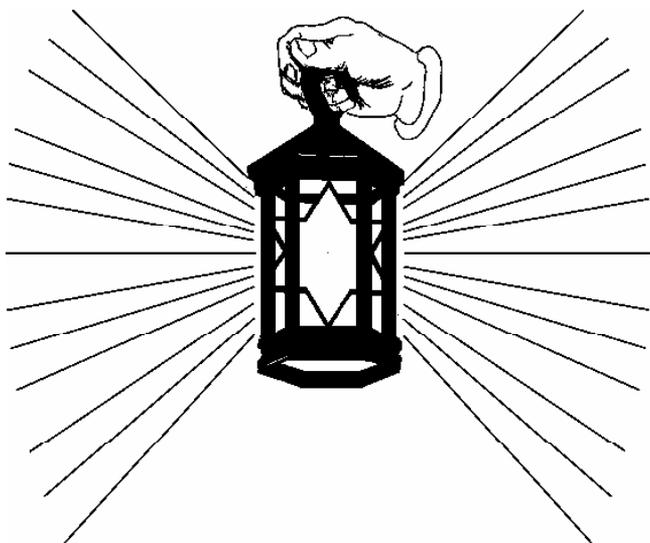


THE LANTERN

Spring 2006

Vol. 7, No. 3



“Thy Word
is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105

builders of the adytum, los angeles, california

© 2006 Builders of the Adytum, Ltd.
5101 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042
<http://www.bota.org>

The Mystical Resurrection

Ann Davies Sunday Service Talk

Easter Sunday April 22, 1962

We welcome you to share with us the Qabalistic interpretation of Easter, which we call the Mystical Resurrection. The Qabalistic interpretation of Easter is perhaps the most convincing piece of evidence in the universe of the Primal Will to Good. Only those of us who can interpret it Qabalistically can understand the entire story of the life of Christ: His birth, His mission, His crucifixion, and His resurrection.

Why? Because most of the scriptures were written by prophets who were trained in the esoteric wisdom of Israel. They were initiates trained in Qabalah. The scriptures were written as esoteric teachings of the entire plan for the evolution of humanity. The writers had the spiritual experience, the ability and capacity to know the Word and to share the Word of God with others. The Old and New Testaments came through this Qabalistic training system. Therefore, in order to understand what biblical stories really mean, we need to understand the esoteric, Qabalistic teachings behind them.



When a Qabalist is asked where the Qabalah came from there is one simple answer: it came from the Angels. Some laugh and others think and feel this is a good answer. We feel it is the most accurate answer that one can receive, especially when we learn what is meant by Angels. We won't go into the subject of Angels this morning. What we will investigate is the whole symbolism of the story of Jesus as it has existed in the fraternities B.O.T.A. represents. According to tradition, this fraternity has existed since the beginning of the world.

Most people do not realize that the entire story of the birth of Jesus, the hardships, the crucifixion and the resurrection has been practiced in initiatory rites down through the centuries, even before the actual Jesus of Nazareth was born. There is now scientific evidence of this.

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered a lot of our materialists cried “Ah ha! Now we have proof that there never was a man such as Jesus!”



The Dead Sea Scrolls tell the whole story of the life of Jesus before he was born. The materialist’s reaction to this fact shows a failure to understand the true significance of allegory. The Dead Sea Scrolls were from the Essene communities. They were a mystery school and as such practiced initiatory rites which rehearsed the life of Jesus.

The Essenes and one or two other fraternities shared inner contact with higher levels of consciousness. Their rites have always portrayed the evolution of man, not just his present stage, but also his destiny. The fact that the story of Jesus was foretold by the initiatory rites of a mystery school before the claimed historical birth of Jesus has nothing to do with whether there was or was not an historical Jesus. Qabalists recognize that consciousness



creates and that a thing is first created on the inner plane before it manifests on the outer. Therefore we can see that the foretelling of the mystery of Jesus by means of initiatory rituals resulted from real contact with the spiritual forces supervising the growth and evolution of man.

We are familiar with instances of accurate prognostication. There are many people who have reached a spiritual level where it is possible to see or become tuned into the destiny of man which is the experience of the life of Jesus. His experience was and is the experience of man and not apart from it.

Having given this brief background, let’s go into the actual elements of the story of Jesus so we can see that it is not something that happened 2,000 years ago and stopped. What happened at that time was actually both an ending and a beginning of an evolutionary cycle which has real meaning for us, especially during the Easter season. It

THE LANTERN

is important to know and remember that meaning. The Holy Qabalah teaches that ‘Christ’ comes from the word *Christos*¹ which is in turn a translation of the Hebrew *Messiah*² which also means the savior. In Qabalah, the savior as well as generic humanity is called *Adam*³ and also *Melek*,⁴ the king. These are all interchangeable terms for a specific level of consciousness. They indicate an exact identity: generic humanity, or Adam, is the King who rules over the Kingdom⁵ which is the physical universe. The savior, the redeemer and the Christ are not separate ideas, they are one. They are merely different phases of unfoldment in the consciousness of the Self.

