

AGAPÉ

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of the U. S. Grand Lodge of
Ordo Templi Orientis

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November 1, 2004 EV



From the Grand Master

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I'd like to thank Brother John Crow for his service as editor of Agapé. Brother John has decided to step down from the editor position, and Frater HydraLVX has agreed to take his place. Welcome brother, and good luck.

I'd also like to thank Frater A.M.D.E.N. for his service of Quartermaster, and welcome Frater V.V.N. of Denver, who has agreed to take on this demanding office. Please see the contacts bar (and the U.S.G.L. website) for his contact information. Frater A.M.D.E.N., our Quartermaster Emeritus, will be continuing to serve in the newly created position of Procurement Officer, where he will continue to research various sources of equipment and supplies.

We also recently created the office of Volunteer Coordinator, whose duties will include matching volunteers to needed jobs within U.S. Grand Lodge. Brother James McLaughlin of Austin has agreed to step into this role. If you'd like to volunteer your services to U.S. Grand Lodge, or if you are a Grand Lodge Officer or member of a Governing Body, and you need some assistance with something pertaining to your official duties, please write to Brother James.

The development of the Education Committee is proceeding apace (there is still time to submit nominations); and the Psychology Guild has recently formed a committee to establish a program of workshops on pastoral counseling for E.G.C. Clergy and Local Body Officers.

Congratulations to Sekhet-Bast-Ra in Oklahoma City, and Coph-Nia Lodge in Eugene, Oregon, on their 20th anniversaries, and to Tahuti Lodge in New York on its 25th anniversary; and many thanks to Sekhet-Bast-Ra for their awesome hospitality.

Guilds

According to such documents as *Liber 101*, *Liber 161*, Frater Ramaka's *O.T.O. Prospectus*, and the 1917 *Constitution*, one of the Order's principal objectives is mutual aid and support in the professional advancement of its members. One of the most potentially effective mechanisms the Order may use to realize this objective is the system of guilds described in *Liber 194*:

Before the face of the Areopagus stands an independent Parliament of the Guilds. Within the Order, irrespective of grade, the members of each craft,

trade, science, or profession form themselves into a Guild, make their own laws, and prosecute their own good, in all matters pertaining to their labour and means of livelihood. Each Guild chooses the [person] most eminent in it to represent it before the Areopagus of the Eighth Degree...

Note that the guilds themselves choose their own representative. *Liber 194* says that government of O.T.O. 'combines monarchy with democracy.' Some of you may have read this passage and wondered just where this democracy comes into play. Here, I believe, is your answer.

Although the guilds can be used as a resource by O.T.O. management for their various projects, it would be a mistake to look at the guilds as being established solely to serve the officers and administrative hierarchy of O.T.O.—the guilds are intended to serve the membership. Every O.T.O. member working in a lawful occupation should eventually be able to belong to at least one guild. →

Contents

<i>From the Grand Master, Frater Sabazius</i>	1
<i>Policy Memoranda, Frater Sabazius</i>	3
<i>From the Grand Treasurer General, Brother Vere Chappell</i>	4
<i>From the Volunteer Coordinator, Frater Do</i>	4
<i>From the Electoral College, Frater Dvgs Jms Blk</i>	5
<i>From the Quartermaster, Frater V.V.N.</i>	5
<i>Passing Torches, Frater Hrumachis</i>	6
<i>Local Body Reports</i>	7

So far, O.T.O. members have successfully established the following three guilds:

- **The Translators Guild**
Contact: aion@snafu.de
Website: tguild.oto.de
- **The Psychology Guild**
Contact: dgsaa@winfirst.com
YahooGroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/
psychology-guild-oto
- **The Information Technology Guild**
Contact: webmaster@oto-itg.org
Website: www.oto-itg.org

The following guilds (to my knowledge) are currently under development:

