



InSight

The Blazing Star Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1 Spring Equinox, 2009ev

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

“The birth of the Sun is always announced by its Star, represented by the Blazing Star, which you will know by its fiery color; and it is followed in its course by the silvery luster of the Moon.”

OUR MISSION:

Welcome to *InSight*, the voice of Blazing Star Oasis. Beginnings are formative times for any manifestation. In order to create true unity we must share a collective vision or purpose.

Blazing Star Oasis serves as a chartered local body of Ordo Templi Orientis for the purpose of exemplifying and promulgating the Law of Thelema in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We are committed to the teaching and practice of Thelemic magick and mysticism, facilitating personal Initiation, and conducting the sacramental rites of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica in an atmosphere of mutual Respect, Love and Brotherhood. Blazing Star Oasis maintains an unwavering commitment to individual

Liberty, personal Excellence and group Harmony.

With the vernal Equinox we enter the year of the Star, Atu XVII, in the Thelemic calendar. Transitioning from the year of the Tower, we enter a time of inspiration, clarity of vision and connection with the universal intelligence - a most auspicious time to manifest Blazing Star Oasis.

We are very excited about our opportunity to develop as a diverse and active local body of the OTO. As it is written, “...thus we gather up all the threads of human passion and interest, and weave them into an harmonious tapestry, subtly and diligently and with great art.” We welcome any who would join us in this Work.

The Divine Feminine

by M

This essay formed the closing speech at the Mystics, Mothers and Magicians Conference held in Sacramento, CA, November 2008 ev.

It is no secret that our Order is based upon the Solar-Phallic Mysteries. Many people, sadly even some members – of both sexes! – question what place is there for the Divine Feminine in a Solar-Phallic Cult.

I could go into numerous reasons why the Ordo Templi Orientis is, of necessity, oriented towards the masculine expression. However, defending the phallic nature of things is not necessary. There are many places within our Holiest Book where the New Aeon is described as active, forceful and virile; things usually considered to be masculine in nature. However, these characteristics are not limited to the male of our species, nor to male archetypes. Do not misunderstand me. I am proud to a Man and a Brother in the OTO. You see, I am a very powerful man in the Order ~ precisely *because* I am a Woman.

What is the solar-phallic nature but one of striving? It often seems to not matter what the goal is, but one is damned well going to get there! It is the force of seeking for, the aspiration unto. Ah,

yes indeed, what place can there be in Thelema and the lingam oriented OTO for the Divine Feminine? Well, what do you think the phallus yearns for?

Thelemic Divine Feminine is usually regarded in two basic forms: Nuit and Babalon. These Goddesses provide the main vehicle of the magickal current in the New Aeon. Nuit – the expansive night sky, ever unfolding, embraces all Creation. And Babalon – the immediate and raw Experience of all that is, absorbing All without distinction or surrender. It is easy to separate the two manifestations, to think of them as separate individualities.

However, this is not so. They are simply steps or progressions of the same, vital Feminine energy that empowers or embodies Creation. Our prophet wrote, “Venus is nearer to Man than Aphrodite, Aphrodite than Isis, Isis than Babalon, and Babalon than Nuit.” (*Liber Aleph*) Our Lady Nuit is the most rarified, and yet her body is the physical reality of all things. There can be no thing that is not a part of Her body. To experience Nuit is to lose the Self entirely. She is the passive aspect of the Divine Feminine. *Liber AL* instructs us that it is Hadit who is the Knower, Nuit is the Known.

“Now, therefore, I am known to ye by my name Nuit, and to him by a secret name which I will give him when at last he knoweth me.

(continued on next page)

Why Ritual Practice is Important

by IAO131

When doing some practice or ritual, if one is a Thelemite then one must always ask this question: *How does this help the fulfillment of my Will?*

Too many times do Thelemites perform ceremonial rituals and yoga practices for some aim other than the fulfillment of their Wills.

Thelema often speaks of Initiation, the Great Work, Knowledge & Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel, Nothing/Naught/None, union of opposites, etc. which represents the attainment of the “consciousness of the continuity of existence” wherein one becomes “chief of all,” insofar as one becomes identified with the All. The Universe and the Self are understood as one Thing, a state of non-duality. This unity is called “Nothing” because it is continuous (see *Liber AL vel Legis* I:22-23, 26-30). This is the First Step or the Next Step. One’s Will is the dynamic nature of the Self: if you don’t fully know the nature of that Self, then one cannot fully express that nature.