What is the esoteric idea of generic humanity, or Adam, and the fall? It means that man was an unconscious Son of God, an unconscious enjoyer of the divinity, of the glory, of the ecstasy of unity. Adam, generic humanity, was pushed out of the paradise of the Garden of Eden so he could attain a conscious unity with God, a conscious sonship and its consequence: awareness of his dominion, his kingship. So man has wandered. You, along with Jesus, have been wandering the highways and byways of Galilee⁶ since the time you began as an evolving individual. You have wept, hoped, and despaired because you have not known who and what you are. It has been necessary for you to go through this crucifixion in order to attain to your conscious sonship with God, the Father.



¹Χριστος, *Christos*, the anointed, gematria value 1480

²משיח, *mahshiah*, the anointed one, gematria value 358. See the Comment on Teth in *The Book of Tokens*, page 94, new edition.

³אדם, *Adam*, man, generic humanity, gematria value 45

⁴מלך, *melek*, king, ruler, gematria value 90

⁵מלכות, *Malkuth*, kingdom, gematria value 496

⁶Γαλιλαία, *Galilaia*, Paul Case defines as “the rolling sun” gematria value 86.

Derived from the Hebrew גלילה, *galiylah*, a circle, a circuit, a ring, gematria value 78

THE LANTERN

We make a terrible mistake if we separate ourselves from the story of Jesus. According to esoteric tradition, Jesus was definitely the first to conquer death. There were many before who had achieved conscious union with the Father, a certain amount of dominion over the world and other elements of evolution. But Jesus was the first who was able to consciously know who and what He was and because of that depth of knowing, apply His Kingship, His rulership which made Him able to heal the sick, raise the dead and give comfort to the weary.

Why was He able to do these things? Because in knowing who and what He was, He therefore knew that all others were part of Himself. And He said so in every way one can imagine. He tried to indicate it in practically every story He gave us. He said He was not really that much different than the rest of us except perhaps that He knew what the rest of us didn't. We are all one. I suspect that the rest of us were around at this crucial time. Why I suspect I don't know. I feel it intuitively.



As we have wandered through the highways and byways, experiencing love, hate, joy, and sorrow, we have deepened our core of individuality. When this core within a particular personality reaches a certain depth, it is possible for it to become a complete center for the expression of the

Christ. Let's see what we mean by the Christ.

The esoteric tradition teaches that the Christ is really our own Higher Self. *Your* own Higher Self. Essentially, being one with the Christ is sharing the same being. The Christ is the conscious child of the Father. However, what we forget is that the conscious child of the Father is **YOU!** The creatures below the level of Adam are not conscious. They have awareness, they have experience, but not self-consciousness. Self-consciousness is the Christ. Your feeling of "I" is the Christ. You are an expression of the God, you are His begotten son. You!

Do you know what it means when the Bible says that God so loved

THE LANTERN

the world that He gave His only begotten son so that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life?⁷ Don't you think it sounds a little foolish that belief in an historical man guarantees us eternal life?

It *is* foolish. This is not what was meant. It has been the literalness of unevolved human consciousness which has made the story of Jesus something other than it really is. The story is far grander and more glorious that exoteric religion teaches.

As we begin to realize that we are the only begotten sons of God, all of us, our consciousness opens. Our hearts open to the experience. The verse says "he who believeth" because we need to reach for the idea. Without this reaching we cannot open all aspects of ourselves and consequently do not become refined enough to have the conscious experience of who and what we are.



Christ was not only crucified 2000 years ago; *He still is*. The fact that everyone is an aspect of Christ consciousness can be shown in many ways. In the Bible, Jesus says "Then the King will say, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was

thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you made me your guest, I needed clothes and you provided them, I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'"⁸ And He said: "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me."⁹



⁷John 3:16

⁸Matthew 25: 34-36 *Jewish New Testament* translation

⁹Matthew 25:40 *Jewish New Testament* translation

THE LANTERN

What is Christ really saying? Every time you have taken the hand of your friend, your brother, your sister and given them aid or comfort, you have comforted Christ. Every time you have hated someone, you have hated Christ. Whenever you are in the presence of anyone, your wife, husband, friend or stranger, you are in the presence of the holiness of Christ. You have had problems only because you were an infant and didn't know you were in the presence of divinity. When you learn how to look, you will see Christ in every human being's eyes. The livingness in you is Christ.



Because of this fact, you have never died, even though you may think you have. You are the begotten child of the Father. Even during our unevolved stages as we wander the highways and byways of our incarnations, we have never died. We have dropped physical vehicles and been resurrected into new ones. We have traveled from history to history, from epoch to epoch, with an eternal livingness in us that cannot die. It cannot die because it always has been, is, and always will be one with the Son of God. You are that son and daughter of God.

