

THE LANTERN

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the BUILDERS of the adytum



THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY QABALAH AND THE SACRED TAROT, LOS ANGELES, USA.

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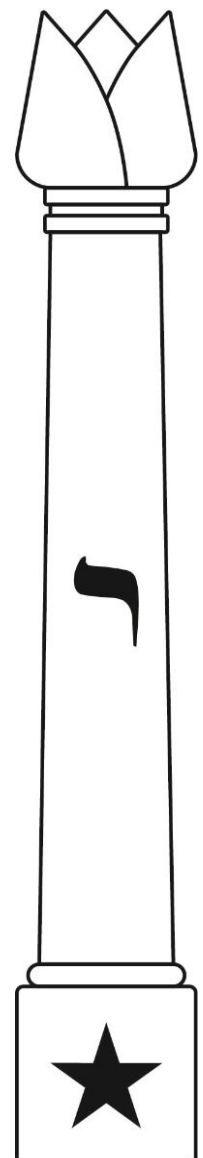
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE LANTERN

THE YEAR OF TEMPERANCE

Dear Reader,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to this new edition of the *Builders of the Adytum* publication, *The Lantern*.

When Paul Foster Case established our order in 1922, the world was emerging from the so-called Spanish flu pandemic, which affected hundreds of millions of people across the globe. In some ways, the upcoming 100th anniversary of the founding of our Order finds the world in similar circumstances.

But for the first time in the history of humankind we have access to technology that allows people to connect, speak, and interact in real time, across time zones and geographical divides. We could say that the Light directed out to the world by our founder and his successors is now being reflected back to the

Order – thus expanding its reach (its "gravitational field") and increasing its capacity for rendering service to humanity.

In the spring of 2020, when B.O.T.A. organized its first international Zoom meeting, a milestone was reached in the Order's history. For many people who had not previously had the opportunity to go to regional or international gatherings, this was the first time they could see and speak with fellow builders.

This in turn has created a wonderful opportunity to resume publication of *The Lantern*. The name itself reflects the nature and purpose of the international meetings, which have become a beacon of light for hundreds of aspirants from all over the world.

We are truly living in the dawn of a new age. Sometimes our belief in the Universal good is



challenged by calamity and struggle, but in this period that we are all living through, we can also see how important we all are to each other. We are reminded of the importance and great relevance of the seven precepts of Universal well-being, upon which our Order is founded:

1. Universal Peace
2. Universal Political Freedom
3. Universal Religious Freedom
4. Universal Education

5. Universal Health
6. Universal Prosperity
7. Universal Spiritual Unfoldment

It is in this spirit that we are now relaunching *The Lantern*. Each issue will feature two articles by our fratres and sorores, selected from the international Zoom meetings. These words will remind us all to continue to keep our eyes on our highest aspirations, as we work for the betterment of humankind, and the healing of our planet.

In L.V.X.

The editors of The Lantern



Builders of the Adytum is a modern Mystery School.

Adytum is derived from a Greek word that means Inner Shrine or Holy of Holies. Like Jesus, who many believe was trained in Qabalah, members of the Order aspire to build the Inner Temple, to construct the Holy of Holies within. People of all faiths are welcome to study the teachings of this Order. B.O.T.A. recognizes Qabalah as the root of Judaism and Christianity. Its ultimate purpose is to hasten the true Brotherhood of mankind and to make manifest the truth that love is the only real power in the universe.



