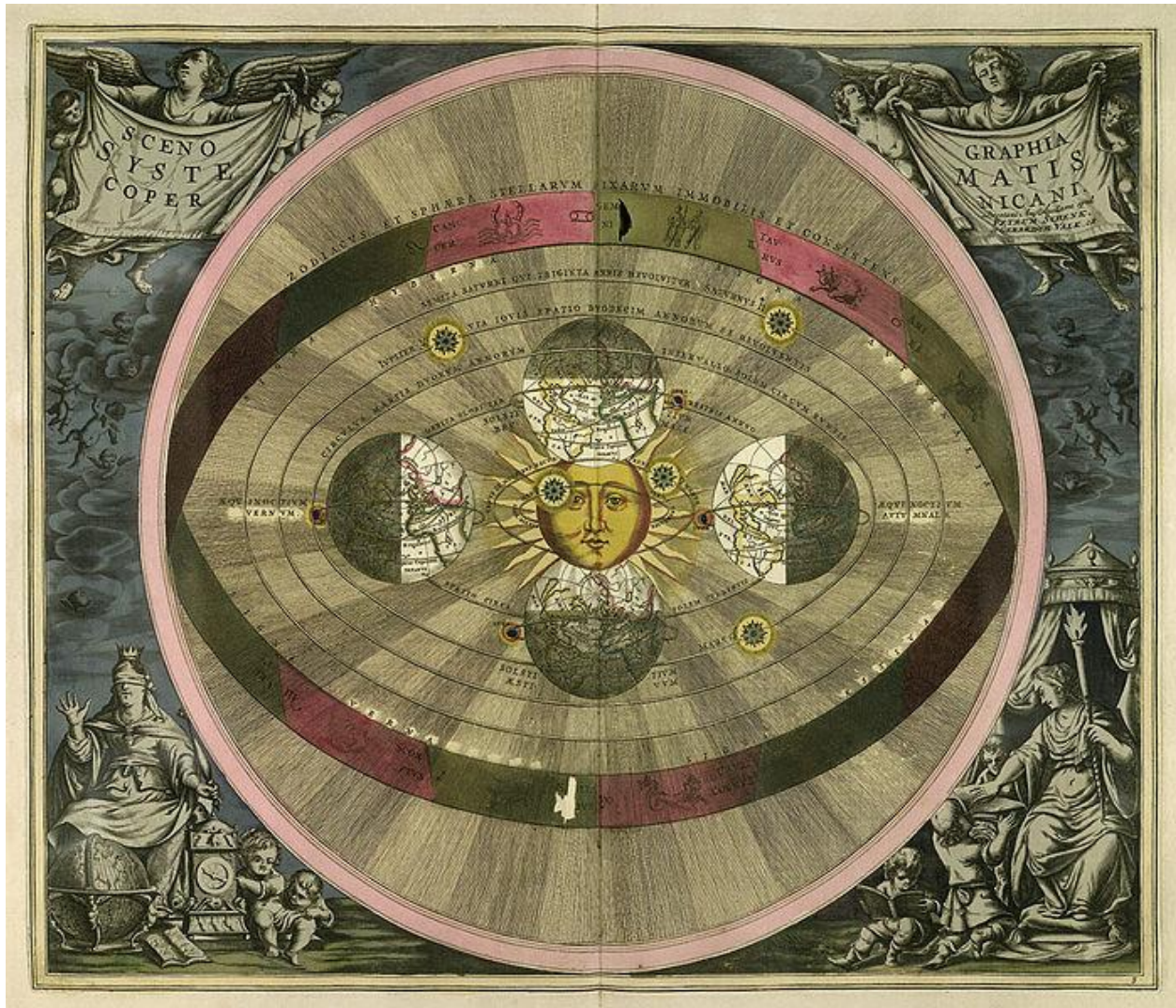


Poetic Rituals of the Elements

by Frater Ophiphos



- *Scenographia Systematis Copernicani* by Andreas Cellarius, 1708

These rituals are not official texts of any Thelemic or other organization whatsoever.

Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
Notes on Performance	5
Vernal Equinox - Aries & Fire: Light	6
Officers	6
Ritual Equipment	6
Ritual	7
Aestival Solstice - Cancer & Water: Love	11
Officers	11
Ritual Equipment	11
Ritual	12
Autumnal Equinox - Libra & Air: Life	17
Officers	17
Ritual Equipment	17
Ritual	18
Brumal Solstice - Capricorn & Earth: Liberty	22
Officers	22
Ritual Equipment	22
Ritual	23
Texts for the People	27
Saying Will	27
Vernal Equinox	28
Aestival Solstice	29
Autumnal Equinox	30
Brumal Solstice	31
About the Author	32

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Introduction

Aleister Crowley defined magick as “the Science and Art of causing Change to occur in conformity with Will.” (Book 4, Part 3 Magick in Theory and Practice: Introduction) While much emphasis is given to the authority of science, both by Crowley and by current Thelemites, there is much to gain by an appreciation of the artistic side of magick.