So the mystical resurrection is yours even when you don't believe it. You have wept because you haven't known. Jesus said, "If you knew who I AM, you would never weep again." Think of it this way; if you knew who your I AM really is, knew it fully and consciously, if you really knew that you have abided eternally in God, in eternal Christ consciousness as you grew up, if you knew that nothing can really permanently hurt you, if you knew that you can never die because you automatically have eternal life through all the incarnations, would you be able to weep again?



This is the real story of Easter. It is the story of your eternal life. We may celebrate the historical experience of Jesus, the Christ, but it is our internal story, too. We can reach out to Jesus with love overflowing from our hearts. We can and we should because He was the Way Shower through the jungle of life. He was the first one to

THE LANTERN

beat a path through the brambles and thorns and He did it for us. That is what is meant when the Bible says that He died for us. We too have died for Him over and over again and we will continue to until we stop believing in death and start believing in eternal life.

Evolving humanity *is* the crucified Christ. This is the actual story. When we are in our mother's womb we recapitulate the whole evolution of our physical being, starting as an embryo and ending as a newborn. Then when we are born we do the same thing on a psychological level. All of us know how selfish a baby is, yet a baby is adorable, isn't it? We hold it to us and love it tenderly. We



comfort it because we don't expect it to act like a grown up. After reaching a certain point in this recapitulation, we start growing in a new direction towards our destiny and it is the destiny of everyone, no matter what you have heard to the contrary. It is the destiny of all

mankind to attain conscious immortality, that is, conscious knowledge of who and what we are which brings conscious dominion over death.



How will it come to pass? It already has. Evolution has quickened itself in a geometric progression. It was proceeding along slowly until the birth of Jesus which really started things moving! His attainment did it. He was the first to clear the pathway for the complete evolution of man, son of man, and son of God. It was easier for the next one, even though he got scratched and hurt. After that, each one to attain that path made it easier for the next one to achieve the Christ awareness, Christ consciousness. Those who have gone before us have smoothed the path for us.

This is the whole spirit of the initiatory system of our fraternity. Anyone who achieves even the slightest bit of enlightenment or illumination holds it like a beacon for the rest, making it easier. So we have to send back waves of love, although it really isn't going back. We pour this love and gratitude to those who went before, but at the same time we realize that we must have in us the mind which was in Christ Jesus. We see it in its true Qabalistic meaning, rather



than in the way we have been taught.

Just what does this involve? First, the knowledge of unity of life. Inasmuch as we have done it unto the least of these, my brothers, we have done it unto Christ, unto all of us. You have to know this first. Most of you know this to a large degree and the knowledge will grow and grow until it sweeps the farthest stars. And it is growing by geometrical progression. This is the first thing to recognize. When we recognize the unity of all life, then we have to stop fighting pain and sacrifice, just as Jesus did. Remember, he foretold his crucifixion. He prayed: “Father, take this cup from me, but nevertheless, let Thy will be done.”¹⁰ He was willing to go through what was required in order to attain to that highest and most glorious state: King and Conqueror.

And you know what happened after giving himself up to the divine will. He was mocked, and people said: “If you are King, why don’t you do something about this?” He was meek and lowly of heart. He was passing through a test of initiation, just as all of us do regularly. Jesus knew that he was just one aspect of the total life. He was so aware of the grandeur, the glory of the total Christ Self that he *couldn’t* see His personality as anything but lowly, meek and humble. During His crucifixion He cried out, as we have cried out, “Father, why hast thou forsaken me.”¹¹ How many times have you wept and called out to God asking why He has forsaken you? You see, you and Jesus have gone through this total agony, this total pain and because of it you, along with Jesus, inevitably share in the resurrection, though it comes in different ways.



You may not realize this, but there are many human beings today who will not need to unconsciously incarnate again. The dominion over death will come for them in this particular incarnation, though it may

¹⁰Matthew 26:39

¹¹Matthew 27:46

THE LANTERN

not be apparent to others. They will have attained the spirit of accepting whatever the divine will thinks is required of them to evolve to the highest point possible to help and serve mankind.



We are told that in the mysteries of initiation a poignant cry comes up from the pain of the world soul. Every one of us is taking up the cross and following in the steps of Jesus. In the past we have fought against accepting our share of the pain of evolution. It hasn't done us any good, but we still have fought it. But when we accept our share of the pain for the sake of God and His creation, we have reached the point of conquest. Then he who loses his life shall find it. It is accepting the cross of suffering and self-sacrifice. In doing this, we lose the need for any more suffering. We will have outgrown that requirement for our own personal selves because then we can start taking up the load and helping to share it, bringing our brothers into the Light.