14

TEMPERANCE

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KEY 14

THE WAY TO THE HEART

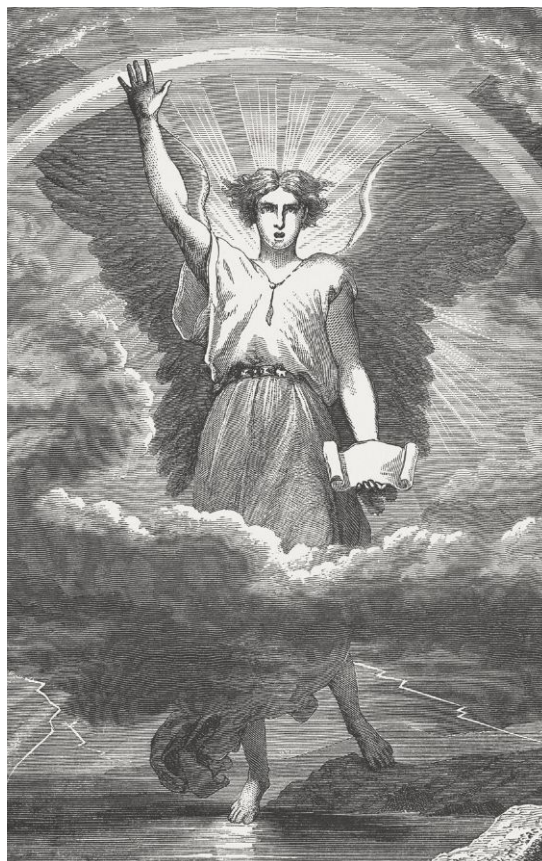
BY A FRATER FROM GERMANY

At Key 14 we see an angel with red wings that are highlighted with blue. A rainbow surrounds his head. The angel has blond hair. A solar disk is upon his brow. He wears a white robe. On it is written the Ineffable Word (יהוה). Below it is a seven-pointed star in gold. The angel has one foot on land and one foot in a pond. In one hand he has an orange coloured vase from which he pours water on a lion. In his left hand he holds down a torch from which five red Yods are sinking down on an eagle. From the pond starts a path, which leads to two mountain peaks surmounted by a brilliant golden crown. The background is golden. On the Key are written: the number 14, the word Temperance, and the Hebrew letter Samekh (ס).

REVELATION 10: 1,5

The appearance of this Angel reminds us of a vision that is described in Chapter 10 of *Revelation*. The first vision is told in Chapter 1. The following chapters 1–9 are addressed to the seven communities. The tenth chapter has a new vision and it is addressed to water and land, which may mean the whole world. It says:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a



THE ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE SCROLL. WOOD ENGRAVING FROM 1886.

cloud. And a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven.

This vision is interpreted as a vocation of the seer, even a renewed vocation to be a prophet. He gets a message in the form of a scroll.

He eats it, which means that he received it into his mouth, so that he could profoundly assimilate it and later give expression to it by his mouth, the organ of speech (Key 16, Peh (פ)). Having assimilated the message there is no longer a difference between the message of God and the personal message of the prophet and the seer. In Revelation the seer announces that God's empire is near. Water and land are witnesses to this mission.

PROBATION AND VERIFICATION

Coming back to Key 14: The Angel is said to be Archangel Michael (מיכאל), Archangel of the South, the Fire and the Sun, the central Presence in the human heart. Instead of a scroll, the Angel of Key 14 has a vase and a torch, showing the operation of the LAW. Key 14 is also called the Intelligence of Probation, of test and trial, temptation and experiment. It means verification, to prove something, so that it can stand the test of time. By verification we establish the truth of what we are taught theoretically. Practice and insight give us stability, firmness and foundation.

POURING WATER ON THE LION

The Angel works on our lower nature, which is symbolized by the lion. The lion is a fiery being, and it stands for the impulses and drives of the lower nature. The fire of the lion gets temperance, when the Angel pours water on it. This is meant as purification. In our work within B.O.T.A. purification is of great importance. Paul Foster Case explains that we need to get "a pure sense experience, unmixed with emotional colouring, unclouded by prejudice" (*The*

True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order, p. 164). Only thus, we will get an unbiased view on things, on Reality.

A Hasidic Master in Eastern Europe illustrated it in the following way: When he was in a pub with his disciples and saw the landlord clean the glasses, he said, "we just have to clean the vessels, which means ourselves, and then Divinity can pour its essence into our vessels, into us".