Therefore, attainment of “the consciousness of continuity of existence” must be every aspirant’s First Aim. “There is a single main definition of the object of all magical Ritual. It is the uniting of the Microcosm with the Macrocosm. The Supreme and Complete Ritual is therefore the Invocation of the Holy Guardian Angel; or, in the language of Mysticism, Union with God. All other magical Rituals are particular cases of this general principle...” (*Magick in Theory and Practice*). If one seeks the Will of the True Self, one must attain to that True Self. “The True Self is the meaning of the True Will: know thyself through Thy Way” (“The Heart of the Master”). In this way, all Acts must be done “To me,” with the intention of the attainment of Infinity in one’s mind.

Once one has attained to ‘Naught’ (*Solve*), then one’s task is the formulation of that Divinity in motion (*Coagula*). The True Self has been attained, now it must express itself in the world. “To me” now takes on a new meaning: All Acts must be done as an acknowledgement of that Infinity, as a fulfillment of one of its Possibilities. “To me” means treating all Acts as sacred as

participation in the Joyful Sacrament of Existence. Further, since the Higher (the attainment of unity of perception) has been attained and solidified, the Lower must be consolidated. The mind and body must be fortified and enhanced by all means. *The Book of the Law* says “Wisdom says: be strong! Then canst thou bear more joy.” The mind and body are the means of manifestation of Divinity in the world; they are the means by which the All may become self-aware of itself in the Many. Therefore just as a polished diamond may reflect light more clearly, so must the mind and body be “polished” to reflect the Supernal Light more purely. One must “Contemplate your own Nature,” “Explore the Nature and Powers of your own Being,” and “Develop in due harmony and proportion every faculty which you possess” (“Duty”). The body must be strong and healthy, and the mind must be elastic and ever-expanding in its limits & knowledge. Not only must one’s faculties be strong, but one must always “exceed! exceed!” You must “Go... unto the outermost places and subdue all things” (“Liber LXV”) and “Extend the dominion of your consciousness, and its control of all forces alien to it, to the utmost” (“Duty”). This must always be done with the fulfillment of one’s Will in mind as the impetus; whether one is attempting to attain to Unity or attempting to fortify the mind and body to fashion a suitable vehicle for Divinity to manifest is up to the individual.

We’ve seen that all ritual, yoga, or any workings must be towards the end of the fulfillment of the Will. First, “the consciousness of the continuity of existence” must be attained, and secondly one’s mind and body must be strengthened, fortified, explored, contemplated, and their dominion extended. The former might be called the Mystic Half of the Path, and the latter might be called the Magick Half of the Path. Either way, both the Higher and the Lower must be attained “For Perfection abideth not in the Pinnacles, or in the Foundations, but in the ordered Harmony of one with all” (“Liber Causae”). If an Act is not made “To me,” either as a desire of one’s spirit to unite with All Things or as a rapturous love-cry coming from the joy of participation in the World... “if the ritual be not ever unto me: then expect the direful judgments of Ra Hoor Khuit!”

“There is no law beyond Do what thou wilt.”

(The Divine Feminine continued)

Since I am Infinite Space, and the Infinite Stars thereof, do ye also thus. Bind nothing! Let there be no difference made among you between any one thing & any other thing; for thereby there cometh hurt.” *AL I:22*

It should be no surprise that this “secret name” is none other than Our Lady Babalon! It is through the agency of Babalon that true “knowing” occurs. Where Hadit touches Nuit, where He knows Her, there is Babalon manifested. She is the vital, active force of the Feminine. She is the Woman who ‘knows’. The one who absorbs all experiences, the myriad Hadit-points, while keeping her attention fully focused upon each and every one simultaneously. It should be no surprise that she is referred to as “many willed”.

Babalon can be a demanding Goddess. Her appetite is ravenous and unquenchable. Her desire is unstoppable. Nuit, in Her

book, implores that one gives “always unto me.” Babalon is much more likely to take whatever she wants, while freely giving all that she has. Gathering the blood of the Adepts into her golden cup of fornication, she uses their blood “to vivify the Rose of Universal Creation.” (*Vision & the Voice*)

Thelemic women are encouraged to explore their own Power and Strength. To embrace their lives as true Gods. Aleister Crowley may not have been polite in his writings about women, but when he wrote of Woman ... he was often dead-on. I will leave you with some things to contemplate.

“The Book of the Law is the Charter of Woman; the Word of Thelema has opened the lock of Her ‘girdle of chastity’. Your Sphinx of stone has come to life; to know, to will, to dare and to keep silence.”