- **A medical & health sciences guild**
Contact: ec-awhite@oto-usa.org
- **An artisans guild**
Contact: pelagia@neptune.net
YahooGroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/
oto-artisans
- **A music industry guild**
Contact: rodney@hells.org
- **A graphic and visual arts guild**
Contact:
laughingserpent@tahuti.org
- **A financial services guild**
Contact:
rbdevelopment93@yahoo.com
YahooGroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/
oto_fin_guild

- **A culinary arts guild**
Contact: sandy@ashami.com
- **A guild for educators**
Contact: libanus93@comcast.net
YahooGroup:
groups.yahoo.com/group/
thelemic_educators
- **A legal professions guild**
Contact:
cloud_jaguar@earthlink.net

The following crafts, trades, and professions appear to be particularly ripe for guild formation at this time:

- library sciences
- construction
- real estate and property management
- retail →



Mysteria Mystica Maxima ✠ *Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica*

AGAPÉ

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If you are interested in helping to implement this important aspect of our Order, do not wait for Grand Lodge to come to you. The Guilds need to come directly from the membership. Based on my experience, I suggest pursuing guild formation following these steps:

First, get together with some other Order members who work in the same general field as you do, and start an informal professional interest group. Create a YahooGroup for it, or an email list, or some other means of group communication. Let the G.S.G. or myself know that you're doing this. I will publish occasional announcements about new guilds and guilds-in-formation here in *Agapé*.

Next, as a group, discuss how you think a guild might work for your field. Talk to some of the people who are already participating in guilds for ideas, and talk to people involved

in existing professional interest organizations in your field. Consider the scope of the guild—which occupations should be included, and which should best be left for inclusion in other guilds. Avoid a scope that is too vague or broad; remember that people can belong to more than one guild. Consider potential membership criteria, and potential levels of membership. Consider the activities the guild might engage in to further the professional development of the members. Avoid any appearance of offering some kind of professional certification or validation to individual guild members based on their guild membership, or their O.T.O. membership. Also, consider the proposed name for the guild, as well as a few alternatives.

Once your group has settled on some basic concepts, write to our Parliamentarian (see contacts listed on opposite page) for assistance in developing your guild's bylaws and submitting them to the Areopagus for approval.

Love is the law, love under will.
Sabazius

Policy Memoranda

ATTENTION ASPIRING & CHARTERED INITIATORS: Please read the following.

On Ritual Memorization

In *Confessions*, Crowley states the following regarding the initiation rituals of M.:M.:M.:

“Another essential point was to reduce the unwieldy mass of material to a compact and coherent system. I thought that everything worth preserving could and should be presented in not more than a dozen ceremonies, and that it should be brought well within the capacity of any officer to learn by heart his part during the leisure time at his disposal, in a month at most.”

Clearly, it was Crowley's intent that the initiation rituals be memorized. Many, perhaps the majority, of local bodies already perform their ritual initiations largely without the use of scripts in Temple. However, heretofore, our official policy has been to strongly recommend this practice, rather than to require it. This new policy makes the practice

mandatory within the U.S. for the degree of Minerval. Similar policies will be phased in for the remaining degrees of the Man of Earth Triad, with allowances made for the reading of certain, specific passages, in the coming months.

The new policy, effective January 1, 2005 EV, for all U.S. local bodies is as follows:

Initiatory officers in the Degree of Minerval shall memorize their parts in advance. Ritual scripts are prohibited within open Temple for the Minerval Degree, with the exception that one copy may be held by a prompter who is not otherwise a ritual officer.

Notes:

- a. This policy does not apply to rehearsals or practice sessions.
- b. Rehearsals, which have always been recommended, will become essential under this new policy. Regular ritual practice sessions, with discussion of basic symbolism as described in the study guides, are also highly recommended.

- c. Despite what is printed on the cover of the ritual manuals, chartered initiators may make copies of the ritual manuals and lend them to U.S. members who are studying to serve as initiatory officers. The chartered initiator is responsible for maintaining control of all such copies and ensuring that secondary copies are not made. Copies must be returned to the chartered initiator when not in active use for the above purpose.

