

THE HERMETIC EXPEDIENT

7/13/90

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

Once again, it's time for the Hermetic Expedient to manifest. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, the H.E. is an irregular (very) publication that I trot out when the unanswered correspondence is piled hopelessly high, there's little chance that I'll be able to get out individual replies in the near future, and my conscience gets the better of me.

It has the virtue of allowing me to relay news of recent and impending events from this side of the communications line once (thanks to photocopying), instead of repeating it in individual letters. I also include condensed replies to the languishing letters from the pile; from past feedback, it seems that there's useful information in them for people other than the ones to whom the replies are addressed, so maybe the H.E. isn't that bad an idea after all.

I promise to get back to individual replies in the near future, so please take this as a letter, and write back, OK?

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ENGLAND HO!

On July 24, Lairus/Mike and I leave for London to visit the good people of the European Maat Network and other friends I've yet to meet. We're holding a lecture-workshop in Oxford, a ritual at Silbury Hill, and an evening of serious drinking and conversation at a pub much frequented by Magickians in London.

There will be excursions to other parts of England for visits with those who can't come to London, and there will be high-intensity sight-seeing sandwiched in between.

The main reason why the correspondence has piled so deep is that I've been working and re-working the lecture notes. The Current and its agents have insisted on this, since the first few attempts at assembling ideas on paper have been sabotaged by lost note-books, misplaced papers, new inspirations, etc. It's not easy to condense 16 years of Magickal work into a plus-or-minus hour format. But I finished last night (HA!, you Gremlins) and I mean to get the H.E. in the mail before we leave.

Beyond the obvious pleasureable aspects of the trip, I see it as an opportunity to extend and strengthen the connections among Power Zones/Vortices of the double consciousness of Maat. The transformation of an entire species into its next phase of evolution is a lifetime job, and one that requires as many minds, hearts and hands as possible.

We have to forego attendance at Starwood this year, and attendance of meetings of the Circle of the Sacred Grove, since we've yet to master bilocation.

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THE LETTERS

Frater Netz:

I keep asking myself if the world's ready for you, and no, it's not, not the way it is now, but I'll lay odds that you'll have a large part in making it ready for you. Even though the work's not difficult enough to be a worthwhile challenge for you, it'll pay off in the long run to score as high as possible in school, then use your record as a springboard to higher education and a comfortable income potential. There's no virtue in poverty or pain; situate yourself well in the Kingdom and you'll have more tools to work with to do your Will and more ease in which to use them.

The street can be a useful, though limited, training-ground in human psychology and stupidity. The information gained can apply to dealing with people in more urbane social, business and Magickal situations, but is the risk of injury, death, or Ego-calcification worth it? The most pathetic thing about the Mafia is their extreme "us-against-them" philosophy--remember, "The Law is for ALL". A Magickian's life is not his/ her own, but belongs to the Great Work.

Ishtar-Innana is indeed a heavy Lady, sponsoring both love and war. T.:.O.:.I.:. will rise again, I'm sure. I've met quite a few "phasers" in my life too; the ones who are lucky to drop back into the mundane soon enough will probably live safe and normal lives; the ones who have gone further and then withdraw out of fear constitute the "corpses" with which the Path of Initiation is strewn.

I haven't been Maggie Crosby since 1984, but with all the stuff Black Moon has from over the years, I'm not surprised at the impression. Write soon, OK?

Gregory:

Your account of the Astral experience is interesting, indeed, especially in light of the physical correspondence, or rather, the lack of it. Certain substances have an equal balance between the physical and the Astral planes, such as blood, breath, semen and the various kalas, and in some circumstances can manifest totally in one plane and not the other. From your description of the Astral situation, I'd say that you've served Kali, which ties in with your affinity with the Nightside.

Speaking of which, Nightside of Eden is out of print, and only to be had on a secondhand basis, as far as I know. You might check with Black Moon Publishing (P.O. Box 19469 Cincinnati, OH 45219-0469) to see if they can provide a lead.

I didn't get too much out of the number 514. The only thing listed in Sepher Sephiroth for 514 itself are the Hebrew letters Cheth, Qoph, Vau and Tau, which might yield value in meditating on the corresponding Trumps of the Chariot, Moon, Heirophant and Universe. $514 \div 2 = 257$ --The Ark, a Magician, the white wand. 257 is a prime & can't be divided evenly. Do you have 777?

An extensive life-history will have to wait till the next real letter, and you run the risk of death by boredom; be warned.

Mouse:

Even though we'll be seeing each other shortly, your letter deserves a response. Remind me to tell you my Jack Parsons story.

I'll have to get my hands on Mr. Zoja's book--it sounds well thought-out. I think that there are two types of Initiation: the Outer, social, rite-of-passage

kind that deals with birth, puberty, marriage, menopause (maybe) and death, and the Inner, individual kind, that deal with successively more refined (less dense) states of consciousness. The latter conforms, more-or-less, to the Tree of Life; there was a time when Inner knowledge was the exclusive property of secret Orders, but since the advent of modern printing and widespread literacy, the adventurous, hungry soul can make out fairly well on its own.

It's still important to have the company of one's peers in Inner development, though, since Outer institutions and lore aren't of much help in maintaining one's balance. I've met a number of self-made "Initiates" who've grown all gnarly and twisted, spiritually, from not dealing properly with Ego and/or Unconscious realities. Networks and friendships among "Seekers on the Path" seem to be the most useful format for the present.

Magick must be lived on a daily basis in order to be complete. It's also important to maintain a sacred space for ritual and meditation, more as a workshop or studio than as a retreat from the world. During the original Initiation phase of a person's Magick, it's needful to have a Temple to use for concentration's sake, and a change of ambiance. For Adept work, a Temple provides the needful privacy for ritual earthing-work.

We'll get into this further in person, OK? And I'll bring what photos I have.

Navitae 353:

I agree that "deities" have many definitions, all of which are valid in one Sphere or another. The common thread that seems to run through all the definitions is that a god is something larger and more powerful than the individual and is something with which the individual perceives a relationship, be it for help or harm. Even with the more abstract definitions, there seems to be an element of the parent-child situation of large/powerful-small/helpless.

Points taken regarding the human environmental dilemma & Gnosticism. Perhaps we try to sum up "reality" in easily-digested packets of dogma because thinking conflicts with laziness, and we resent our own curiosity because it keeps us on the move. People bitch about being bored, too, so I guess our species is doomed (blessed?) to eternal dissatisfaction.

In terms of Leary's Circuits, Maat Magick aims at activating all eight, then going beyond. If it involves "graduating" from physical existence altogether, so be it, but I suspect that the experience will be much more complex and "fractal" than we can surmise at present.

I see the being-life-intelligence link as an unbroken spectrum upon which we impose distinctions from our limited viewpoint. I can't prove it in words, of course, but can only report it as direct experience. Random remarks--the Veves are a good idea, akin to AOS sigils. Patience with the New Age movement will pay off, I think, as people will wake up & see the moneygrubbing for what it is & go on to the "real stuff"--or they won't, but will keep out of the way of those who do.

There can't be any "last word" in Holy Books for Homo sap., since the eternal Truth must be spoken anew for each generation in the language of that generation. Our metaphors evolve with us as knowledge and experience grow; older Holy Books still speak Truth, but the literal-mindedness of uninitiates who know not the meaning of metaphor still causes problems through Bible-believers & other Fundamentalists of all faiths.

The double consciousness of H.veritas is presently a matter of individual attain-