You and I are aspects of that divine, eternal Light. Because of that, each of us is precious beyond description, and precious to each other. If someone comes to us in tears, we should recognize that he is part of the cry of the world soul. We should love and comfort that one knowing that inasmuch as we do it unto the least of these, my brothers, we do it unto Christ.

We aspire to hold this attitude of the unity of life, looking for the spirit of divinity in each of us, treating each other as sacred and beautiful beyond belief, revering each other for the suffering and



crucifixion we and all of humanity have been through again and again. We have not suffered for ourselves alone. Like Jesus, we have suffered for all of humanity. Like Jesus, we are ready to start reaching for the higher levels of the reward, of conquest. Soon we can start saying "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on

me shall never die.”¹²

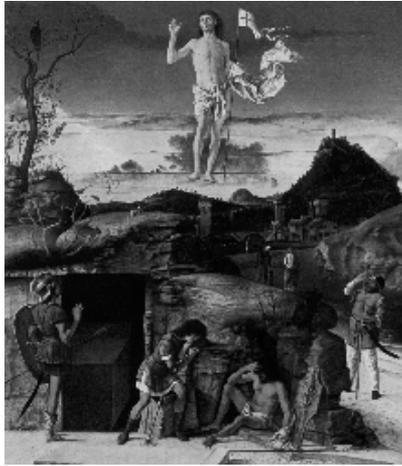
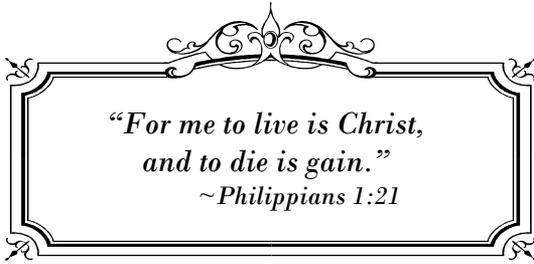
This is literally true. He that believes on the I AM, on the Christ, on the fact that there is no death in the Christ is the inevitable conqueror of death. How could anyone die who knows the eternal Christ self in himself? Such a one can consciously drop his physical body, *consciously* mind you, and go on to eternal life. Or he can choose to become a Master of Wisdom and stay in his physical body, having conquered death even on the material plane.

As often as you can, say to yourself, “I am alive for evermore.” Don’t think that you are ever going to die. Lift your heart and mind to the Christ aspect of yourself. Lift it now. Say to yourself, “I was never born, though this body was born. I will never die, though many other bodies of mine have died. I have been resurrected untold numbers of times. With Christ, I have earned sublime and everlasting life, for I live in Him and He in me and you. My brothers and sisters live in me and I live in them.”

Let us worship in each other’s shrine as we remember it is the Christ within all of us that can never die. In time we will consciously attain this knowledge. We are rapidly approaching that time now. Walk in the sureness of your eternal life. This is the message of the Mystical Resurrection.



¹²John 11:25



KEY 2 — THE HIGH PRIESTESS

by Paul Foster Case



he astrological attribution of Key 2 is the Moon. The moon is a reflector of sunlight and thus is a symbol of reflection, duplication, (as in a mirror) and like ideas. The crescent moon is cup shaped, and therefore symbolizes *receptivity*. These properties are those of the subconscious mind. You will be able to see readily that the factors of reflection and duplication are essential to the faculty of *memory*, which is symbolized by this Key.



The universal substance has been called by some modern scientists “mind-stuff.” Occultists have known for ages that the universe is really made up of mental energy. This primordial substance, known to the Hindus as *Prakriti*, has always been symbolized by Water and by a Virgin. The High Priestess is a Virgin, and the blue color that predominates in this Key, as well as the flowing robe, represents Water. The curtain behind the High Priestess is a symbol of Virginity. It connects the two pillars of light and darkness, and all other pairs of opposites, thus symbolizing the associative powers of subconsciousness. This symbolism of pairs of opposites is also carried out by the ornaments on the veil, which symbolizes the active and passive modes of the Life-Power’s self-expression.

The symbolism of the stone cube is too involved to give here at length, but we may say that **STONE** is an esoteric word representing Union, Life and Wisdom.

THE LANTERN

The silver crown represents the waxing and waning of the moon, thus representing periodicity, and rhythm. The scroll represents memory, history, the record of experience. The word TORA signifies Law.



*We do not understand that life is paradise,
for it suffices only to wish to understand it,
and at once paradise will appear in front of us in its
beauty.*

*~Fyodor Dostoyevsky,
From The Brothers Karamazov*

TRANSMUTE YOUR GUILT

by Harriet B. Case

Have you a guilt complex? If so, it would be a good idea to drop it! Jesus said: “Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest” (which also meant peace of mind and heart). Generally this statement of the Lord’s has been taken to refer to problems or heavy burdens of physical work. But what about the heavy burden of guilt feelings and self-hate that so many of us carry around on our shoulders? I have a feeling that this is the main burden that Jesus was referring to, because this is a very insidious load to encumber ourselves with. Not only is it heavy, but it emanates a subtle poison throughout the whole system, inhibiting real progress.