“Not only art thou Woman, sworn to a purpose not thine own; thou art thyself a

star, and in thyself a purpose unto thyself. Not only mother of men art thou or whore to men, serf to their need of Life and Love, not sharing in the Light and Liberty; nay, thou art Mother and Whore for thine own pleasure”

“She is Sakti, the Magical Door between the Tao and the Manifested World. The great Obstacle then is if that Door be locked up. Therefore Our Lady must be symbolized as a Whore, Daleth, the Door = Venus, the Dove.”

“I see thee, Woman, thou standest alone, High Priestess art thou unto Love at the Altar of Life. And Man is the Victim therein.”

Finally, I’d like to remind us all of the ultimate message for women in Thelema:

“The essence of my word is to declare Woman to be Herself, of, to, and for Herself.”

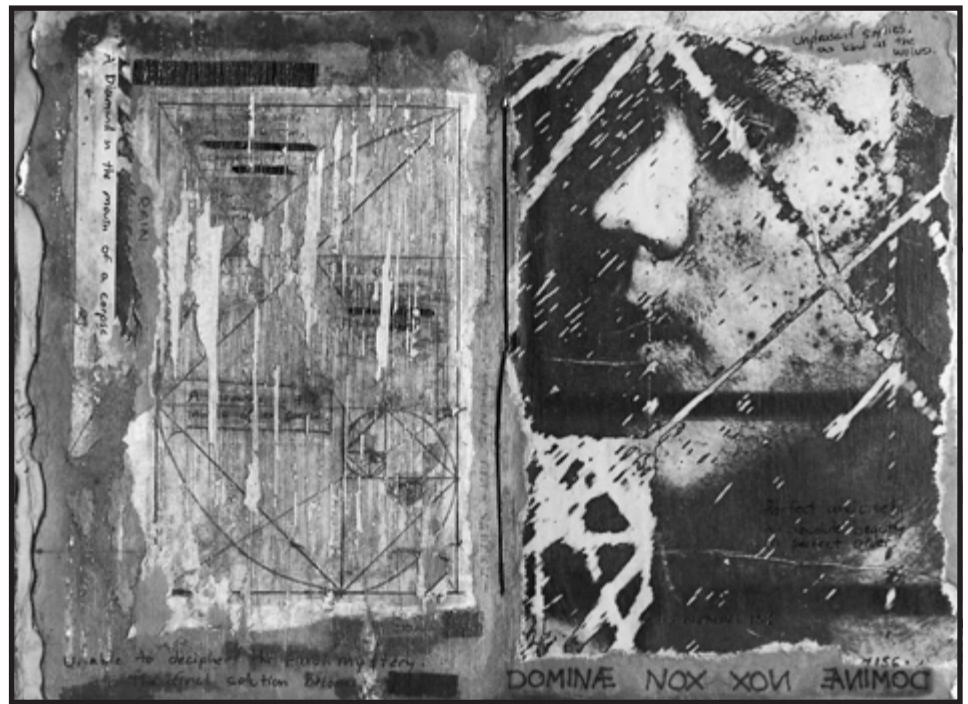
The Science of Shapeshifting

by Soror Isis

I am a shape-shifter. It is a gift, a talent I have. Think of me not as a creature born of folklore, nor as a product of the cobwebs of superstition and debunked arcane thought. I change my appearance at will, and others will see me in different skins on different nights. You do not know my true gender, my true race and color. That is a secret only for me.

The lady, Antoinette, while at a dinner party at the Ambassador's home in Washington D.C., introduced herself to me when I was a man of good breeding and repute. We spent the night talking furiously of our pursuits and our pastimes. I delighted in touching her softly and briefly throughout the night, her respectability being the veil of her cool reactions to my advances. I received her number, and graced her with a soft kiss on the balcony. This same lady, upon seeing me a haggard and old bag-lady the next day, with skin as rough as sandpaper, pushing a shopping cart full of foul dirty things, brushed me off on the street corner next to the Hill as quickly as she had batted her eyes to me the night before. I do not see it as some test of preference or character. I have much more subtle reasons for my choices.

Shape-shifting is a lesser reincarnation. The secret to shape-shifting is that you do not actually change your shape, but rather convince others to see you differently. Hypnosis is a key tool. It is a tool I learned while under the guidance of my mentor, while out on the mountains in a country I am not at liberty to divulge. The secrecy of



'She Who is Kind as the Wolves'

Artwork by Frater Acaphael

lineage to this ability is paramount to my survival, my existence. However, by telling a few secrets does not give away all. For, it is one thing to say, and another to do. An outsider cannot possibly understand what it means to shape-shift, unless they themselves possess the talent and the understanding of such.

