiving to God !
There is One God alone, and God is exceeding great. He is about us, and there is no strength save in Him the exalted, the great.

2. Thus did V. V. V. V. V. become mad, and wend about naked.

3. And all these things fled away, for he understood them all, that they were but as old rags upon the Divine Perfection.

4. Also he pitied them all, that they were but reflections distorted.

5. Also he smote them, lest they should bear rule over the just.

6. Also he harmonized them into one picture, beautiful to behold.

7. And having thus conquered them, there

was a certain glamour of holiness even in the hollow sphere of outward brilliance.

8. So that all became splendid.

9. And having firmly stablished them in order and disposition,

10. He proclaimed the perfection, the bride, the delight of God in His creation.

11. But though thus he worked, he tried ever his work by the Star 418.

12. And it deceived him not; for by his subtlety he expanded it all into the Twelve Rays of the Crown.

13. And these twelve rays were One.

V

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o. In the place of the cross the indivisible point which hath no points nor parts nor magnitude. Nor indeed hath it position, being beyond space. Nor hath it existence in time, for it is beyond Time. Nor hath it cause or effect, seeing that its Universe is infinite every way, and partaketh not of these our conceptions.

1. So wrote *ὁ ἄμῃ* the Exempt Adept, and the laughter of the Masters of the Temple abashed him not.

2. Nor was he ashamed, hearing the laughter of the little dogs of hell.

3. For he abode in his place, and his falsehood was truth in his place.

4. The little dogs cannot correct him, for they can do naught but bark.

5. The masters cannot correct him, for they say: Come and see.

6. And I came and saw, even I, Perdurabo,
the Philosophus of the Outer College.

7. Yea, even I the man beheld this wonder.

8. And I could not deliver it unto myself.

9. That which established me is invisible
and unknowable in its essence.

10. Only they who know IT may be known.

11. For they have the genius of the mighty
sword 418.

12. And they are not deceived by any of
these things; for by their subtlety do they
expand them all into the Twelve Rays of the
Crown.

13. And these twelve rays are One.

VI

ת

o. Deeper and deeper into the mire of things !
Farther and farther into the never-ending
Expansion of the Abyss.

1. The great goddess that bendeth over the
Universe is my mistress; I am the winged
globe at her heart.

2. I contract ever as she ever expandeth;

3. At the end it is all one.

4. Our loves have brought to birth the Father
and Creator of all things.

5. He hath established the elements; the
aether, the air, the water, the earth, and the
fire.

6. He hath established the wandering stars
in their courses.

7. He hath ploughed with the seven stars
of his Plough, that the Seven might move in-
deed, yet ever point to the unchanging One.

8. He hath established the Eight Belts, wherewith he hath girdled the globes.

9. He hath established the Trinity of Triads in all things, forcing fire into fire, and ordering all things in the Stable Abode of the Kings of Aegypt.

10. He hath established His rule in His kingdom.

11. Yet the Father also boweth unto the Power of the Star 418 and thereby

12. In his subtlety He expandeth it all into twelve rays of the Crown.

13. And these twelve rays are One.

VII

8

o. Then in the might of the Lion did I formulate unto myself that holy and formless fire, **שקדש**, which darteth and flasheth through the depths of the Universe.

1. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the earth melted into a liquor clear as water.

2. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the water smoked into a lucid air.

3. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the air ignited, and became Fire.

4. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh, O Lord, the Fire dissipated into Space.

5. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh, O Lord, the Space resolved itself into a Profundity of Mind.

6. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the Mind of the Father was broken up into the brilliance of our Lord the Sun.

7. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the Brilliance of our Lord was absorbed in the Naught of our Lady of the Body of the Milk of the Stars.

8. Then only was the Fire Qadosh extinguished, when the Enterer was driven back from the threshold,

9. And the Lord of Silence was established upon the Lotus flower.

10. Then was accomplished all that which was to be accomplished.

11. And All and One and Naught were slain in the slaying of the Warrior 418,

12. In the slaying of the subtlety that expanded all these things into the Twelve Rays of the Crown,

13. That returned unto One, and beyond One, even unto the vision of the Fool in his folly that chanted the word Ararita, and beyond the Word and the Fool; yea, beyond the Word and the Fool.

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