On Charter Requirements

The following policy is effective immediately, from the date of this newsletter forward.

All applications for Charter to Initiate must be accompanied by a photocopy of a current C.P.R. and First Aid card, issued by either the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

From the Grand Treasurer General

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

After over a year of preparation, I am happy to announce that we have filed our application for group exemption with the I.R.S. Once approved, oases, lodges, and chapters will have official recognition of tax-exempt status from the federal government. At that time I will send information to the covered bodies detailing some of the benefits of the group exemption and explaining the rules they must follow to meet the requirements for ongoing qualification.

Also, a reminder to all local bodies that perform initiations: please be sure to give a copy of the *Minerval Guide* to all new Minervals after their initiation, and to any other active member upon request. The guide may be obtained from the files area of the bodymasters Yahoo!Group. If you are an active member of O.T.O. and do not yet have a *Minerval Guide*, please check with your local body or contact me to obtain one.

In other news, I have appointed the following volunteers to the Grand Lodge Finance Committee: Richard Beaver, Soror Shivani, Danielle George, Chris Grabarkiewetz, Briana "Blondie" Marshall, and Chris Sangiovanni-Williams. Each one has a solid professional background in a finance related

field. I look forward to the contributions they bring to the expanded committee's mission of recommending and implementing long-term goals for the Order's financial maturity and security.

Finally, as some of you may have already heard, I will be stepping down from the position of Grand Treasurer General early next year, in preparation for future responsibilities within I.H.Q. Hank Hadeed has been designated as my successor to the office of G.T.G. Brother Hank and I have been working together over the past several months to prepare for the transition, which is already underway. I have great confidence in Hank's abilities and expect him to be fully capable of handling the responsibilities of this challenging job.

I have greatly appreciated the opportunity given to me by Sabazius to serve the Order as GTG over the past seven years. The challenges and frustrations that I sometimes faced were more than offset by the satisfaction of having helped to make a difference during this exciting period in the history of the O.T.O. Although I will begin focusing more of my time and energy on I.H.Q., I will continue to offer my services to Grand Lodge as a Bishop and S.G.I.G. wherever I may be needed.

Love is the law, love under will.

Vere Chappell

From the Volunteer Coordinator

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

I have been offered the opportunity to serve as Volunteer Coordinator for our U.S. Grand Lodge. This is a newly formed office with the intent of assisting our U.S. Grand Lodge officers. The following will explain the mission and the techniques to be used for successful accomplishment:

The primary function of the Volunteer Coordinator (VC) is twofold: to find suitable jobs for volunteers to perform, and to find suitable volunteers to perform jobs that need to be performed.

The VC shall accept job requests from Grand Lodge officers and Governing Bodies, and shall periodically poll them regarding jobs they need to be performed by volunteers.

The VC shall solicit and accept applications from members in good standing who wish to volunteer to serve Grand Lodge.

The VC shall maintain suitably detailed databases of jobs and volunteers, and shall endeavor to match volunteers with suitable jobs.

The VC shall report potential matches to the officer or Governing Body that submitted the job request, providing sufficient information for the officer or Governing Body to make an informed decision regarding appointment of the volunteer.

I can be reached via the email link posted on our U.S. Grand Lodge government page:

<http://oto-usa.org/govt.html>

I look forward to this opportunity for service and to the results this position has the potential for yielding.

Love is the law, love under will.

James McLaughlin (Fratr Do)

From the Electoral College

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The following actions concerning local Bodies were taken by the Electoral College at its Summer 2004 EV meeting:

Closures

None.

Change of Master

Transfer of Mastership of Ad Astra Camp (Denver, CO) from Br. Skott Holck to Br. Nathan Diarmid Hammer, (Acting Master confirmed as Master) effective 6.27.04 EV.

Transfer of Mastership of Heru-Behutet Oasis (Kansas City, MO) to Br. Wes Warlop (Acting Master confirmed as Master) effective 6.27.04 EV.

