

THE PORTAL CEREMONY.

Address by M.C.



(c) Whare Atua Temple

The Portal Grade forms a link, as a Porch or an Entrance between the Outer and the Inner Order, just as the O-O was the entrance into the Outer Order. The O -O is not referred to any of the Sephiroth on the Tree of Life, neither is the "Portal", it is but a gateway.

Hitherto the Candidate had been training his lower principles and has been like a child, assimilating, so as to become a complete human being. In the O -O you were, so to speak, but an infant animal, having a physical body and an imperfect etheric. As you progressed through the Grades of the Order each of the other bodies was in turn developed and transmuted, the physical, etheric, and the two finer psychic principles, and each was sealed with the symbols of the Order. Initiation does not only mean the development of these bodies (for in everyone they develop more or less), but it definitely awakens in them symbols hitherto latent, and brings them into harmony with the Divine vibrations directed upon them so that they may respond thereto.

An analogy would be the sensitised photographic plate or film. This is compounded of certain chemical substances and the prepared surface must be kept in the dark. Even after the instantaneous exposure to brilliant light there is no visible image; it is latent until acted upon by certain chemicals. When a person enters the Order he or she has an aura ready prepared, sensitised

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so to speak. It is "exposed" at the 0 -0 and has registered upon it certain symbols. With the gradual process from Ceremony to Ceremony, and with steady application to the work, these symbols are developed until they are finally completed.

In the first part of the Portal Ceremony you go back through each of the four Grades which you have already taken, but now you have passed them of your own self and without a guide, you tread the path and awaken by your own effort the symbols of each. You walk alone, you have begun to make an individual effort, and when the Outer Veil is withdrawn the Chief Adept directs a ray of brilliance upon you - your Ego or "I" body, that principle which we alone of all creation possess. It is remarkable that in all languages the word "I" has a peculiar and deep significance. The "I" of English is upright - the Spirit of Man standing upright ready to look into the Face of God, and the Ego may be conceived as the projecting ray from the uppermost point of the Pentagram.

Later on you will learn the significance of the colouring of the other four sides of the Pentagram. Mere intellectual study will now no longer carry you any further in the Outer : the Spirit must be brought into play.

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PORTAL ADDRESSES.

By M.T.C.

By this time I think you must all be familiar with the idea that Man is not a simple but a highly complex being, and that he may be, so to speak, split up into different bodies or, to use a more abstract term, "principles". Perhaps you have not realised that his aura fall into corresponding layers, each layer capable of receiving and retaining the appropriate symbols.

The earlier Grades of the Outer are specially directed towards the awakening and re-awakening of those symbols pertaining to the lower principles - physical, psychic, etheric, and astral. Many of those symbols are only latent and ready to spring to life at a touch - very much as a picture stands out on a blank sheet when a magic lantern slide is projected upon it. Only in the case of the aura the picture is in the sheet and only needs light or heat to bring it out. It would be a more accurate simile if you compared it to invisible writing which stands out when treated with certain chemicals.

This is the effect of Ritual and Ceremonial so that to the eye of an Adept the aura of a student clearly indicates the step he has reached in his progress. I may add that very much the same thing happens when we remember past events. We direct a ray towards that layer of the aura which we desire to awaken, and the required symbol is awakened and reflected back upon the physical brain. The more completely brain and aura harmonise the more readily can we call recall whatever memory we desire and it is even possible in this way to recall events and associations from previous lives.

It is not by mere chance or haphazard that you have been told to centralize all that you learn in the Order round that particular form which is known to us as the Tree of Life. This diagram represents in fact a section of the human aura or Sphere of Sensation, and as you concentrate on the various lectures you are correspondingly developing the complete sphere with its centres and radiations and these in turn respond to vibrations as a wireless receiver responds to all those vibrations to which it is tuned. The more perfectly you are developed the more accurately you respond so that you become an harmonious and sensitive instrument in the hand of the Great Musician.

Hitherto in the earlier Grades, this process has been constructive; with the opening of the Portal a somewhat different development takes place. You have undergone a gradual preparation a building of the house. He call now to signposts in your journey up the mountain.

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