



Jean de Cabalis - Guardian Orders Paper

For Members of the Following Orders



A Common Lament

Essaier LXXIV

Memo: Subject: A Common Lament
By Michael Freedman

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At 11:52 PM 22/5/96 -0600, Darcy wrote: Care Fratres et Sorors, I am interested in any comments on a Solstice Ceremony for the Golden Dawn that people are performing. I am currently working on a ceremony and would be interested in any comments.

The 'Society of Guardians' has never had any connections with the Golden Dawn nor any of its successors, but we do work firmly in what might be termed the Western Mystery Tradition, using the pantheons of pre Zoroaster Persia, as well as those of classical Greece and Rome; and the language of the Qabalah.

As SG is essentially a group of independent magicians, sharing to a greater or lesser extent, a common esoteric language and outlook, *private* rites and spells among the Guardians vary enormously.

However, we do observe an annual cycle of communal rituals, based, since the Order moved to the Southern Hemisphere in the 1930s, on the Solar Cycle of the Southern Hemisphere. I have previously said I would put something up on our solar workings, and this is a convenient occasion to do it. It fits the Southern Hemisphere, so well that I have no idea of how it might be adapted for use in the Northern Hemisphere.

Each monthly celebration is held on the day of the Solar Ingress, and begins with the General Ritual of the Pentagram, which takes a minimum of five Ministers to perform it. It honours the Five elements of Nature.

The General Ritual is followed by a time of Silence and a Particular Ritual, which is different for each month, and can be followed by a Ceremonial Feast and/or Ritual Dances.

This cycle naturally includes the Solstices and Equinoxes, and to some extent the imagery of the Particular Ritual each month is based on the Sign of the Zodiac into which the Sun is entering.

Here is an account of the cycle which has been celebrated at the Sanctuary since Midwinter, 1973:

At Midwinter, in Cancer, the Spark of Light emerges from the Darkness, as a Crab sidles forth from the crannies and shells in which it hides. The ritual is named "Light out of Darkness". It begins in total darkness and culminates with ceremonially lighting a candle in a crystal candlestick on each of the Ten Sefiroth of the Tree of Life, accompanied by the rhythmically spoken chanting of the Hymn of Light, which was composed in 1974 by the present Senior Guardian. It is accompanied by the ringing of many bells and gongs, great and small, and the blowing of conches.

**Hail glorious Light ! Hail Limitless Light !
Light in brilliance now descending,
Hail thou Spirit all-enfolding !**

Hail thou Earth all-indwelling !
From One Spirit flow three forces,
One in Three and Three from One.
In One Earth dwell three forms,
One from Three and Three in One.
Mighty Angels stand in glory,
Rafa'El, Mika'El, Gavri'El in glory.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
To the Throne of Light and Glory.
Metatron with Sundalfon,
Eve and Adam with their people.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
To the Throne of Light and Glory.
Hail glorious Light ! Hail Limitless Light !
Light in brilliance now descending,
Hail thou Spirit all-enfolding !
Hail thou Earth all-indwelling"

In Leo, the Spark becomes the Hearth Fire of Home around which we sit through the long winter nights. Here is Fire fixed and contained within the hearth. This is the Hearth of Hestia.

In Virgo we honour the Goddess as Demeter, the Great Earth Mother, whom we celebrate with her daughter Kore. In Virgo we remember that the Light will depart from us again.

In Libra, on the Spring Equinox, the Balance of light and Darkness is restored, when the Light comes forth once more and is celebrated as Aphrodite, Goddess of Spring, Fertility and Love.

In Scorpio, the Spark of Light descends into the womb of the fertile Mother. 'If the grain will not die, shall it live again. Here are celebrated the Mysteries of the Five Gates of the Scorpion.

In Sagittarius, a Fiery Arrow fertilizes the Spark of Light. In the particular Rite, We honour at the Fire Altar, Ahura Mazda, the God of Light and Fire; and Zurvan Akarana, the Lord of Time.

The Light now grows every day to be born again at Midsummer, in Capricorn, when the Divine Child of the Great Mother, the radiant Sun rises again in its full glory. Here we celebrate Mithras Helios, Lord of the Sun.

In Aquarius, the Divine Child is celebrated as Healer; and we perform the Solemn Ritual of the Healing of the Nations.

In Pisces, the Divine Child is celebrated as Seer; and we honour Anahita, the Great, Naked Goddess of the Male and Female Flows.

In Aries, the Divine Child is celebrated as the Warlord who dances in the Heavens and the Earth [cf. David dancing before the Ark from Shiloh to Jerusdaslem]. At this, the Autumn Equinox, we put on the Armour of the Gods against the dark days that are to come.

In Taurus, the Divine Child is celebrated as Melkitsedeq, Priest and Prince. At this rite, the cry is heard: "Let us now make priests."

In Gemini, the Divine Child is celebrated as Teacher. In the rite, the Twin Torchbearers, Cautes and Cautopates, celebrate Mithras Helios, the Lord of Sun.

The Particular Rite at Midwinter begins with the cry: "Put out the light, and put out the light." Every light in the sanctuary is extinguished, and the cycle of Light and Darkness and Light once more begins again.

Among the Guardians, the Divine Child is more or less the equivalent of the Holy Guardian Angel much spoken of in Golden Dawn circles. The Divine Child is the God waiting to be born within each one of us. In Hebrew, we name the Divine Child, Yahoyeledh, YHWYLD, whose measure is 65, which is $1 \times 5 \times 13$, the Fivefold expression of the Unity [AChD, 13, One], and is also the measure of 'Adonai, ADNY, Lord.

Be blessed, Michael Freedman, S.G.