While art is usually thought of in the visual sense, there is a tradition of the written and spoken word, that is to say poetry, within many forms of attainment. From Odin stealing the Mead of Poetry, Biblical Psalms, Sufi traditions, and Aleister Crowley himself a poet.

“There are rituals of the elements and feasts of the times.

A feast for the first night of the Prophet and his Bride!

A feast for the three days of the writing of the Book of the Law.

A feast for Tahuti and the child of the Prophet—secret, O Prophet!

A feast for the Supreme Ritual, and a feast for the Equinox of the Gods.

A feast for fire and a feast for water; a feast for life and a greater feast for death!”

- Liber AL vel Legis, II:36-41

The Rituals of the Elements mentioned above are celebrated when the Sun enters each Cardinal Sign of the Zodiac. The basis for this comes from Aleister Crowley, who writes “In particular the entry of the Sun into the cardinal signs of the elements at the Equinoxes and Solstices are suitable for festivals.” (New Comment to Liber AL, II:36) The dates that these fall on vary from year to year and are as follows:

- Vernal Equinox: March 19-21, Aries and the Element of Fire
- Aestival Solstice: June 20-22, Cancer and the Element of Water
- Autumnal Equinox: September 21-23, Libra and the Element of Air
- Brumal Solstice: December 20-22, Capricorn and the Element of Earth

Aleister Crowley writes:

“The Supreme Ritual is the Invocation of Horus, which brought about the Opening of the New Aeon. The date is March 20. The Equinox of the Gods is the term used to describe the Beginning of a New Aeon, or a New Magical Formula. It should be celebrated at every Equinox.”

- New Comment to Liber AL, II:40

Due to this, the Vernal Equinox and the Supreme Ritual often fall less than a few days apart, if not on the same day. As such, the four rituals presented here are designed so that the Vernal Equinox

may be performed separately or on the same day as the Supreme Ritual. I highly suggest the Supreme Ritual found in [*Mysteries of the Great Beast Aleister Crowley*](#) by M. Dionysius Rogers, for his modifications recognizing all present as part of the ritual.

Aleister Crowley writes:

“The difference between ‘rituals’ and ‘feasts’ is this: by the one a particular form of energy is generated, while there is a general discharge of one’s superfluous force in the other. Yet a feast implies periodical nourishment.”

- New Comment to Liber AL, II:36

As each corresponding zodiac sign we move into is a cardinal, or leading sign, this assists a foundational energy ignition for each element. As such, the officers of each ritual are named for Thoth Tarot and animal correspondences of the zodiac sign which embody each equinox and solstice. We now have the following correspondences:

Ritual	Astrological Sign	Astrological Element	Major Arcana Card	Animal +	Animal -
Vernal Equinox	Aries	Fire	Emperor	Ram	Owl
Aestival Solstice	Cancer	Water	Chariot	Crab	Sphinx
Autumnal Equinox	Libra	Air	Adjustment	Human	Elephant
Brumal Solstice	Capricorn	Earth	Devil	Goat	Ass

In each card we can see weapons related. The correspondences set out in [*Liber CL: De Lege Libellum*](#) give the Wand for Liberty, Cup for Love, Sword for Life, and Disk for Light. These weapons are slightly modified with an Orb substituting the Disk in the Vernal Equinox and a Phallus substituting Wand for the Brumal Solstice.

These correspondences provide the skeletal outline of each ritual and more correspondences, mostly from Aleister Crowley’s [ZZZ](#), have been used to further develop each piece.

My focus on poetry as a vehicle led me to the form of dramatic ritual, based heavily on chapters I and XIX of Crowley’s *Magick in Theory and Practice* which explicitly mention art and poetry as magical tools.

Notes on Performance

Basic attire will be listed for each officer, however if the ritualists wish to add more likeness to the tarot cards or animals they represent, it is highly encouraged. This should be done with the sensible guideline that ritual function should be preferred over grandiose fashion. People attending may, of course, dress as they will.

To accentuate the “festival” atmosphere there is interaction between ritual officiants and the attendees in each ritual. This interaction should always keep in mind the safety of all involved and is not a license to be a jerk. Flirt but don’t harass, praise but don’t pander, and other balancing acts may be required.