The college wishes to express its appreciation to the past and present masters of these two bodies. We wish you all the best in your new offices and endeavors.

New Charters

None.

Hosting E.C. Meetings

Local bodies that are interested in hosting meetings of the Electoral College are encouraged to write the president of the college—see p. 2 for contact information.

Communication with the E.C.

I would like to invite any initiates with suggestions as to how we can do our job better, or who have specific concerns or questions regarding the operation of the Electoral College, to write to either the President or Secretary of the E.C.

It is my goal as President of the Electoral College to take effective measures bringing about better communication between the E.C. and the membership of all local bodies. Any input provided to this end is warmly welcomed and I believe that communication as such is of benefit to the entire Order in our mutual goals and aspiration toward enlightenment in all forms.

All regular mail correspondence with the Electoral College Secretary should be sent to the following address:

5030 N. May Ave., #252
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6010

Website Update

On behalf of the Electoral College, I am pleased to announce that the official E.C. Website is up and running at:

<http://ec.oto-usa.org/>

Thanks to Sr. Ariana White and Br. Craig Berry.

Bodymasters seeking up-to-date forms for the *Annual Report*, *Change of Mastership Application*, *Application for Oasis status*, *Application for Lodge status*, or closure forms will find them (exclusively) at the following URL:

<http://ec.oto-usa.org/ECservices.html>

Bodymasters not already in possession of the username and password (distributed on 8.18.04 EV) will be granted them upon request (see E.C. contact information on p. 2).

All other previous versions of these forms are now obsolete and should not be used.

Love is the law, love under will.
In the Bonds of the Order,
Frater Dvgls Jms Blk

From the Quartermaster

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Greetings from the Quartermaster's Office. I would like to thank the Executive for giving me the opportunity to serve the Order in a greater capacity, and to extend appreciation to Frater A.M.D.E.N. for his years of service, for providing valuable information and making this a smooth transition. In August, I attended Sekhet Bast Ra Lodge's 20th Anniversary and was deeply inspired by a speech given by our Supreme and Holy King. One of the things that impressed me was his desire to form a variety of Guilds so that we may draw upon our internal resources. With that direction in mind, I would like to begin to utilize our own resources for the manufacture of our regalia, rather than continuing to use outside vendors. So, if you have a design for items that you are using for your local body, please contact me and let me know if you are interested in providing your services to the Order at large. I am particularly looking for jewelers with knowledge and experience in lost wax casting.

In addition, I would like to announce that you will see some changes, including the standardization of regalia. I am currently working on a website with photographs of available items. This site will be password protected, with pricing and lead times for each item. After the transition of the office of Quartermaster is complete, I should be able to guarantee a maximum of one-week turn around for most items that a local body might need. It is my hope to create a fundraising organization within O.T.O. via the office of Quartermaster, and to provide you with quality merchandise at very reasonable prices. My office is open to ideas and suggestions. Please let me know how I may serve you.

Love is the law, love under will.
Frater V. V. N.

Passing Torches

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Traditionally, the *Dadouchos* was the torchbearer in ancient Greece that lead the nightly processions in the Eleusinian mysteries, illuminating the way of the initiates to the precincts of the sacred Temple. This title was also used by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn to designate their consecrating, or firebearing, officer. Similarly, in the Olympian tradition, the infamous games were preceeded by the lighting of the sacred fires to honor the Olympian hierarchy in their noble and sublime stature. These sacred fires were generally kindled by a torch ignited solely by the focussed rays of the sun, sacred to Apollo. This particular tradition is carried on even to this day, as witnessed in this summer's Olympic games, which return to the city of Athens and have just commenced as I begin to revise this essay. This flame is kindled in Athens, the city of Wisdom and Truth, sacred to Athena (the Greek Minerva), and carried around the globe by runners from the various countries and cultures that make up the diversity of our world, which unites us in one common goal: the celebration of life and the excellence therein.

