

## Eremiados Course Lesson Twenty-Four



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Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing

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Templum de Octo Rosae Mysticus



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Eremiados Temple Tiron Grade RITUAL Paper No. 1

## THE RITE OF THE SQUARE EARTH CROSS

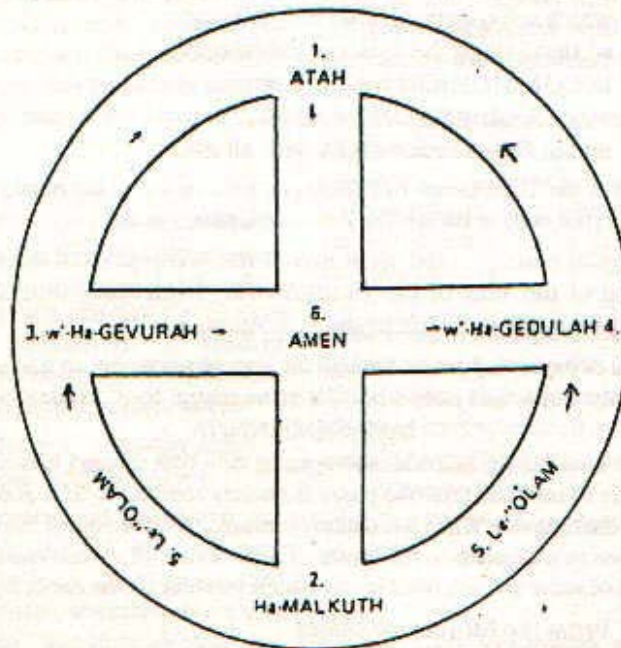
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**GESTURES:** (Numbers refer to Figure 1):

**Words**

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Touch the <b>thumb</b> to the brow.  | 'Atah             |
| 2. Touch the <b>little finger</b> to the navel.   | ha - Malkuth      |
| 3. Touch the <b>ring finger</b> to the left shoulder.   | w' - ha - Gevurah |
| 4. Touch the <b>forefinger</b> to the right shoulder.   | w' - ha - Gedulah |
| 5. Bring both hands in a circle from level of the navel to the level of the brow.                         | le - "Olaam.      |
| 6. Touch all the fingers of both hands together, <b>middle fingers first</b> , at the level of the heart. | 'A - men.         |

The numbers 1 to 6 are used to identify the equivalent phrases of the formulas used in the Commentary. Look at the figure as though looking in a mirror. Use whichever hand you normally use for writing. There is no ritual reason to prefer your right hand over your left when making a Square Earth Cross.



THE SQUARE EARTH CROSS

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## **The Rite of Entry into the First Outer Grade TIRON**

You can do the following rite to mark your entry into the Tiron Grade.

On a small table or altar, place some incense [Air], preferably sandalwood, at the centre of its East side; a small bowl of Water on the right-hand side; a lighted candle [Fire] on the left-hand side; and a small stone [Earth] in the centre of the West side. At the centre of the altar, place a bowl [on a cork mat] in which you can burn a piece of paper.

Before you begin the Rite, meditate for 20 minutes.

Standing at the altar, facing East, on a piece of paper, no larger than 5cm by 10 cm, carefully write the word "Tiron" on one side and your own name on the other. If you have decided to use a special magical name while in the Tiron Grade, write that name.

Lick your right thumb and with it draw a small Square Earth Cross on each side of the paper. Place the paper in the bowl.

Stand upright, facing East and make the Square Earth Cross, saying:

'Atah ha-Malkuth w'-ha-Gevurah w'-ha-Gedulah le'olam. Aamecn.

Then say: It is my Intention as Tiron of Eremiados  
To link myself with those forces and forms  
which are constructive in the universe,  
so that I might be a part of evolving life,  
in COMMUNION with all Life,  
with COMPASSION for all life,  
and in CO-OPERATION with all life.

Make the Sign of the Tiron Grade by placing one wrist on top of the other, then hold them lightly touching your body at the level of your navel, while you say:

I, [your magical name] take upon myself the privileges and duties of Tiron at the beginning of the Way of the Great Work. I will study diligently, meditate regularly and enjoy my daily life to the full. Aamecn.

Take the piece of paper, and pass it through the incense smoke, touch it to the Water bowl, ignite it from the candle and place it burning in the central bowl. While it burns, murmur:

MMMMMNNNNN

This is a third level Amen, affirming the opening of a new channel between you and the One. Continue to murmur until the paper is entirely consumed. If it goes out too soon, place it to the flame again. When it is entirely consumed, do the Square Earth Cross again.

It is followed by a Libation to the Mother Earth. Brush all the ash into the water-bowl. Take the bowl of water and ash outside and pour it carefully on the earth, saying:

From the Mother we came;  
To the Mother we return;  
Through the Mother, we live each day.

Rinse the bowl and pour the water on the earth, until the bowl is clean.  
That concludes the Libation and the Rite of Entry into Tiron.