The congregation are not mere spectators but also have roles and voices in these rituals, involving them in the observance of the Sun’s travels throughout the year. It is appropriate to print out and distribute texts detailing their points of participation. Such texts have been added to the final section of this document.

To assist officers with further understanding and practicing these performances I recommend a familiarity with the following:

- [*Magick in Theory and Practice*](#) by Aleister Crowley. In general but also the particular study of chapters I, II, III, VIII, X, and XIX. This is also found published within [*Book 4*](#) as Part 3.
- [*Book 4, Part 2 Magick Elementary Theory*](#) by Aleister Crowley. In general but also the particular study of chapters III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, XI, and XII.
- The general techniques of public speaking, memorization, and poetry recitation.

Ritual Officers are indicated by ALL CAPS, instructions are in *italics*, and spoken sections are contained within “quotes”.

None of this work is dogmatic and during the construction many poems were switched, added, removed, and swapped. Feel free to do likewise.

If a modified space of a Gnostic Mass Temple is being used, all rituals are to be performed with the veil and tomb closed.

Vernal Equinox - Aries & Fire: Light



Officers

EMPEROR: White robe with red vestments and a crown.

RAM: White robe with ram-horned cap.

OWL: Black robe with feather cape.

Ritual Equipment

- Throne: In the east facing west, orienting the temple so that the people face east. Draping fancy cloth over parts of a chair with arms may suffice. Keep in mind colors associated with the Emperor card.
- Orb (or Sceptre with disk/orb as head.)
- Red Candle
- Black Candle (preferably the same one used in the previous Brumal Solstice Ritual, if available)
- Double Cube Altar in the center of the Temple. Upon it, the Black Candle in the north lit, and the Red Candle in the south unlit. The Orb is placed in the center.

Ritual

1. Opening

The people are admitted, seated, and the EMPEROR is seated with the right leg over left on the throne. Flanked on the north by RAM, and south by OWL. RAM is seated and OWL is standing.

RAM: "He controlled the vigour of steam, he harnessed the lightning for hire; He drove the celestial team, and man was the Lord of the Fire." - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

PEOPLE: "Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit." - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

RAM then stands, moves to the altar and uses the black candle to light the red candle. RAM takes the Orb to EMPEROR and offers it kneeling. RAM mingles with the crowd with whispered excitement.

2. Invocation

EMPEROR raises the Orb

EMPEROR: "Uncharmable charmer
Of Bacchus and Mars
In the sounding rebounding
Abyss of the stars!
O virgin in armour,
Thine arrows unsling
In the brilliant resilient
First rays of the spring!

By the force of the fashion
Of love, when I broke
Through the shroud, through the cloud,
Through the storm, through the smoke,
To the mountain of passion
Volcanic that woke ---
By the rage of the mage
I invoke, I invoke!

By the midnight of madness: -

The lone-lying sea,
The swoon of the moon,
Your swoon into me,
The sentinel sadness
Of cliff-clinging pine,
That night of delight
You were mine, you were mine!

*[EMPEROR stands, indicating to the people to stand as well, and traces invoking pentagram
of fire with the Orb]*

You were mine, O my saint,
My maiden, my mate,
By the might of the right
Of the night of our fate.
Though I fall, though I faint,
Though I char, though I choke,
By the hour of our power
I invoke, I invoke!

By the mystical union
Of fairy and faun,
Unspoken, unbroken -
The dust to the dawn! -
A secret communion
Unmeasured, unsung,
The listless, resistless,
Tumultuous tongue! -

O virgin in armour,
Thine arrows unsling,
In the brilliant resilient
First rays of the spring!
No Godhead could charm her,
But manhood awoke -
O fiery Valkyrie,
I invoke, I invoke!"

- *Pan to Artemis* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: "Io Artemis!"

3. Reception

OWL boots and rustles feathers. EMPEROR lowers the Orb and brings it across his breast and sits forming the position of the Emperor card. RAM moves opposite EMPEROR (between the double cube altar and the PEOPLE) in excitement.

OWL: "O thou with dewy locks, who lookest down
Through the clear windows of the morning, turn
Thine angel eyes upon our western isle,
Which in full choir hails thy approach, O Spring!

The hills tell one another, and the listening
Valleys hear; all our longing eyes are turn'd
Up to thy bright pavilions: issue forth
And let thy holy feet visit our clime!

Come o'er the eastern hills, and let our winds
Kiss thy perfumèd garments; let us taste
Thy morn and evening breath; scatter thy pearls
Upon our lovesick land that mourns for thee.