When we can come to realize that it is the Higher Self, the spark or ray of Divine Consciousness that guides us through all our experiences, and that therefore they are all good – even though they may *seem* bad at the time – we shall look upon our mistakes from a different point of view. We shall see that in reality each individual tries to do the best he can in any given circumstance according to his knowledge and understanding *at that time*, and this depends upon his state of evolution and/or development. If he is intelligent and fairly well evolved, he will learn from the consequences of his mistakes and try his best not to repeat them.

Sometimes we attract to ourselves from the subconscious level the need to punish ourselves because of the guilts we feel. This is a wrong attitude of course and stems from ignorant and early orthodox conditioning concerning “sin and punishment.” What we need to do is to transmute these latent negative and destructive feelings of guilt into positive and creative thoughts and feelings, and no better method has ever been devised than through the use of the Tarot Keys in

meditation.

We must not hate ourselves either, but become more tolerant of our personality, looking upon it as we would a small child that is growing into maturity through experience and through loving but firm discipline. We should not drag past mistakes behind us like a ball and chain, but forgive ourselves and determine to turn to a life lived in the law of God. If we do not love ourselves, how can we love others? Or make ourselves lovable to others? We are none of us expressing as yet the perfection which is our eventual destiny, otherwise we would not be here going through the many grades in “God’s schoolhouse,” i.e. life on this Earth planet! I would like to add here that a sense of humor is a most necessary quality, for it helps us to see our past errors in proper proportion and perspective.



It is needful to remember that everything we have experienced are things which we have earned, whether they are good or bad. We make our own karma. Karma actually means action and reaction. If you sit on a hot stove, you will burn your hind end. If you project anger, anger and inharmony will flow back to you; but “Give love, and love to your heart will flow in an ever widening stream.” Therefore if we yearn for beautiful, happy, harmonious conditions, we must earn them through our *day to day* living, thinking and feeling. To get, we must give.

When Jesus said: “Come unto me,” I believe He meant “turn within” to the loving, all-wise Christ Self or Higher Self, the very core of our being, laying our “burdens” (our problems and guilts) down before this radiant Glory, then rising cleansed and purified, enabling us to go forward relieved of this hampering burden, determined to follow the inner Light with ever more devotion.



*Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.*

► *Matthew 6:12 (The Lord’s Prayer)* ◀



THE LANTERN

THE HEPTAD

“Choose always the way that seems right; however rough it may be. Practice will make it easy and pleasant.” – Attributed to Pythagoras

The heptad, or the number 7, was called “worthy of veneration” by the Pythagoreans. Considering some of the combinations of digits that constitute the number 7, Pythagorean thought holds some interesting points to ponder.

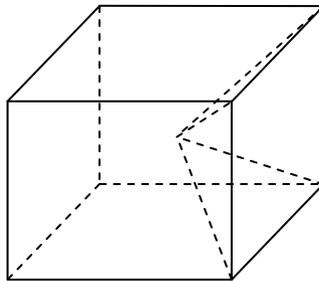


- $3 + 4$

The 3 (spirit, mind, and soul) descend into the 4 (the world, or 4 elements), the sum being 7, or the mystic nature of man, consisting of a 3-fold spiritual body and a 4-fold material form.

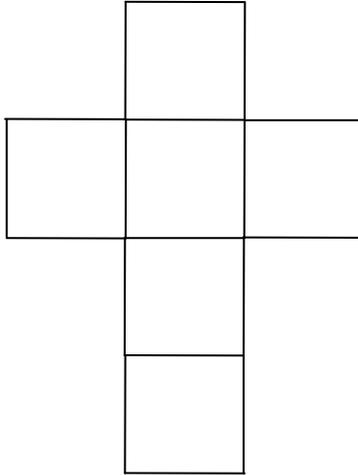
- $6 + 1$

This combination is symbolized by the cube, which has 6 surfaces and a mysterious seventh point within. 6 surfaces can represent the directions: N, E, W, S, up and down or front, back, right, left, above and below. In the midst of these stands the 1, which is the MONAD, from whose center in the cube radiates 6 pyramids.



From this comes a great occult axiom: “The center is the father of the directions, the dimensions, and the distances.”

As the cube is unfolded, it forms a cross:



One thing that makes the number 7 uniquely different from all the other numbers within 10 is that it cannot be derived by multiplying, nor can it be multiplied by another number greater than unity or the number 1, and result in a number within or less than the number 10. This is true of no other number less than 10. To illustrate:

4: 2×2 (equals a number less than 10)

5: 5×2 (equals a number within 10)

6: 2×3 (equals a number less than 10)

8: 4×2 (equals a number less than 10)

9: 3×3 (equals a number less than 10)

Another one of the curious attributes of the number 7 relative to the number 10, or decad, is that it occupies a critical place, where it is both a link and a chasm.