The lion also signifies the law of suggestion. Our driving force must become selfless and disinterested. We need to get clarity about our will impulses. The Angel teaches us to avoid unthinking, impulsive passionate actions, such as revenge, hatred and fury. He also teaches us to keep our self-control.

The vase has the colour orange, which alludes to Hod, the eighth sphere on the Tree of Life. It is said to be the intellect of the human being.

Transformations that have been completed in this sphere enable us to build up the barrier of reason against the passions. When our thinking is cleansed and guided by spiritual impulses, we may say in a poetical way: now we are able to calm the churning sea. Quite fittingly, a word is attributed to Key 14 that can be translated as wrath. *The Book of Tokens* says in the Meditation to Key 14:

*Thus am I as one who testeth gold in a
furnace,
And this aspect of my being
Presenteth to the unrighteous
A face of wrath.*

Passion must be transformed into compassion. The energy behind wrath must be transformed into zeal and determination. The waters of thought, shaped in the urn of the Angel, will transform the lower nature so that we may become a servant of the Great Work. We only pass the tests and trials when we have the strength of intense and sustained aspiration. We acquire them through the balance between thought and emotion. As it is said, equilibrium is the secret of the Great Work. On the one hand we want to be enthusiastic, but on the other hand rational and sane.

FIRE TO THE EAGLE

In his left hand the Angel holds a torch with five flames, which go down on the eagle. In our tradition, the eagle represents a higher level of the Scorpio attributed to Key 13. The fire going down on the eagle means consecration. It is dedicating the eagle force to the unfoldment of the Divine in human nature. The fire confronts us with the unredeemed portions of our subconscious nature. These portions need to be equilibrated, so that they are transformed from passion to compassion and love. As we are yearning for higher attainment the flames burn out inertia and all what holds us down in the lower depths of every day life. The fire of higher realization will purge away the dross. Thus, the eagle soars upward to the sun. Soaring upward means regeneration through the work of the sun. It unites us consciously to the Higher Self within the heart.

The human being has a mortal part which we call the personality. On the Tree of Life it is represented by the four lower Sephiroth,



which stand for our lower nature. But beyond the personality, the human being has a higher nature, which is represented on the Tree of Life by the central golden sphere, which is called Beauty, in Hebrew Tiphareth, and attributed to the sun.

WAY TO THE HEART

We may say the Angel is waiting for us, because he wants to lead us to the sun in us, which is our heart. The heart stands for the Higher Self, since the Higher Self has its symbolical seat in the heart.

We see the allusions to the sun in the golden background, the rainbow, and the solar disk upon the brow of the Angel. The rainbow surrounding the head has the colours of the seven Inner Holy Planets or organs of inner perception. Seven vices need be purified and



SUFIS ENGAGING IN "SAMA". A MEDITATIONAL PRACTICE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE MEVLEVI ORDER OF SUFISM, FOUNDED BY FOLLOWERS OF THE POET JELALUDDIN RUMI.

consecrated and turned into seven virtues. Thus, we become transparent enough so that the light of the Sun can shine through. The solar disk upon the brow of the Angel stands for awakened higher consciousness.

Every one of us has it in invisible form. It enables us to receive the influence from the higher Sephiroth above Tiphareth. We get illumination and inspiration through it. They are as a beacon of light, which guides us as long as we still travel in darkness.

The yearning of the human heart is a response to the call from above, the down pouring of Divine light and love that comes from above, from the Great Mother, and finally from the eternal source of life. Being guided

by the Angel leads us to our center, the self of humanity. On the middle path on the Tree of Life it leads us further to the Self of the Universe, and beyond, to the Limitless Light, to infinity, to eternity. And coming back to Mother Earth, we give love, kindness, compassion, understanding, as we recognize the Divine in every being.