O deck her forth with thy fair fingers; pour
Thy soft kisses on her bosom; and put
Thy golden crown upon her languish'd head,
Whose modest tresses are bound up for thee."

- *To Spring* by William Blake

4. Blessing

PEOPLE: "Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever."

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

EMPEROR, RAM and OWL: "So mote it be!"

EMPEROR stands, traces the symbol of Aries with the Orb, and walks around the room offering the Orb in the right hand to be touched by the PEOPLE, while RAM recites the following lines.

RAM: "Once round the meadow. Brother, does the hazel
twig dip?

Twice round the orchard. Brother, does the hazel
twig dip?

Thrice round the paddock, Highly, lowly, wily, holy,
dip, dip, dip!

Then neighed the horse in the paddock-and lo!
its wings.

For whoso findeth the SPRING beneath the earth
maketh the treaders-of-earth to course the heavens.
This SPRING is threefold; of water, but also of steel,
and of the seasons.

Also this PADDOCK is the Toad that hath the
jewel between his eyes-Aum Mani Padmen
Hum! (Keep us from Evil!)"

- *The Dowser* by Aleister Crowley

5. Closing

EMPEROR moves behind the throne. RAM and OWL flanking and all three face the PEOPLE.

OWL: "Live your life, nor seek to know
Why scream the dead. The grass will grow
Luxuriantly, taste of love
And trouble not for knowledge, glove
Your senses with the wine of Pan,
Let him lead you where he can"

- *As Above* by Grady McMurtry

RAM: "Through woodland to the bacchanal,
There hide you from the fetid pall
Of reason. He who binds
The secret of arcanum finds
That which is truth, and which its foe
And he must live yet must he know
Why scream the dead below-below--"

- *As Above* by Grady McMurtry

EMPEROR leads all in Saying Will, which marks the end of the ritual and the beginning of the feast.

Aestival Solstice - Cancer & Water: Love



Officers

CHARIOT: Black robe with gold “armor” and reigns.

CRAB: White robe with red and blue “armor”.

SPHINX: Black robe with wings.

Ritual Equipment

- Chariot: In the north so that the people face north. Flanking an enclosed chair with simple wheels may suffice. If any cloth is used to enclose the chair it should keep in mind the Chariot card.
- Cup with wine
- Blue Candle
- Red Candle (preferably the same one used in the previous Vernal Equinox Ritual, if available)
- Double Cube Altar in the center of the Temple. Upon it, the Red Candle in the south lit, and the Blue Candle in the west unlit. In the center is the Cup filled with wine.

Ritual

1. Opening

The people are admitted standing, and the CHARIOT is standing in front of the chariot. The position of the legs are to be comfortably separated to each side a small distance from each other. Flanked on the east by the CRAB, and west by the SPHINX. SPHINX is attached to the reigns and both SPHINX and CRAB are standing.

CRAB: "He made him an hollow skin from the heart of an holy tree, He compassed the earth therien, and Man was the Lord of the Sea." - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

PEOPLE: "Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit." - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

CRAB then moves to the altar and uses the red candle to light the blue candle. CRAB then brings the Cup to CHARIOT, offering it in prostration. CRAB then mingles with the crowd praising them quietly until further instruction.

2. Invocation

CHARIOT raises the Cup.

CHARIOT: "I bring ye wine from above,
From the vats of the storied sun;
For every one of yer love,
And life for every one.
Ye shall dance on hill and level;
Ye shall sing in hollow and height
In the festal mystical revel,
The rapurous Bacchanal rite!
The rocks and trees are yours,
And the waters under the hill,
By the might of that which endures,
The holy heaven of will!
I kindle a flame like a torrent
To rush from star to star;
Your hair as a comet's horrent,
Ye shall see things as they are!
I lift the mask of matter;

I open the heart of man;
For I am of force to shatter
The cast that hideth -Pan!

[CHARIOT traces invoking pentagram of water with the Cup]

Your loves shall lap up slaughter,
And dabbled with roses of blood
Each desperate darling daughter
Shall swim in the fervid flood.
I bring ye laughter and tears,
The kisses that foam and bleed,
The joys of a million years,
The flowers that bear no seed.
My life is bitter and sterile,
Its flame is a wandering star.
Ye shall pass in pleasure and peril
Across the mystic bar
That is set for wrath and weeping
Against the children of earth;
But ye in singing and sleeping
Shall pass in measure and mirth!
I lift my wand and wave you
Through hill to hill of delight :
My rosy rivers lave you
In innermost lustral light..
I lead you, lord of the maze,
In the darkness free of the sun;
In spite of the spite that is day's
We are wed, we are wild, we are one."