No doubt my ability has given me the clout to do things only common men can dream of. You might ask me, "What would a person like yourself do with such a gift? What do you spend your waking moments in pursuit of?" There are few like me. I can count them on one hand. And yet, possibly still some unbeknownst to me, for reasons out of my range of ability. Whether their motives are noble or base, it is up to them to decide. Think not of us as some secret

organization; an Illuminati, if you will, of men and women who convene in the depths of a cave, deciding the fate of humankind.

Keeping track of the masses, in my humble opinion, would be a waste of time. Most, if not all men on the earth, work and live within their own limited range. They cannot see what is beyond them, so why should I spend my time executing the same repetitious actions on them? If the goal of my life was material wealth and power, I could easily make of myself an empire. I could easily toy with the masses, the governments, the princes and kings of power. But, this does a disservice to my talent. There are far greater riches that the outsider cannot see. So, to answer the question imposed on me, my talent is my end. The act itself is the end.

Astronomical Mystery by Matthew Demattei

Sometimes the mysteries appear opened before you, and from Spring to early Summer one sacred mystery is displayed gloriously in the body of Nuit. It is contained in four constellations, which are actually three.

The mighty Leo is our constellation of Lust, and its lucida is white star Regulus, the Little King. Also called Basiliscus, it was one of the four Royal Stars of the Persians, who called it Venant, the Watcher of the North. It equates to the Lion cherub on the Tarot.

Virgo is the Maiden. The Goddess. The Priestess. She bears Spica, the sheaf of

wheat and the *sperma* of the Gnostic Mass. Libra, corresponding to the Tarot Trump Adjustment, is well known as the Scales. However, a look at the history of the constellation and the names of its stars shows that in antiquity it was the claws of the Scorpion which lies just beyond.

The vermiform Scorpion who brought down Orion is indicative of Death. At its heart is Antares, the Rival of Mars, whose reddish light was The Persian Royal Star Satevis, the Watcher of the West. It is also the Cherubic Eagle of the Tarot.

It is fitting that the Eagle is Red, for on the other side of Virgo, one finds a White Lion.

In addition, the Greek Astronomer Aratos referred to Scorpius as "megatherion". Scorpius is symbolized in this way by the Serpent. Restoring Libra to its old position as the Claws of the Scorpion, we then have the Virgin guarded to the North by a Lion, and to the West by a Serpent.

There, in plain view, is Babalon and the Beast, the White Lion and the Red Eagle, across one quadrant of the sky.

Love is the law, love under will.

InSight Newsletter

Blazing Star Oasis O.T.O.
P.O. Box 11386
Berkeley, Ca 94712-1386



Spring Equinox 2009ev

Visit us on the web
www.BlazingStar-OTO.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

4/4 Brk - Exemplification 0°
4/5 SF Mass - Greater Feast of Swinburne
4/7 Brk - MMM study 0°
4/8 *Holy Days Feast - BSO evening.*
4/9 *Holy Days Feast - Sirius evening.*
4/10 *Holy Days Feast - BSO evening*
4/14 Brk - Magick III - In nomine Babalon
4/18 Brk - Mass
4/19 SF - Mass
4/21 Brk - Holy Books
4/28 Brk - Magick III

Holy Books: An evening reading the Holy Books of Thelema aloud.

MMM Study Guide: Classes for initiates of the OTO.

Magick III: Classes on magick, theory and practice.

MAY

5/3 SF Mass
5/5 Brk - MMM study II°(rehearsal)
5/12 Brk - Magick III
5/16 Brk - II° Initiation
5/17 SF - Mass
5/19 Brk - Holy Books
5/26 Brk - Magick III- In nomine Babalon
5/30 Brk - Mass - Greater Feast of Soror Meral

***All events subject to change.**
For the most current schedule please join our elist at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BlazingStar-OTO>

Public Masses are held on Sunday afternoons at the beautiful Mission Masonic Hall.

JUNE

6/2 Brk - MMM Study II°
6/7 SF Mass - Greater Feast of Karl Kellner
6/9 Brk - Magick III
6/13 Brk - Exemplification III°
6/16 Brk - Holy Books
6/21 SF Mass - Equinox
6/23 Brk - Magick III- In nomine Babalon
6/27 Brk Mass
6/30 Brk - MMM study III°

Copies of *InSight* are provided to members of the Oasis free of charge. Subscription for non-members is \$15 per year. Sign up at the Oasis or contact Secretary@BlazingStar-OTO.org