To illustrate: $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times \underline{7} = 5040$

$8 \times 9 \times 10 \times \underline{7} = 5040$

The Pythagoreans call the number 7 the Ruler of the Universe because that which is not begotten or multiplied and does not beget or

multiply is motionless. In this context, creation requires motion and 7 neither creates nor is created, therefore “and on the seventh day, God rested.”

The number 7 is symbolic of inner, psychic order. For example, the number of days in the week, number of notes in the musical scale, number of alchemical metals and number of psychic centers.

The number 7 is considered to be the diameter of all numbers. A circle with a diameter of 7 has a circumference, in whole numbers, of 22. The ratio of $22/7 = 3.1428571\dots$, but what does that look like? *Pi*, which equals 3.1416..., but *pi* is not equal to any fraction. It is only an approximation. As mentioned in a previous Lantern article, the MONAD represents God, the Law of the Circle, which consists of an infinite number of points.

We have numbers like *pi*, because we can never take the exact measure of a manifestation of the Infinite because the Infinite itself is immeasurable – we can't measure infinity, we can't measure God.

The action of life is a dividing of this circumference of 22 by its diameter of 7, resulting in 3.142857,142857,142857, the residuum eternally repeating as “142857.” Since the beginning of history in Egypt, this repetend¹³ of “142857” has always been considered a Sacred Number and was often engraved on the monuments.

Let us now consider the fractions of the number 7:

$$1/7 = 0.142857\dots \text{ (carried out to at least 6 decimal places)}$$

$$2/7 = 0.285714\dots$$

$$3/7 = 0.428571\dots$$

$$4/7 = 0.571428\dots$$

$$5/7 = 0.714285\dots$$

$$6/7 = 0.857142\dots$$

¹³ Repeated sequence.

$$7/7 = 1.000000\dots$$

$$8/7 = 1.142857\dots$$

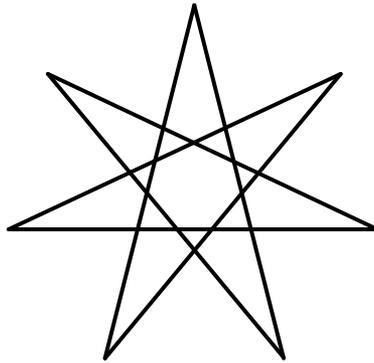
$$9/7 = 1.285714\dots$$

$$10/7 = 1.428571\dots$$

What do we find but not only do the same six digits appear in each of the above decimals but also that they appear in the same sequence and in the same direction in every case!

A regular 7-pointed heptagram cannot be constructed with a compass and straightedge, as is the case with the other polygons. Only an approximation is possible, because the number of degrees in a circle (360) divided by 7 = 51.428571.....

In this light, consider the quote at the beginning of this article.



In the next issue, the symbolism of the number “eight,” known to the Pythagoreans as the Ogdoad, will be explored. It was called “the little holy number.”



THIS WONDROUS WORLD



As we learn to look, we find the principles we learn in our lessons illustrated in nature. By the continued practice of looking “into” the world, rather than at surface appearances, we become more and more aware of the glorious Order of the Divine Reality.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND THE GREAT WORK



Many aspirants think that science is antithetical to occult practice. However, our work is occult SCIENCE, and aspirants would do well to have a scientific attitude toward our work.

Many mistake science for materialism. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. Exoteric science answers questions regarding “how” the universe operates. However, it can never answer the question “why”, and does not attempt to do so.

Paul Case, in his excellent article “How and Why” (reprinted in *The Lantern*, Summer, 2001), said:

“Everywhere we look we see things happening which make us wonder why they happen; but before we may hope to find out why, we must first be patient enough to find out **how**.”

And the only way to really find out “how” is by approaching the matter SCIENTIFICALLY. In using the scientific method, we start out with a HYPOTHESIS. Then we go to work to see if our hypothesis is true in the real world. In doing this, we must suspend pre-existing beliefs – that is, we must be open to the possibility of our hypothesis being UNTRUE. And we must be open to all evidence, whether it supports our hypothesis or not. If we are only open to results that prove our hypothesis true, or if we twist the results to prove our hypothesis, then we are not open to being proved wrong. If

we are not open to being proved **WRONG**, we are not open to truth!

A hypothesis is an “educated guess” about some aspect of the workings of nature. A *scientific* hypothesis, however, must be more than interesting speculation. It must meet two requirements:

1. It must be **testable**.
2. It must be **falsifiable**.

Thus, the hypothesis that our universe is one of many separate parallel universes, none of which have any contact with any other, is **NOT** a scientific hypothesis. It may be true, and it is interesting to think about, but there is no way to *test* it, so it isn't a scientific hypothesis. Similarly, occultists do not attempt to know the three Veils of the Absolute – the veils *behind* manifestation – because there is no way to know anything about them.