CLOSING WITH A POEM OF RUMI

I would like to close with a poem of Rumi: "On that day when my being becomes so vast as the Sea, it will shine in the beauty of its own splendour. Walking on the path of love I am burning like a candle. On that day, there will be no time any more, nothing but eternity."

All form is a limitation of the infinite energy of the Life Power. The primary cause of limitation is the image-making power of the Universal Mind. Every act of human imagination is really a particular expression, through a personal center, of this image-making power. Hence, human imagination is, in kind though not in degree, the same as the Imagination that forms the Universe.

— Paul Foster Case
The True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order



THE WORLD'S BUILDING BLOCKS

BY A SOROR FROM THE USA



One of the images which has kept popping up in my recent meditations is that of the building blocks we use as *Builders of the Adytum*, and that led me to pondering building materials of all kinds. And how all human beings have been builders of one kind or another throughout our existence. We build, we tear down, we rebuild again, continually.

Think about one of the first games that all little human beings delight in: building a tower with blocks and then toppling it over with a crash and lots of laughter. Repeated over and over again. We've had a lot of opportunity witnessing this lately, with two

small grandsons, one nearly three and the other eighteen months old. And as children grow and become adults, this building up, tearing down, and rebuilding happens in uncounted ways, physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. So I've been looking at this process.

Scientists tell us that in the beginning we were made from star-stuff. They discovered that the basic building blocks of life originated in space: carbon atoms connected to hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and other elements.

Patrick Morris tells us that "Starlight drives the formation of chemicals that are the precursors to the chemicals we need to make



RING OF BRODGAR, ORKNEY ISLANDS.

life.” From these chemical conglomerates, all life developed infinitesimally slowly until humans finally appeared.

Since the dawn of awareness, we humans have been conscious builders, first for the pragmatic reasons of shelter and safety, later for aesthetic, monetary and spiritual reasons. Millennia ago, we started by creating tools, combining rock, wood, shells, and later, metals. With these tools, we were able to utilize ever more sophisticated building materials. In prehistoric times, at sacred sites worldwide, builders quarried and hauled rocks from far and near to create dolmens, rings and temples, situated at power points in the earth or perhaps creating those power points. These builders chose rocks having subtle, natural energies and magnetic stones with reversed fields which altered the vibrations of the space. They also used stones with high concentrations of quartz and related minerals. Somehow they understood

the special qualities of their building materials. They used these sites for initiatory, shamanistic, religious and healing purposes, and in time, for burial.

Centuries and millennia go by, and the sacred sites changed. In many places, new cultures appeared and sacred sites were destroyed and rebuilt anew. One of many examples was the cathedrals and churches of Europe.

These sublime structures were designed by master masons to be books in stone, glass, and wood in an age when most were illiterate. These men wore many hats, as architects, designers, builders, craftsmen, and engineers. They made their constructions with primitive tools unimaginable to 21st century builders. Most of these structures are still in use today, many centuries later. Some didn't even have access to paper for developing their architectural plans. Paper



THE NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL, PARIS, FRANCE.

or parchment was extremely valuable in medieval times and was reserved for precious writings like illuminated manuscripts.

They also didn't have standard measurement tools like rulers or tape measures. Each master had to come up with his own method of standardizing lengths for his construction

process. And the original architect of a building knew he would likely never see his project to conclusion, each often taking anywhere from a hundred to five hundred years.

Moving to the present time, we all learned about many other kinds of building blocks



in school. Each branch of science has its own set of basic materials; in chemistry (which grew out of alchemy) we have the periodic table of the elements, the basic building blocks of our physical universe.

In biology, we study the hereditary building material of DNA, which endows each one of us with unique characteristics, providing an infinite number of human expressions of the divine.

With only four tiny building blocks, adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine, large molecules shaped like a double helix are formed, and from this, all the individual qualities which build each person into the distinctive human he or she is.

The building blocks of language are letters, combined into words which express ideas. The elements of visual art are line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space. Music

is made up of tempo, timbre, melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, and form.

