



## Whare Atua Temple

### The Sentinel

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Apparently of little standing in the "pecking order" of our system is The Sentinel, yet his role is the most accessible to even the Neophyte.

Firstly his 'station' is outside the door; secondly the only part he ever plays is to give one "knock". He never speaks. His duty is to keep out intruders and to 'Prepare the Candidate'. He is even insignificant as the fourth of the 'Three Lesser Officers' when the Stations and Duties are recited. This point should be noticed by even the rawest Neophyte. Two groups of Three are cited, "besides the Sentinel" which leaves him out in the cold. But as usual in esoteric things, omission is often used to accentuate something of value.

Indeed, the role of the Sentinel is very significant, especially "To prepare the Candidate". What actually happens to bring us to the Order? Quite a lot! The symbolism of the binding, the black robe and the Hoodwink are quite profound! Quite a lot has to happen to "prepare" us for the Inward Initiation! And unless we first experience the sense of restriction, darkness and lack of vision, we are not really ready to join the Order.

Hence the darkened Temple! The Sentinel represents that collective Force who "prepares" us! All the years of working through the usual heap of conditioning factors that everyone experiences, the effects of family, school and society we encounter, all add up to a lot of debris from the ages past to be worked through once we are in the Order.

Now for a jump ahead in our symbolism, Sentinel only responds to the knock of the Kerux whose duties include "To guard the inner side of the Portal." As the 'fourth' aspect of the lesser triad of Officers, the role of Sentinel also works in conjunction with the Kerux, the bearer of the Lamp, who also "makes all reports and announcements".

This should give us a clue to just what aspect of ourselves these two Officers represent. They are both in full use in our outward lives, so identify them. Know your Self and your Rituals in real, practical terms, not as mere airy figures confined to our ceremonial.

To caricature the role of the Sentinel, suppose you hear someone tell you "There is a bull in your attic!" In a split second your Sentinel has acted. You know that you have no attic and that bulls do not appear in attics, so the suggestion is rejected in that split second. In other words, your Sentinel keeps out all intruders to your mind. Your Kerux, then never comes into action as far as he is concerned there is no 'report or announcement' to make. If, on the other hand someone said "There is a fly in your cup, you might well look into your cup. Your Kerux has received a 'report' and investigates, taking appropriate action.

A trivial example, but it does help to identify both Sentinel and Kerux. Your Sentinel is almost entirely instinctive in action, saving your Kerux from useless action. In the second proposition, Kerux reacted, you actually noticed and acted. Both these functions are part of normal everyday life, they form our personality, though the Sentinel part is far more *active* than is your Kerux part, for it is instinctive reaction, as distinct from considered action, one involving the Kerux.

If you really consider this point, (Let your Kerux work on it), you may begin to see just how active your Sentinel is, instinctively, not academically. Think of all that goes on all about you but does not effect your life, your Sentinel keeps you private from it.

In meditation, your Sentinel is on guard, preventing minor interruptions to your train of thought. But the Kerux is on the Tinner<sup>1</sup> side of the Portal of your mind, in the active team of Officers, apart, for the time, from the personality or Sentinel.

Meditation provides an opportunity for the rest of the Officers to function in a way that Kerux can share; occasionally he has a 'report' to make to you. Can you hear it? Or is your Sentinel banging on the door too much?

The daily life, involving mainly the Sentinel, thus prepares you for admission to our Temple; a very major role! We can not live a proper life without the Sentinel to guard us from all the meaningless babble of daily life. Therefore is the Sentinel not part of the Temple Team, but figuratively outside the Door to the Soul, the rest of the Temple.

Now read through just the admission of the Candidate, it epitomizes the process of the mind in action. The preparation, the response to inner "knocks", then the challenge of Stolistes and Dadouchos - then the "purification".

All these things happen even in daily life, but seldom get beyond that point. What happens beyond that point is purely mystical, an affair of the Soul, not of the personality, who symbolically remains outside the Temple, i.e. is unaffected by what goes on inside the Portal.

Having thought much about the role of the Sentinel, then turn your attention to that of the Kerux let him 'report' to you about that major part of you within the Temple! You know yourself mainly in terms of the Sentinel, now "prepare to enter the immeasurable region" of your Self!