In describing “testability”, scientists say that a scientific hypothesis must generate **predictions**. “The word ‘predictions’ can often cause confusion, since we commonly think of a prediction as telling about something that is *going to happen* in the future. . . A **scientific prediction is not something that is going to happen, but rather something that is happening right now, but no one has ever noticed**. In other words, a prediction suggests a test (observation or experiment) for the hypothesis. To say that a hypothesis ‘generates predictions’ means the same thing as saying the hypothesis ‘is testable’.”¹⁴

Even more importantly, a hypothesis must be **falsifiable** – that is, if it is not true, we should be able to find evidence that it is false. So, for example, the hypothesis that there are other inhabited planets is **NOT** a scientific hypothesis because, while we may be able to prove it *true*, there is no way to prove it *untrue*. No matter how many other planets we find to be devoid of life, there will still be unexplored planets that **MAY** be inhabited.

¹⁴ Quote from: J. Stanbrough’s website:
<http://www.batesville.k12.in.us/physics/PhyNet/AboutScience/Hypotheses.html>.



The philosopher of science Karl Popper¹⁵ said that “a hypothesis is essentially worthless unless it is ‘risky’ – it must make predictions that *could* contradict it. The process of gaining real confidence in a hypothesis, then, is not in accumulating evidence in its favor, but rather in showing that situations that could establish its falsity don’t, in fact, happen.”¹⁶ The same, of course, is true in occult science.

Using the scientific method requires keen discrimination. The best scientific experiments try to take into account as many variables as possible that might affect their results and try to eliminate all except the ones they want to test.

Experimental results must also be **statistically significant**. That is, the results obtained must be highly unlikely to have occurred by random chance. It is also a scientific precept that the simplest explanation for any phenomenon is the most likely.

Finally, good scientific experiments should be replicable – that is, other scientists with equivalent training and expertise should be able to produce similar results by doing the same experiment.



Note here that we say “other scientists with equivalent training and expertise.” One would not expect a group of first graders to be able to replicate a complicated experiment in physics or chemistry, and the same is true for occultism.

Here it would be well to briefly mention the subject of “pseudoscience.” There are always those who would fool the gullible for their own ends, or who are so tied to specific belief systems that they are unable to follow scientific precepts. So, for example, there

¹⁵ Karl Popper (1902-1994) – regarded as one of the greatest philosophers of science of the 20th Century.

¹⁶ Stanbrough, *op. cit.*

are various elaborate counter-explanations for the existence of the evolutionary record, aimed at shoring up various religious beliefs.



There are also charlatans who prey on people's ignorance and mistrust of the scientific community, making their living by exploiting those who do not understand enough to dispute their claims. For example, there is currently a "Doctor" who, after becoming certified via a correspondence course as a "Doctor of Alternative Medicine," is now making a living on the lecture circuit and by selling his books and other products, all purported to have "healing properties." Unfortunately, quite a few people have been taken in by his claims. Mistrust of the scientific community leads many of to believe that "traditional scientists" are either unwilling to be open to the work of such charlatans, or "don't want us to know" about the benefits of their wares.

All in all, one must remember to "make haste slowly," and that our work is conducted "suavely, and with great ingenuity." As we proceed, using the scientific method as we study and practice our lesson work, our mind, heart and senses gradually open to experience the beauty and wonder of all life, bringing us ever greater joy which we can, in turn, extend to all humanity.



NOTE: Many thanks to J. Stanbrough, teacher of physics at Batesville High School, Batesville, Indiana. His simple and elegant explanations of scientific hypotheses may be found on the Batesville High School website at:

<http://www.batesville.k12.in.us/physics/PhyNet/AboutScience/Hypotheses.html>

*Whether or not you can observe a thing
depends upon the theory you use.
It is the theory which decides what can be
observed.*

~Albert Einstein

*If you have an interesting article about our natural world to share, send it to **The Lantern**, c/o B.O.T.A., 5101 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Editorial discretion will be used in printing articles.*





Frater A's Corner

The following are excerpts from a letter sent by Frater H.J.M:

Recently I chose to make a self-sacrifice that has made a huge impact upon my life. It has shown me that loss is a very natural and necessary part of the world we live in. Webster's Dictionary defines sacrifice as . . . "To suffer loss of, or give up for an end regarded as superior." The procession of the seasons is a perfect example of this.

The natural world begins to work its magic in the springtime with the sprouting plants. In the summer the beauty is at its peak. When the harvest season arrives nature gives us the life that she has worked at for almost a year to produce. Finally, in winter practically all plant life loses its luster and draws into itself in order to give way and make room for the new life and colors of spring. This is a sacrifice that must be made so that we may experience another year of nature's bounty. . .