- *Hymn to Dionysus* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: "Io Dionysus! (Hail Babalon! For alternate)"

3. Reception

*SPHINX flaps wings. CHARIOT sits and lowers Cup to chest level and raises reigns to chest level.
CRAB moves opposite CHARIOT (between the double cube altar and the PEOPLE) in adoration.*

SPHINX: "O thou who passest thro' our valleys in
Thy strength, curb thy fierce steeds, allay the heat
That flames from their large nostrils! thou, O Summer,

Oft pitched'st here thy golden tent, and oft
Beneath our oaks hast slept, while we beheld
With joy thy ruddy limbs and flourishing hair.

Beneath our thickest shades we oft have heard
Thy voice, when noon upon his fervid car
Rode o'er the deep of heaven; beside our springs
Sit down, and in our mossy valleys, on
Some bank beside a river clear, throw thy
Silk draperies off, and rush into the stream:
Our valleys love the Summer in his pride.

Our bards are fam'd who strike the silver wire:
Our youth are bolder than the southern swains:
Our maidens fairer in the sprightly dance:
We lack not songs, nor instruments of joy,
Nor echoes sweet, nor waters clear as heaven,
Nor laurel wreaths against the sultry heat."

- *To Summer* by William Blake

4. Blessing

PEOPLE: "Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever."

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

CHARIOT, CRAB and SPHINX: "So mote it be!"

CHARIOT traces the symbol of Cancer with the Cup, and walks around the room offering the Cup with both hands to be touched by the PEOPLE, while CRAB recites the following lines.

CRAB: "Witch-moon that turnest all the streams to blood,
I take this hazel rod, and stand, and swear
An Oath-beneath this blasted Oak and bare
That rears its agony above the flood
Whose swollen mask mutters an atheist's prayer.
What oath may stand the shock of this offence:

"There is no I, no joy, no permanence"?

Witch-moon of blood, eternal ebb and flow
Of baffled birth, in death still lurks a change;
And all the leopards in thy woods that range,
And all the vampires in their boughs that glow,
Brooding on blood-thirst-these are not so strange
And fierce as life's unfailing shower. These die,
Yet time rebears them through eternity.

Hear then the Oath, with-moon of blood, dread
moon!
Let all thy stryges and thy ghouls attend!
He that endureth even to the end
Hath sworn that Love's own corpse shall lie at noon
Even in the coffin of its hopes, and spend
All the force won by its old woe and stress
In now annihilating Nothingness."
- *Bortsch* by Aleister Crowley

5. Closing

CHARIOT moves behind the chariot previously sat upon. CRAB and SPHINX move in front and all three face the PEOPLE.

SPHINX: "“FAINT shadows cross the shifting spears of light,
Pale gold and amethyst, or warmly white,
Till velvet shod, unseen, the wizard hours
Hold thus their elfin court amid the flowers,
That wake to wingèd music of the night.
And silken signs scarce stir the amorous bowers
Where 'passioned sleep his poppy garland showers,"
- *Midsummer Eve* by Ethel Archer (Equinox 1.iv)

CRAB: "In dreams which mock the hastening moments flight.
Up soars the moon, and higher still and higher
The dancers leap to catch some fairy fire
to steal and 'prison in the glow-worm's tail,
For pixie torches should the starlight fail;
Reflecting gems which deck the elfin choir,

Melting like snowflakes at the daybreak pale.”

- *Midsummer Eve* by Ethel Archer (Equinox 1.iv)

CHARIOT leads all in Saying Will, which marks the end of the ritual and the beginning of the feast.

Autumnal Equinox - Libra & Air: Life



Officers

ADJUSTMENT: White robe with green vestments and a hand-scale.

HUMAN: White robe.

ELEPHANT: Black robe with grey scarf like an elephant trunk.

Ritual Equipment

- Banc: A banc is the seat in which judges sit. It is positioned in the west so that the people face west. Enclosing a chair behind a podium or other edifice would suffice. Keep in mind the colors of the Adjustment card for any drapery.
- Sword or Dagger (not sharpened please)
- Yellow Candle
- Blue Candle (preferably the same one used in the previous Aestival Solstice Ritual, if available)
- Double Cube Altar in the center of the Temple. Upon it, the Blue Candle in the west lit, and the Yellow Candle in the east unlit. In the center is the Sword/Dagger.

Ritual

1. Opening

The people are admitted standing, and ADJUSTMENT is standing in front of the banc as vertical as possible. Flanked on the south by the HUMAN, and north by the ELEPHANT. ELEPHANT is seated on the ground and HUMAN is standing.