And then there's math. I'm not much of a mathematician, but it seems like the elements of math would be the numbers 0 through 9, leading functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and then into formulae which explain the world in ways I can't even begin to comprehend. Through math, we can calculate, measure, and see patterns. The most fascinating math book I've ever come across is *A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe* by Michael Schneider, in which he discusses the practical, symbolic and sacred aspects of the numbers 1 through 10. I'm sure many of you are familiar with it. He guides us through each of the first ten numerals as they appear in the manmade world of art, architecture and engineering as well of the natural world of minerals, plants and animals. In the introduction,

he states “It’s a shame that children are exposed to numbers merely as quantities instead of qualities and characters with distinct personalities relating to each other in various patterns. If only they could see numbers and shapes as the ancients did, as symbols of principles available to teach us about the natural structure and processes of the universe and to give us perspective on human nature.”

Yes! And that is precisely the kind of teaching about numbers we receive very early in the B.O.T.A. curriculum.

It’s so true that we are all connected. While discussing the elements of math, I was planning to go into the golden mean and the Fibonacci sequence as it relates to beauty and philosophy in art and nature.

So that brings us to us, right now, here together virtually today, although we’re spread out over many countries and regions.

We are Builders of the Adytum, that Holy of Holies, the temple that is not built with hands. And we have been gifted with the tools and materials to allow us to help rebuild the world. Things are changing so rapidly that it’s hard to take in. We won’t return to the world we used to consider normal, and as a group, we have a role in

helping to create a new way of living that will bring in more justice, more fraternal harmony, more light and love to a world that desperately needs it.

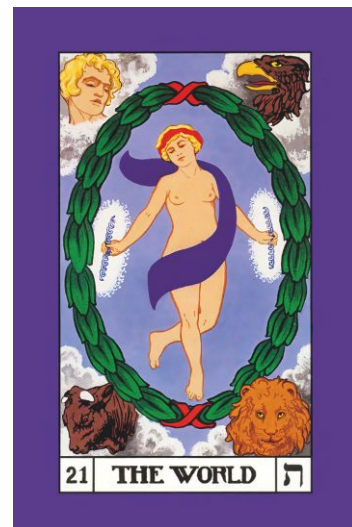
I looked through the Tarot deck to see which Keys pertained to building the new world. And as you’ve probably guessed, they all do, every single one of them. We need them all to guide us always. But I’ve chosen a few of them that seem ever so slightly more salient than the others.

First of all *Key 1*, there’s *The Magician* with his building tools set out in front of him on the table in the garden. However he’s not touching them, he’s channeling the energy of the Lord of the Universe and projecting it into the earthly garden below.

Then there’s *Key 3*, *The Empress*, who symbolizes the creative spirit, as she sits in her garden, pregnant with new life that will be born to change the world.

Key 16 illustrates how destruction is necessary in order to create something new. *The Tower* once served the useful purpose of safety, but in the long run, it had the unintended consequence of separation. Structures become outmoded, as is so beautifully expressed in the Epilogos of *The Book of Tokens*:

*The Great Work directeth itself always toward the building of the Temple of ADONAI,
And in its earlier stages there are needs which do
not continue throughout the building process.
Yet men mistake the
scaffolding for the building itself,
And thus pay idolatrous reverence to the old rules which have
no longer any useful purpose.*



Key 18, *The Moon*, shows the Corporeal Intelligence that is the builder of our bodies, those Temples not made with hands, during sleep. Key 19, *The Sun*, demonstrates a vision of the new world we are striving for, with the regenerated children, Homo Spiritualis, happily dancing in the circle of life. And finally Key 21, *The World*, where the Dancer dances the new world into being.

