



Whare Atua Temple

The Banner of the West

By V.H Frater Jean de Cabalis

The purpose of the Banner of the West is usually regarded to assist the god-form Horus (the Officer Hiereus) to block the negative forces arising from the West. This is the traditional direction of the Land of the Dead. Symbolically the West includes the demonic forces of the Qlippoth as they are positioned in the reverse Tree or the Tree of Evil. In the Hall of Neophytes its station is the symbolic outer sphere of Malkuth.

Symbolism

Looking closely at the symbolism of the Banner of the West you will see the Tifareth Cross. This is the Cross of Suffering upon which Christ was crucified. Thus representing the sacrifice that Christ made to unleash his spirit, from which communion we ourselves become gods. Just as we too must sacrifice the lower ego in order for the higher ego to reign.

The Cross is formed by crossing of two currents, are those that stem out from the Prima Materia. I.e.: Niter and Sal. The colouring of the cross is red, which in terms of the mysteries reveals the blood of Christ. The blood being released is that which transforms into Light and Life.



Hence the cross reveals the mystery of divine emanation from the Source which is God. Also because the blood of Christ was shed upon a cross, we hence have the red Calvary cross inclusive of all four directions.

The cross is surrounded by Gold, covering the blood. This reveals the eternal truth of the Sun, whose purified form of blood is gold. Just as he was perfected through pain and suffering in Hades. The black represents the darkness of Hades in which Christ (like Ra) took the spiritual and eternal sun [light] into the underworld. So where there was once darkness, illusion and pain - caused through ignorance; Christ the Sun of God took the light.

Upon the banner there are five tassels. These represent the 5 drops of blood that Christ sweated from his forehead. The cross held high upon a pole, and even though removed from the source of light, it is still readily able to descend into the pit, the world of darkness bringing light. The five tassels represent this magical and alchemical process (shown by the shape of the pentagram formed by the 5 tassels.) Five being the number of man, just as he became flesh; so to the forces of the Prima Materia manifest as Light and Life.

MacGregor-Mather's refers to the Banner of the West as:

- The Banner of Twilight. From the idea of Light and Darkness brings neither day nor night, but Twilight.
- A means by which evil may be rescued

The Banner of the West is one of the Hierus magical weapons. The Hierus is the Avenger and Guardian of the Sacred Mysteries; aka the Guardian of the Light. As a primary tool of the Hierus, the Banner of the West functions during the opening is to repel evil. Additionally during the Mystic Circumambulation it the Banner of the West function is to mark out the Territory of Light.

The banner is primarily a weapon which contains the same usage during ceremony as it does skrying. That is the *'banner is that which bars and threatens'*. This means that the Banner is used to ward away any evil entities. When evil influences come within the sphere of influence of the Banner of the West, Horus projects the Banner forwards or outwards, thus forcing any negative forces back. The Banner is thus a sort of stop sign, used to repel evil.

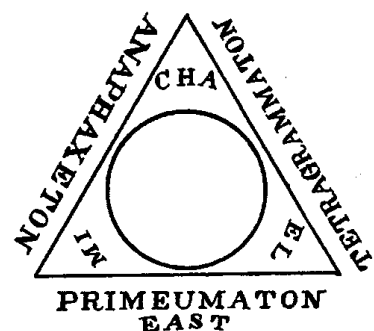
Alternative Application of the Banner



When one looks closely at the Banner of the West we see similarities between it and the Triangle of Solomon. From both the diagrams we see that the Triangle of Solomon and the Banner of the West share some common characteristics. E.g.: A triangle and the cross within. Thus one wonders whether Westcott

deliberately designed the Banner with this Seal in mind. Traditionally ceremonial magicians have used the Triangle of Solomon to bar access from the astral to the physical world. Because the Banner of the West is based upon a talisman, it can also be used as an aid to skrying.

Thus at its purer form (that is the Tau cross within the triangle) the Banner is a potent tool or gateway during the process of mental skrying. Another more common modern form of the Seal is to the right. The method is: Eyes closed, remain lucid and contain image within the mind. And then travel-seer within the triangle towards the cross; until the crossing is achieved and the door opens. Furthermore the Banner can be projected forward into astral space.



Where the Triangle of Invocation allows entities to come through, the Banner of the West bars evil because of the Cross of Calvary in the centre. This is genius of the Banner of the West, the semblance of the Triangle of Solomon summons or draws forth Astral entities, however it is the Cross of Calvary that bars evil entities for inhabiting the Hall.