HUMAN: “Deep-mouthed from their thrones deep-seated, the choirs of the æons declare the last of the demons defeated, for Man is the Lord of the Air.” - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

PEOPLE: “Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit.” - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

HUMAN then moves to the altar and uses the blue candle to light the yellow candle, takes the Sword to ADJUSTMENT and offers it with both hands open. HUMAN then mingles with the crowd thinking silently.

2. Invocation

ADJUSTMENT *Raises the Sword*

ADJUSTMENT: “For I was born in the sign of the Sphinx
In the incandescent air
With my serpent rod and my shining links
And my halo haunted hair
And I glide upon the Red Lion
And ride him to his lair

Four kerubs guard the silent Sphinx
Four pillars of the sky
A God, a Beast, a Star, a Priest
Four Angels, Adonai!
But me they hid in the pyramid

[ADJUSTMENT traces the invoking pentagram of air with the Sword and sits, indicating to the PEOPLE to sit.]

To die, but not to die

“To become a Sphinx one must be born a Sphinx”
The Transformers did not lie

And the pile of dust was burned to ash
As the Angel wind passed by
A Star was born in the Abyss
From the Eye that is not 'I' ”

- *The Sign of the Sphinx* by Grady L. McMurtry (used as Grady assigned this poem to this card)

PEOPLE: “Praise the Sphinx”

3. Reception

ELEPHANT trumpets and flaps trunk. ADJUSTMENT stands pointing Sword down and holding it with both hands. HUMAN moves opposite ADJUSTMENT (between the double cube altar and the PEOPLE) in the sign of the thinker.

ELEPHANT: “O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.

The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.”
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.”

- *To Autumn* by William Blake

4. Blessing

PEOPLE: “Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee
with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us

to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever.”

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

ADJUSTMENT, HUMAN and ELEPHANT: “So mote it be!”

ADJUSTMENT stands, trances the symbol of Libra with the Sword, and walks around the room offering the Sword/Dagger with both hands to be touched by the PEOPLE, while HUMAN recites the following lines.

HUMAN: “Doubt.

Doubt thyself.

Doubt even if thou doubtest thyself.

Doubt all.

Doubt even if thou doubtest all.

It seems sometimes as if beneath all conscious doubt
there lay some deepest certainty. O kill it! Slay the
snake!

The horn of the Doubt-Goat be exalted

Dive deeper, ever deeper, into the Abyss of Mind,
until thou unearth the fox THAT. On, hounds!

Yoicks! Tally-ho! Bring THAT to bay!

Then, wind the Mort!”

- *Terrier-Work* by Aleister Crowley

5. Closing

ADJUSTMENT moves behind the banc previously sat upon. HUMAN and ELEPHANT move in front and all three face the PEOPLE.

ELEPHANT: “Only loobies find excellence in these words.

It is thinkable that A is not-A; to reverse this is but
to revert to the normal.

Yet by forcing the brain to accept propositions of
which one set is absurdity, the other truism, a
new function of brain is established.

Vague and mysterious and all indefinite are the
contents of this new consciousness; yet they are
somehow vital. by use they become luminous.”

- *The Looby* by Aleister Crowley

HUMAN: "Unreason becomes Experience.
This lifts the leaden-footed soul to the Experience
of THAT of which Reason is the blasphemy.
But without the Experience these words are the
Lies of a Looby.
Yet a Looby to thee, and a Booby to me, a Balassius
Ruby to GOD, may be!"

- *The Looby* by Aleister Crowley

ADJUSTMENT leads all in Saying Will, which marks the end of the ritual and the beginning of the feast.

Brumal Solstice - Capricorn & Earth: Liberty



Officers

DEVIL: Black robe and chains in the left hand.

GOAT: White robe with goat-horned cap.

ASS: Black robe with grey belt hanging in the back as a tail.

Ritual Equipment

- Large Black Altar: Must be able to be seated upon. In the south so that the people face south. No special observance other than the color being black is needed. If color is desired, earth and flesh tones are appropriate.
- Phallus
- Black Candle
- Yellow Candle (preferably the same one used in the previous Autumnal Equinox Ritual, if available)
- Double Cube Altar in the center of the Temple. Upon it, the Yellow Candle in the east lit, and the Black Candle in the south unlit. In the center is the Phallus.

Ritual

1. Opening

The people are admitted and seated, and the DEVIL is seated on the large altar with feet to each side or in lotus position. Flanked on the west by the GOAT, and east by the ASS. GOAT and ASS are both seated and lightly bound by both hands to the chains of the DEVIL. These bindings should be simple loops around the outside of both wrists as they will need to be removed easily. GOAT resists bindings while ASS does not.