Just so, the same type of tradition exists within our sacred Order. That of "passing the torch" to a suitable successor in terms of mastership and stewardship of a particular local body, and even that of the Order itself. As far as the *Ordo Templi Orientis* as a whole is concerned, this tradition of guardianship of the Order passed from Karl Kellner through Theodor Ruess to Aleister Crowley and thence to Karl Germer. Subsequently, Germer failed to name a successor before his death, as had been the tradition within the Order up until that time. Fortunately for the Order,

as it exists today, Crowley had the foresight to look toward the future and he recognized Grady McMurtry as a likely successor to Germer, as witnessed in what have come to be known as the "Caliphate Letters," which were later utilized by the Order in its re-establishment when the California courts recognized Grady as the legitimate successor and Outer Head of the Order of the O.T.O. This chain of succession has come to be known as the "Caliphate." The word "caliph" is an Arabic term, which means "the one who follows or comes after." It was a term used in the Muslim faith and was applied to the successors of their prophet and our saint, Mohammed, in the stewardship of the Islamic religion. The term, caliph, has been subsequently used by our Order to designate the followers of To Mega Therion as the prophet of Thelema.

At the level of our local bodies of the O.T.O., one of the primary duties of a bodymaster, besides the day-to-day operations of running the body, is to designate and begin preparing a suitable successor to take up the helm of leadership once they themselves move on from that distinguished position of service. For it must be remembered, as it is clearly stated in Liber 194, "...with us Government is Service, and nothing else." Traditionally, in the Los Angeles area, where I served as master of L.V.X. Oasis, then Lodge, from 1997 to 2000 EV, the mantle of mastership had traditionally passed from bodymaster to secretary with relative consistency over the years. This is likely due to the large amount of direct interaction with body operations that the secretary generally has. This may, however, be a specifically local phenomenon. Today, many local

bodies have adopted the office of deputy bodymaster, designed to specify and begin training a particular individual within the local body in order to prepare them for taking on the helm of leadership when this natural transition takes place within the growth process of any local body.

As our Order and our local bodies grow and mature, this process of transition of mastership, the passing of the torch of stewardship from one master to the next in seamless succession, must also develop and mature. As structuralization and organization are primary tenets of our Order, the development of this particular position of service seems natural, but will require a specific focus of attention from local body masters in order to foster this development.

For myself, serving as a local body master was an honor. And it was my privilege to have had the opportunity to be of service in the capacity of Master of L.V.X. Lodge and to have become a part of that august lineage of brothers and sisters who have taken on the mantle of leadership at the local level. And I salute each of my august brothers and sisters who either presently, or in the past, have taken on this role of leadership as well as all those who will assume that role in the years ahead. I look forward with much anticipation to the growth and flowering of our Order as we grow ever stronger in the Work. May our Order and our leadership continue to shine brightly as a beacon within the darkness and serve as a torch or lantern of L.V.X. to assist in guiding and kindling the light within those pilgrims who will come to find the New Aeon of Thelema.

Love is the law. Love under will.
Frater Hrumachis

Agapé Volume 6, Number 3 submission deadline:

☉ in ☿ • ☽ in ♀ • **Dies Saturnii • Anno IV:xii**

Saturday, January 1, 2005 EV

Please send your local body reports and governing body reports to:

agape@oto-usa.org

We will also accept other kinds of work, including essays, art and photography.
Submission guidelines are coming soon. For more information contact agape@oto-usa.org.

Local Body Reports

Nu Aeon Camp: Land O'Lakes, Florida

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

When I was planning the formation of Nu Aeon Camp, I was sure that I was going to have to start with people who were just starting their paths in our beloved Order.

As it turns out, I was fortunate to find quite a few people from the local bodies that were no longer active in this part of Florida. I found a group of hard working Thelemites who strongly desired to establish a Thelemic current here in Central Florida, and we have accomplished much in the first three months of our charter.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Nu Aeon Camp Deputy Master, Frater Nemo, we have constructed all of the mass temple equipment, celebrated our first public mass, and performed two baptisms on July 18th, 2004 EV. Our warmest thanks to Nu Aeon's Mentor and her team for performing this mass and doing such a great job for us.