The earth (nourishes us) with its life blood in the form of air, water, animals and plants. Everything that makes this world a beautiful and wonderful place is willingly sacrificed. These sacrifices are not limited to food. The world offers gifts to all of your senses. The earth suffers much loss for . . . human existence.

In Latin the word sacrifice means "to make sacred." To give up a part of yourself voluntarily is an act of love. This love, by its association with Divinity, makes the ones involved in this act most holy.

The world is a beautiful place and should be treated as such. It should not be profaned. It is a divine gift through which sacrifices may be seen, experienced, and appreciated.



“ . . . continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

~ Hebrews 13: 15-16.

Visit the B.O.T.A. Home Page at <http://www.bota.org>

- ★ Latest updates of regional activities and special events
- ★ Selected articles from the archives of *Adytum News Notes* and *Zenith News Notes*
- ★ *Open Door* requests
- ★ New member application
- ★ Online catalog of books, tapes, diagrams
- ★ Dues payments online

B.O.T.A. has only one authorized portal on the Internet, www.bota.org with links to www.botaineurope.org (European center) and www.bota.org.nz (New Zealand branch). B.O.T.A. does not have or endorse any on-line study groups or any other websites.

The daily lesson work and practical application of the principles therein in our everyday lives are the life-breath of the spiritual training and work of B.O.T.A., and that which will promote the greatest personal growth. Active participation in groups can also aid in spiritual growth, when group activities are equilibrated within the central focus of self-transmutation—the essential study and practice of the lesson material, B.O.T.A.'s priceless heritage given from the hearts of our beloved Paul Foster Case and Ann Davies. For members interested in the group work aspect of the Order, many areas of the country have officially recognized on-going study groups and Pronaoii, as well as scheduled special events. For information about special events or participation in Pronaos or study group, visit the B.O.T.A. website at <http://www.bota.org> or contact the Regional Coordinator for your area.

You are invited ...

Fratres and Sorores who live in or are visiting Los Angeles are cordially invited to attend the Qabalistic Healing Sunday Service presented every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the B.O.T.A. Temple in Los Angeles, 5101 N. Figueroa Street. This always special event is open to all.



Contact the Regional Coordinators for your area for information about Pronaos, study groups or special events.

Southern California-Arizona-Nevada Region

Keith and Marjhe Tannler, Oceanside, CA (760) 724-0512,
Marjhe@bota.org

Northwest Region

Mary Craig, San Jose, CA (408) 997-1349, *Craig.Mary@gmail.com*
Anne Santos, San Jose, CA (408) 288-7069, *anne@bkbeyond.com*

Southwest-Rocky Mountain Region

Ellen McCormick Martens (832) 289-6395, *ellemccm@hotmail.com*
Jim Solomon (214) 483-5385, *jsol@sbcglobal.net*

Midwest-Southeast Region

Kittie Palm-Houser, (614) 231-8378, *kaph@wowway.com*
Steve Palm-Houser, (614) 231-8378, *srph@wowway.com*

Northeast Region

Sally Myles, (978) 897-7480 evenings, *smyles@emc.com*
Mark Robinson, (978) 897-7480 evenings, *mdrobinson@rcn.com*

South Pacific Region

Contact B.O.T.A. N.Z. Headquarters, P.O. Box 35 129, Naenae, Lower
Hutt, New Zealand
011-64 4-567-5751, e-mail: *bota@xtra.co.nz*, Web: *http://www.bota.org.nz*

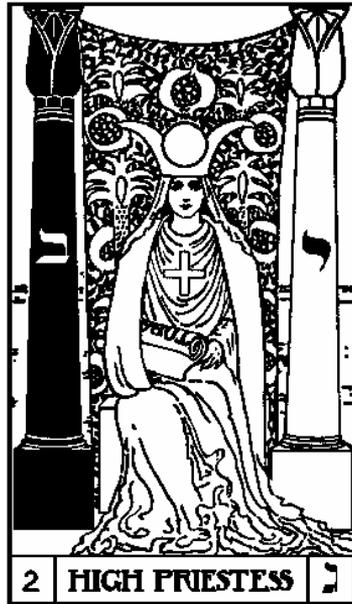
South America and Mexico Region

Contact B.O.T.A. Headquarters (323) 255-7141, Fax (323) 255-4166

European B.O.T.A. Groups

Contact B.O.T.A. Europe Office (New Address September 1, 2004)
16, BLD ASSISCLE
66000 Perpignan, FRANCE
E-Mail: *europa@bota.org* Web: *http://www.bota.org*

**Questions about Pronaos and Study Groups in your area should
be directed to the Regional Coordinator, not to the B.O.T.A.
office.**



*Mine inferior nature is the universal substance,
The divine mirror
Wherein I, who dwell at the heart of all things,
Am reflected to myself.*

*~The Book of Tokens
Meditation on Gimel*