GOAT: "In the Years of the Primal Course, in the dawn of terrestrial birth, Man mastered the mammoth and horse, and Man was the Lord of the Earth" - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

PEOPLE: "Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit." - Aleister Crowley, The Pentagram

GOAT then shakes off the binds, leaps up with laughter, and moves to the altar and uses the yellow candle to light the black candle. GOAT gently tosses the Phallus to DEVIL. GOAT then mingles and flirts mildly with the crowd.

2. Invocation

DEVIL remains seated and raises the Phallus

DEVIL: "I adore Thee, King of Evil,
By the body Thou hast fashioned
In the likeness of a devil.
By its purity impassioned
I adore Thee, King of Evil!

I adore Thee, Lord of Malice,
By the soul that Thou hast moulded
Lovely as a lily-chalice
To the sombre sun unfolded.
I adore Thee, Lord of Malice!

By its thirst, the cruel craving
For things infinite, unheard-of,
[DEVIL traces invoking pentagram of earth with the Phallus]
Dreams devouring and depraving,

Songs no God may guess a word of,
Songs of crime and songs of craving—

By the drear eyes of the devil
 Bleak and sterile as they glitter
I adore Thee, King of Evil,
 With these lips, as dry and bitter
As the drear eyes of the devil!

I adore Thee, I adore Thee,
 I abase myself before Thee,
By the spells that once awoke the
 Lust of Chaos I adore Thee,
I adore Thee, I invoke Thee!”
- *Hymn to Satan* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: “Hail Satan!”

3. Reception

ASS brays and stands. DEVIL lowers Phallus to groin and shakes chains. GOAT moves opposite DEVIL (between the double cube altar and the PEOPLE) and shivers.

ASS: “O winter! bar thine adamantine doors:
The north is thine; there hast thou built thy dark
Deep-founded habitation. Shake not thy roofs
Nor bend thy pillars with thine iron car.

He hears me not, but o’er the yawning deep
Rides heavy; his storms are unchain’d, sheathed
In ribbed steel; I dare not lift mine eyes;
For he hath rear’d his sceptre o’er the world.

Lo! now the direful monster, whose skin clings
To his strong bones, strides o’er the groaning rocks:
He withers all in silence, and in his hand
Unclothes the earth, and freezes up frail life.

He takes his seat upon the cliffs, the mariner
Cries in vain. Poor little wretch! that deal’st

With storms, till heaven smiles, and the monster
Is driven yelling to his caves beneath Mount Hecla.”

- *To Winter* by William Blake

DEVIL unbinds ASS.

ASS moves next to GOAT, both warming each other.

4. Blessing

PEOPLE: “Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever.”

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

DEVIL, GOAT and ASS: “So mote it be!”

DEVIL stands, traces the symbol of Capricorn with the Phallus, and walks around the room offering the Phallus with the left hand, point up, to be touched by the PEOPLE, while GOAT recites the following lines.

GOAT: “Mighty and erect is this Will of mine, this Pyramid of fire whose summit is lost in Heaven. Upon it have I burned the corpse of my desires.

Mighty and erect is this Φαλλος (Phallos) of my Will. The seed thereof is That which I have borne within me from Eternity; and it is lost within the Body of Our Lady of the Stars.

I am not I; I am but an hollow tube to bring down Fire from Heaven.

Mighty and marvellous is this Weakness, this Heaven which draweth me into Her Womb, this Dome which hideth, which absorbeth, Me.

This is The Night wherein I am lost, the Love through which I am no longer I.”

- *The Gun-Barrel* by Aleister Crowley

5. Closing

The DEVIL moves behind the altar previously sat upon. GOAT and ASS move in front and all three face the PEOPLE.

ASS: "Ware, nor of good nor ill, what aim hath act?
Without its climax, death, what savour hath
Life? an impeccable machine, exact
He paces an inane and pointless path
To glut brute appetites, his sole content
How tedious were he fit to comprehend
Himself! More, this our noble element
Of fire in nature, love in spirit, unkenned
Life hath no spring, no axle, and no end."

- *Hymn to Lucifer* by Aleister Crowley

GOAT: "His body a bloody-ruby radiant
With noble passion, sun-souled Lucifer
Swept through the dawn colossal, swift aslant
On Eden's imbecile perimeter.
He blessed nonentity with every curse
And spiced with sorrow the dull soul of sense,
Breathed life into the sterile universe,
With Love and Knowledge drove out innocence
The Key of Joy is disobedience."