On July 31st, we performed our first round of initiations, consisting of one First Degree and two Minerval initiations,

and it was a big success. We had a great party afterwards, and much joy was shared by all. I want to thank the Master of Swirling Star Oasis, Fr. Illia, for coming all the way from Miami to do these initiations for us, and for all the help that he and the rest of Swirling Star Oasis have given us during our formation. Without their assistance and counsel, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have.

We have also started an ongoing study of *Book 4*, held a Thelemic Bowling Night in Lakeland, a Gnostic Mass workshop, and our first monthly business meeting. We have a few Meet & Greet events planned in both the Orlando and Tampa areas. Our plans are to continue celebrating the Gnostic Mass on a monthly basis. Many members have shown interest in doing other things such as Enochian and Goetic workshops, and other studies.

There are exciting things happening for Nu Aeon Camp and we invite any and all of our Brethren who may be planning on visiting Florida for their vacations to stop by and visit us while you're here.

Love is the law, love under will.

Brother Rick Pearlstein

RPSTOVAL Camp: Ashland, Oregon

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Greetings and Peace from RPSTOVAL Camp, located in the Rogue Valley in beautiful southern Oregon. We are a relatively small local body, but we have been experiencing activity and growth over the past year. Since the summer of 2003 EV, we have seen a great deal of transition and transformation. We had a change of mastership last summer, which went very smoothly, with the helm of stewardship passing from our Frater O.S. to Frater OX. With that change came the appointment of myself, Frater Hrumachis, as secretary and Soror Ashera as treasurer for the body.

Last summer a number of our local members representing our valley attended and presented at NOTOCON in Portland. In autumn 2003 EV, we performed four Minerval initiations (under the auspices of Coph Nia Lodge), increasing our ranks by nearly 50 percent. Our ongoing *Magick In Theory & Practice* Study Group meets every two weeks at the Rogue Valley Metaphysical Library in Ashland and continues to serve as our primary vehicle for attracting new members. We started out with four regularly attending participants and has now grown to over 15 active in the group. In January, RPSTOVAL Camp also hosted the Introduction to Ceremonial Magick presentation which brought over 70 new people and generated a great deal of interest in the Camp.

In the spring we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Equinox of the Gods with a performance of the Invocation of Horus by our Soror Hypatia and Frater L.S.D. at their beautiful woodland home in the wilds of Merlin, Oregon. After which, Frater Hrumachis and Soror Ashera headed off to Egypt to celebrate

the Three Days of the Writing of the Book of the Law with brethren from around the world, while Frater OX and Soror Magdelene hosted Beltane festivities with members of Coph Nia Lodge at local Squaw Lake.

This past July we performed four more Minerval initiations with Frater OX picking up initiatory duties having recently received his charter to initiate from the Grand Master, and in August, we performed our first set of I° initiations in some time. Our celebrations of the Gnostic Mass have continued on a quarterly basis and we have performed six baptisms and two confirmations for our congregation over the course of the past year.

We have also been honored by the return of our founding member, Frater Solis and Soror A.N. along with their daughter who moved back to our valley earlier this year. Our esteemed brother recently finished his 11 year tenure on the Electoral College and we are proud and thrilled to have both he and Soror A.N. back among us. The Camp is pleased to be co-sponsoring a presentation by Frater Solis this November entitled, An Introduction to New Aeon Magick & Qabalah.

In December, Soror Ashera and I are expecting the birth of our first child, joyously conceived while we were in Egypt in the spring. May that hour be auspicious, and the gate of life open in peace and in well-being, so that she that beareth children may rejoice, and the babe catch life with both hands. All joy, all peace and bright blessings to our Most Holy Order and to all of our brothers and sister in the bonds of Thelema. May this Year of the Hanged Man continue to bring fruitful and flowing transformation for us all.

Love is the law, love under will.

Frater Hrumachis

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