



THE HERMETIC EXPEDIENT

MAAT NETWORK SPECIAL

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Already the pile of letters is stacked high, and we don't even have the first six of the twelve rolls of film we shot back from the developers.

The trip to England was worth every penny and every erg invested in it, at least in my opinion, and Mike's too. Pete Ludbey and Norman Jope have already sent me copies of ideas they have about and for the Network. For those whose names do not appear on Norman's list, I'm making copies and sending them along. Although others in the Net are probably doing the same thing (I hope), better present redundancy than someone missing out.

Since assembling the H.E. takes several days' work, it may well be that I'll receive other people's input before I'm finished. If so, I'll circulate it in such wise to be most efficient, and then maybe we can call a vote of interested parties as to a name for the Maat Network.

All I can offer is my own opinion for a name: MAATNETT (Magickians' Alchemical Alliance Toward New Evolutionary Theurgy & Thaumaturgy). (Multiple groans on the Astral.) Yes, it's not poetic, but it does include Maat's name in the title, and in my opinion, it's important to do so. Even though some individuals and groups don't consider themselves de jure Maat Magickians, their actions and their work prove that they're working the Maat Current de facto. Since the Network isn't an Order and doesn't confer membership (much less degrees), I would never name someone a "member" of the Network. It isn't something you belong to, it's something you do--a verb more than a noun.

Having Maat's name in the title serves the Magickal purpose of a permanent invocation of Truth and Balance, which will help eliminate certain problems that seem to occur in any human group endeavor. These include, but are not limited to (alas!) Cults of personality (human, divine, alien etc.), attempted orthodoxy, dogma, demands of exclusivity in loyalty, membership, beliefs or practice, ego-inflation or ego-trips, setting up rules, and any form of coercion.

All feedback welcome.

The only other comment that I have in general before getting to the individual replies/ comments is that I hope I haven't given offense by consorting with anyone's enemies. I generally deal with people as they deal with me, and I consider other people's difficulties with each other their own concern and not mine. Nothing unites individuals like shared Work, so I'll trust to the Current, and Time, to heal any wounds incurred while fighting as brothers.

Alistair and Tanith:

Thank you for your hospitality and good company. Thank you also for the time and effort you'd both invested in the visit. I trust you've fetched the kids back from their grandparents' by now, and that your accustomed domestic schedule is back on track.

Tanith, I have a sketch of the proposed painting you mentioned. If it's all right with you, I'll keep it to a modest size for shipping purposes, and will

enclose a color sketch with your copy of H.E. Please remember that acrylics are a lot brighter than the watercolor pens, and that brushstrokes will be blended. Please let me know the size that you want and whether or not the sketched idea meets your approval.

The EMN Network News is the only mag specifically directed to Network business. Several folks and/or groups in the Net have desktop publishing facilities; what would you think about combining editorial and publishing functions with them? I like the personal touch and artwork that your previous issues have, but this needn't be lost. With Tanith job-hunting and another little one on the way, it occurred to me that you might benefit by sharing the load.. It's just an idea that passed through my head, along with the notion that Archives-keeping will be quite a job on its own.

Once the Manifesto's been generally agreed-upon, I think it should be included with all responses to first contacts; does this sound OK? Also, I recall hearing the idea of a talent-bank, wherein all who want to can list their fields of special endeavor (Mystical, Magickal & Mundane) for the purposes of trade-offs, sharing of expertise & advice, and/or working on special projects. Have you heard or thought of anything further on this?

Yes, it does seem odd that there isn't a specifically American Maat Network, but I get the notion that you'll begin hearing from Americans who are interested in the Maat Current in the not too distant future.

Please write soon, if you haven't already, and let me know how things are going for you.

Mog (sp?) and Ruth;

Thank you for your hospitality and work in securing the workshop venue. It must be like living in a fishbowl to have people crashing at your place on a frequent basis. That's how it used to be at the Maat-Pangrove Abbey of Thelema many moons ago. As long as those you help help you, you can keep the entropy factor from overwhelming you.

Even though you don't specifically identify with the Maat Network, I can see in your dedication and enthusiasm that you're working her Current as well as others. Inasmuch as your work encourages human evolution, you further the end of Maat Magick.

Mike asks that I mention that Black Moon publications can be had through Skoob 2, as soon as the transatlantic arrangements are completed.

Keep up your good work! I look forward to more issues of NUWISIS, and if you have the time and/or inclination, please feel free to write to me. Bright blessings on your endeavors, and thanks again.

Pete, Mark & Mark:

Much gratitude and sensual sighs for the luxurious accommodations and for the use of your Temple. Yours is a hot & high-energy vortex/nexus and your Temple is excellent!

Pete, I'll either include a sketch of your painting with this copy, or under separate cover soon.

I hope you sent a copy of your ideas on the Maat Network to Alistair and Tanith and Ian and everyone else who's a part of the Net. Yes, it makes for redundancy and expense, but I'm sending a copy along with this into general Net circulation just in case you've not had the time, energy or opportunity to do so. This is only my opinion, but I feel that the honey is much more nourishing if it contains the flavors of everyone's input.

In re. the Priesthood: I'm beginning to wonder if I wasn't clear enough in the chapbook. The Priesthood isn't exclusive of Currents other than Maat's. Nooo. Yes, the Net and the Priesthood are separate issues, at least on the planes where such distinction matters.

Maybe it's just a matter of terminology and semantics, but Priesthood in the New Aeon isn't the same as it was in Osirian times (e.g., that one must have a clear "vocation") nor in Isian times (when one was especially selected for the service of the goddesses/gods). It's a condition that occurs in the course of normal human spiritual development. From the feedback I've been getting, there's an impression afoot that the Priesthood represents an elite category of people, or that it's something that a person has to deliberately work toward, or that it's a function that a person must be aware of fulfilling. Nah.

I agree with you that you can't teach this stuff, and that it is a matter of self-recognition. There can't be any imposed conditions of entrance of the Net; I agree with you on that, too. The main point to remember in engendering mutual respect is that there are many levels of understanding and wisdom, and each is valid for the individual inhabiting a particular level. The impulse to jump on someone for being an utter ass is rooted in intellectual or spiritual pride, and speaks more of the condition of the jumper than the jumpee.

Yes, I think it would be good (I just can't use the word "nice" in this connection, the reason for which is evident in The Legacy of the Beast) to have Gerald Suster participating in the Net. No renunciation is required for Maat; in fact, the more the merrier! I've long encouraged multiple initiations as a means of interlinking various traditions and practices.

Thanks again for the hospitality & I hope to hear from all of you soon.

Frater Zaeos:

Just a short note, since I've sent a separate letter. Did it and the talisman arrive safely? As you can see by some of the responses in the H.E., the Maat Network is alive and well and livelier than ever. Thanks again for your hospitality, and thanks to Circe. Blessed be.

Michael Staley :

Just a note of appreciation to you and your housemates for your hospitality during our visit. The futon-sleep was most refreshing and restful.

I made further enquiries about the unauthorized version of Images and Oracles, and heard that it wasn't an intentional offence, and that all distribution was stopped immediately upon hearing of the resulting displeasure. It seems that enthusiasm and a desire to make available an out-of-print (so assumed) item was at the root of the event.

I promise a private response to your next communication; this is just a small note to let you know that I was very happy to meet you and to thank you for being so kind to us. Please write when you can.