## COMMENTARY on the Ritual of the Square Earth Cross

The making of a Square Cross is one of the most ancient rites of magic, and it exists in parallel forms in both West and East. The making of the Square Earth Cross by a magician centres that individual within the Space and Time of their local universe. It is therefore the first step towards mastery of one's personal and local universe.

The symbol which is at the heart of this rite is an equal-armed cross surrounded by a circle. In ancient times, it represented the daily path of the Sun around the Earth, therefore it is called the Solar Cross. In modern times, it represents the annual path of the Earth around the central Sun and so it is also known as the Earth Cross. The arms of the Square Cross represent the four cardinal directions, East, South, West and North. It can also be used to symbolise the monthly path of the Moon around the Earth.

### The Qabalistic Cross

The most well-known use of the Square Earth Cross among Western magicians is when making the Qabalistic Cross, which opens and closes the principal rite of most of the major traditions of the Western Mysteries. The words of the Qabalistic Cross are derived from Gnostic sources:

'Atah ha-Malkuth w'-ha-Gevurah  
w'-ha-Gedulah le'olam. Amen.

A is here pronounced as in *father*, but short, not prolonged. U is pronounced short, as in *put* or *book*. W is pronounced as a separate syllable, something like a very short *weh* or *wuh*. The *eh* or *uh* sound is a soft grunt, called neutral e. It is written phonetically as an e upside-down.

### A Gnostic Phrase

This Gnostic phrase is translated into English as:

"Thou art the Kingdom and the Power  
and the Glory for ever. Amen."

It was inserted into the Greek text of the Christian scriptures in the second century c.e., in a slightly distorted form, at the end of the Lord's Prayer, where it has been changed to: "Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen."

There is a considerable difference in meaning to be found between the two versions. The Christian version is attached to a prayer which is addressed to God and is directed towards that which is Other than the Self.

The Gnostic version is addressed to the Ruach, the essential Self or Spirit of each individual who is saying it. The right thumb is referred to the Sun, which is referred to the central Sefirah of the Tree of Life and to the Ruach.

### When to make the Square Earth Cross

You should make the Square Earth Cross just before going into meditation and just after coming out. It is an important part of many of the rituals you will be learning. After meditation, you make it sitting down, but it is usually made standing, facing East.

### Stance

Feet 1-1/2 foot-lengths apart, directly beneath the shoulders. Knees relaxed and body centred at the navel.

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*Eremiados Temple Tiron Grade RITUAL COMMENTARY No. 1*  
*The Square Earth Cross*

It is customary to make the Sign of the Square Earth Cross facing towards the East, as an acknowledgement of the Rising of the Sun and of the Sun beyond the Sun, whence the Earth derives all its energies and from which emanate that Light and Life and Love, which is the Spirit of the Gods.

**Visualisation**

While you make the Encircled Cross, you should imagine that you can see a line of brilliant white fire traced by your hand. As your middle fingers meet at its centre, imagine a brilliant amethyst spark bursts forth as they make contact.

**Vibrating Magic Formulas**

When you vibrate the formulas [a fancy phrase, meaning 'say the words'] of any ritual, you should never shout them. Normally, you should either murmur or whisper them. What is called "Vibrating the Names of Power" does not depend on how loud you say them, but on certain inner understandings to be taught you in due course.

**Pronouncing Amen**

(a) Pronounced *Aamen*, it is the ordinary, outer pronunciation, used at the end of hymns and prayers in most Western religions. Its literal meaning is So be it.

(b) Pronounced *Aameen* and prolonged, it conveys the esoteric significance of being an Affirmation of what has been said or done. This pronunciation corresponds to the Sun.

(c) Pronounced *mmmmnn*, with the *m* and *n* murmured for as long as your breath will last, it is a Word of Power, corresponding to the Serpent. In this case, the energy being invoked is the primordial substance of which all the universe in all the worlds is

formed. Its especial virtue is to open the magician to receive an influx of energy from above to below from the One Source of all energy. The third or esoteric pronunciation should be reserved for very special occasions and not used otherwise.

**Assignment R 1/1:** Write two or three paragraphs on your understanding of who "Thou" refers to in the Gnostic sentence known as the Qabalistic Cross. You can use the information given you above and anything else you wish to include, but it should as far as possible be in your own words.

**Assignment R 1/2:** Your main task this period is to learn to make and say the Square Earth Cross in its standard Hebrew form, as set out on the Ritual paper. As soon as you can, try to write it out from memory. When you get it right, send me your correct version.

**Assignment R 1/3:** Over the next few days, look around your neighbourhood for any examples of the Square Earth Cross, in the scroll work on houses, in carpet designs, dress designs, on books, as garden beds, they could be anywhere. Try to find up to five examples and send me the results of your search.

**Assignment R 1/4:** On the day after you have done the Rite of Entry, write a short essay, not more than a page, on how you arranged your altar. If you wish, you can tell your Eremiados tutor, the magical name you have chosen for yourself; or you can tell us later, when we know each other better, if you prefer to wait. If you do tell us now, a gematrical analysis of the name will be done and sent to you with your next set of lessons.