



THE HERMETIC EXPEDIENT JULY 1988

The more ancient of my friends and correspondents know that the appearance of the Hermetic Expedient means but one thing: the correspondence pile has risen to impossible heights once again. In order to catch up with everyone, I have to do it all at once. You can see the H.E. as a party for us all, where I can have a chance for individual conversations. News(?) from the Columbus vortex can be shared with everyone at once, thus saving time.

I'll get back to an individual letter basis after this H.E. is distributed and the files are back in order. Meanwhile, I open the "to be answered" file and alphabetize everyone, then I assemble the "Personals" for individual answers. General ramblings will follow.

Apologies for having to resort to this device, but life's been extremely crowded lately. I'd hoped the Current would cut me a little slack as I grow older, but the opposite seems to be the case. Magickians don't have to worry about rusting out.

PERSONALS

FRA. ATsAD/96--Thanks for the information on 1988 as the 100th anniversary of so many interesting events. (For the rest of you, it's 100 years since the founding of the Golden Dawn, the National Geographic Society, the publication of The Kabbalah Unveiled by S.L.MacGregor Mathers and The Secret Doctrine by H.P.B., and the birth of A.O. Spare.)

Due to the format of the H.E., I can't comment specifically on your Gematria and conclusions, except to say they make sense and uncover some interesting information. Yes, RA lives on/in Truth.

Regarding your letter with the card--the relationship of Dike and Themis is noted--thanks for the clippings and other information. The inception of the Age of Aquarius seems to loosely coincide with the Aeon of Maat--it's more a matter of similarities of nature than a matter of precise timing.

The Aeon of Maat began when the Aeon of Horus was 44 years old (according to some) or 70 years old (according to others.) The distinction makes no difference since the Wordless Aeon began with the first Elevenstar Working, and all six (according to this system) Currents were earthed and balanced during a ritual at Winterstar a few years ago, "The Circus of the Aeons".

What all this signifies is that there are Initiates world-wide who work all the Aeonic Currents. The Wordless Aeon works without ritual or formula (Word) required--its Magick becomes part of the nature of its practitioners, and all of life becomes constant ritual. The links you've presented are solid. keep up the good Work.

MITCH B.--Congratulations on your graduation. May your practice be long and helpful to many people. Much love to your lady and your son.

JOEL B.—I'll miss reading the on-going saga of KAOS, now that you've decided to fold it. Have you thought about doing a retrospective by making all the issues available in one book? It'd be a collector's item and a valuable historical piece for future researchers.

I'd have to disagree with your statement that Thelema can't/doesn't encompass change. From Liber AL III 34: "...yet an invisible house there standeth and shall stand until the fall of the Great Equinox, when Hrumachis shall arise and the double-wanded one assume my throne and place. Another prophet shall arise, and bring fresh fever from the skies; another woman shall awake the lust and worship of the Snake; another soul of God and beast shall mingle in the globed priest; another sacrifice shall stain the tomb, another king shall reign; and blessing no longer be poured to the Hawk-headed mystical Lord."

As you see, the core document of Thelema announces the change of Aeons. The way it reads is linear, successive, exclusive, but that's the normal human way of seeing events. I see both Art and Science as cumulative, not serial; ideas build upon and grow from each other. Disproven and obsolete concepts sometimes take time to slough from the species-mind, but eventually they do.

Magickal Currents and formulae express the various facets of eternal truth--each true in its purity, but none encompassing all facets. The whole of truth may be comprehended only when one has transcended particular formulae in one's world-view. Therefore, I don't and can't say that Thelema as a Magickal System is any more effective for Initiation than Zen or Yoga, but I do say it's as effective when pursued correctly.

Good Art transmits good Magick. Good Art moves the beholder or listener; it "causes change to occur in conformity with Will." Art is the Lightning-Flash that's brought down the Tree by the artist, an illumination created by the one who has experienced his/her own Illumination above the Abyss, and who has the talent/skill/wisdom of accurate symbol-crafting. Magick isn't merely ritual, it's a way of life, a viewpoint that can and should permeate the Magickian's being. If it's viewed as a separate thing, as only ceremonial ritual for instance, Magick is trivialized and demeaned.

I don't know many occultists who cling to received texts. Quote them a lot, yes, but usually to illumine an idea with words that are strikingly expressed. One can quote from Shakespeare, Blake or Kerouac with equal effect, but few seldom do. All truths nicely put deserve to be quoted.

Who, one wonders, would Uncle Ezra designate as arbiters of worth in literature, other than himself? That which endures the ages, which has universality, interest, entertainment and the power to move emotions earns its laurels as "great." Lesser works become forgotten; it's natural selection at work.

Good luck on the calligraphy and ideograms. There's a need to open the information flow with the Chinese--ancient and modern.

Can't pretend to know KG's world-view, nor what if anything binds him to what sort of action. What I do know is that I left the Order, which is a final act; there's neither possibility nor interest of restoration. We correspond as friends and colleagues with far less strain and tension.

How do the trigrams stand detached from Maya? Concepts and ideas are as much a part of Maya as coat-racks and love affairs. The trigrams and hexagrams are based on Yin — — and Yang ---- lines; how should they be separated from the Pairs of Opposites, since it is upon the Pairs of Opposites that the trigrams and/or hexagrams depend, both for their structure and their operations?

The eternal truth must be spoken anew for each generation. The HolyBooks of the world—I Ching, the Bible, the Koran, the Vedas, Liber AL, Popul Vuh, the words of the Buddha, etc.—remain as gateways for the New Prophets to encounter that eternal truth. Once having experienced it, these Initiates bring it to the world again through their individual art, in ways best understood by their own times. This doesn't always work out precisely. Prophets are often ahead of their time, misunderstood by their own generation but attuned to the children and grandchildren of their contemporaries.

Some of the concepts in the I Ching are horribly outdated—"The Marrying Maiden" comes to mind. The male chauvinism of ancient China has no place in the world-view of today's female Magickian—nor in the world-view of educated mundanes. If you aim to make the I Ching a contemporary instrument of change, you'd best do something about all the submissive-female imagery.

I agree with your thinking about waiting for the proper partner(s). I'm with husband #3, with a number of unofficial situations among and between, and I know that some people can fry other people's circuits. Pretense is never a good basis for a relationship of any type. I agree that in this you're following the Tao.

Were you at Stonehenge for Solstice? According to press accounts, there were 4000 hippies rioting about the barricades. It sounded like quite a party, Druids notwithstanding. Keep well and enjoy the summer.

JESSIE C. & LORD M.—Blessed be! It was good to hear your voice on the phone this past week. The drought continues, the Earth cries for rain.

Good luck on the summertime job hunt. Daycare is becoming more of an issue in the media, so 'twould seem that there will be opportunities opening in that field.

We all miss you both—and the music. What are the chances of getting a tape from you including (but not limited to) The Ballad of Samurai Sam? Since we did talk, I'll keep this short. Will link up with you at next Full Moon and at Starwood. Much love, and blessed be.

JOE C.—Congratulations on having a PC. As a Virgo in good standing, I'd love to have one (and will when we can afford it); meanwhile, I resort to devices like the H.E. when things pile up.

You've packed a lot of living in a short span of time. It's exhausting, but 'that which does not destroy us makes us strong.' Everything's accelerating as we move toward 1993 (end of outer planet conjunction that began in the mid '80's), so the Priesthood has to be super-ready.