- *Hymn to Lucifer* by Aleister Crowley

DEVIL leads all in Saying Will, which marks the end of the ritual and the beginning of the feast.

Texts for the People

Saying Will

The primary ritualist (LEADER) in each ceremony leads all present in saying Will to demarcate the end of each Ritual of the Element and to initiate the feast afterwards. While most Thelemites should be acquainted with this practice, newer members may need the following printed out.

LEADER: (*knocks 3-5-3*) "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."

ALL: "What is thy will?"

LEADER: "It is my will to eat and to drink."

ALL: "To what end?"

LEADER: "That I may fortify my body thereby."

ALL: "To what end?"

LEADER: "That I may accomplish the Great Work."

ALL: "Love is the law, love under will."

LEADER: (*knocks once*) "Fall to!"

Alternate Will

If the ritual is not directly followed by a feast, then it is appropriate to use this version of Will instead. This is taken from *Raise the Spell* by M. Dionysius Rogers.

LEADER: (*knocks 3-5-3*) "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."

ALL: "What is thy will?"

LEADER: "To depart this temple."

ALL: "To what end?"

LEADER: "That we may engage the world."

ALL: "To what end?"

LEADER: "That we may accomplish our True Wills, the Great Work, the Summum Bonum, True Wisdom and Perfect Happiness."

ALL: "Love is the law, love under will."

LEADER: (*knocks once*)

Vernal Equinox

Cue: RAM: "and man was the Lord of the Fire."

PEOPLE: "Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit."

- *The Pentagram* by Aleister Crowley

*Cue: EMPEROR: "O fiery Valkyrie,
I invoke, I invoke!"*

- *Pan to Artemis* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: "Io Artemis!"

Cue: OWL: "Whose modest tresses are bound up for thee."

- *To Spring* by William Blake

PEOPLE: "Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever."

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

Feel free to touch the magical weapon when offered.

Cue: EMPEROR Knocks 333-55555-333

PEOPLE participate in saying Will.

Aestival Solstice

Cue: CRAB: “and man was the Lord of the Sea.”

PEOPLE: “Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit.”

- *The Pentagram* by Aleister Crowley

*Cue: CHARIOT: “In spite of the spite that is day’s
We are wed, we are wild, we are one.”*

- *Hymn to Dionysus* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: “Io Dionysus!”

Cue: SPHINX: “Nor laurel wreaths against the sultry heat.”

- *To Summer* by William Blake

PEOPLE: “Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever.”

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

Feel free to touch the magical weapon when offered.

Cue: CHARIOT Knocks 333-55555-333

PEOPLE participate in saying Will.

Autumnal Equinox

Cue: HUMAN: "for Man is the Lord of the Air."

PEOPLE: "Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit."

- *The Pentagram* by Aleister Crowley

*Cue: ADJUSTMENT: "A Star was born in the Abyss
From the Eye that is not 'I' "*

- [*The Sign of the Sphinx*](#) by Grady L. McMurtry (used as Grady assigned this poem to this card)

PEOPLE: "Praise the Sphinx"

Cue: ELEPHANT: "Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load."

- *To Autumn* by William Blake

PEOPLE: "Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever."

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

Feel free to touch the magical weapon when offered.

Cue: ADJUSTMENT Knocks 333-55555-333

PEOPLE participate in saying Will.

Brumal Solstice

Cue: GOAT: “and Man was the Lord of the Earth.”

PEOPLE: “Arise, O Man, in thy strength! the kingdom is thine to inherit, till the high gods witness at length that Man is the Lord of his Spirit.”

- *The Pentagram* by Aleister Crowley

*Cue: DEVIL: “By the spells that once awoke the
Lust of Chaos I adore Thee,
I adore Thee, I invoke Thee!”*

- *Hymn to Satan* by Aleister Crowley

PEOPLE: “Hail Satan!”

*Cue: ASS: “With storms, till heaven smiles, and the monster
Is driven yelling to his caves beneath Mount Hecla.”*

- *To Winter* by William Blake

PEOPLE: “Lord visible and sensible of whom this earth is but a frozen spark turning about thee with annual and diurnal motion, source of light, source of life, let thy perpetual radiance hearten us to continual labour and enjoyment; so that as we are constant partakers of thy bounty we may in our particular orbit give out light and life, sustenance and joy to them that revolve about us without diminution of substance or effulgence for ever.”

- *The Sun Collect from Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass* by Aleister Crowley

Feel free to touch the magical weapon when offered.

Cue: DEVIL Knocks 333-55555-333

PEOPLE participate in saying Will.

About the Author

Frater Ophiphos serves with Crux Ansata Oasis, Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) in the valley of Denver.