With our lessons, we are given riches of building blocks for transforming ourselves and our world. We have *the Pattern on the Trestleboard*, *the Emerald Tablet*, *the Adoration to the Lord of the Universe*. The

lessons themselves contain such incredible wisdom. Isn't it amazing that every time you go back to a lesson you haven't read for a while, it has a totally new message for you? We are given meditations, exercises and visualizations beyond measure from our teachers.

I don't know about you, but I never feel I do justice to them. There are the individual keys to learn about and meditate on, and combinations of keys, like the magic squares.

We have the Tree of Life with its 32 Paths and the Cube of Space to study, and we



17TH CENTURY ARTISTIC RENDITION OF THE EMERALD TABLET OF HERMES.

are able to chant of the names of God and immerse ourselves in the visualizations of the group meditations we've been joining together to do every week!

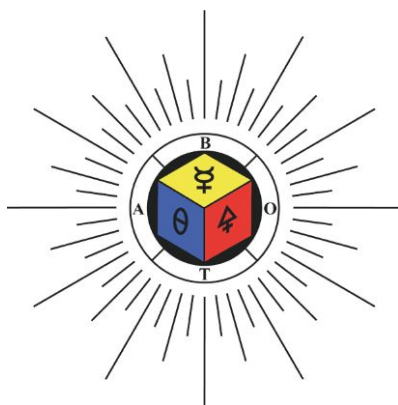
In this way, we are able to participate in 2020 with Rev. Ann Davies and the Fratres and Sorores who were with her in the Temple when the meditation was recorded decades ago. Time ceases to exist! We are also blessed with Ann's published Sunday Service talks and the recording of an actual Sunday

service. Some of us are fortunate enough to be able to participate in group work in our regions.

The riches of these building blocks for transformation are ours to use. And during this time of change, transformation and opportunity, we need to be especially aware that we have the privilege and responsibility to use our tools and building blocks for our own good and for the good of all, to help heal ourselves and our world.



ANN DAVIES AND PAUL FOSTER CASE



BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Builders of the Adytum (B.O.T.A.) is a true Mystery School; an international, nonprofit, teaching and training Order, and an outer vehicle of the Inner Spiritual Hierarchy, sometimes called the Inner School, which guides the evolution of Man. Adytum is derived from an ancient Greek word designating the innermost part of the Temple, the Holy of Holies, that which is not made with hands. Its system is that of the Western, Qabalistic-Hermetic tradition, and its teachings have been handed down from Adepts to Initiates since very ancient times.

The founder of B.O.T.A., Dr. Paul Foster Case, was such an Adept. As a recognized world authority on the Tarot and Qabalah, he was given the task by the Inner School of reinterpreting the *Ageless Wisdom* into modern idiom. After his death in 1954, his colleague, Dr. Ann Davies, extended the teachings of B.O.T.A. to their present state and initiated the international expansion of the Order. The lessons and some of the books of these two spiritual Adepts have been published in French, German, and Spanish, and other translations are in process.

B.O.T.A. has Study Groups and Pronaos ritual work in many cities throughout the world. Study Groups afford an opportunity to interact with others who share the same spiritual teachings and practices, gaining mutual benefit from the experience of fraternal harmony offered by group work. The primary purposes of Study Groups are to foster the development of consciousness as set forth in the B.O.T.A. curriculum, to help incorporate the principles of Ageless Wisdom in everyday life, to enjoy together the operation of the One Will in all the circumstances of our lives, to encourage the development of fraternal Love and Harmony, and to provide an open door to the Mysteries to all who genuinely seek them.

The headquarters of Builders of the Adytum has been in Los Angeles since the 1930s.

For information about membership and group events, or to make inquiries, please visit www.bota.org.



3

THE EMPRESS

7

GIFT OF TIME

BY REV. ANN DAVIES

*Oh God... How wonderous is livingness!
Thy gift of self from Thy Selflessness;
Thou hast taught me to reach to Thy timelessness...
Within time.*

*Is it Thee hath fashioned this form I hold?
This fleeting ephemeral changing mold?
Which quivers with love at the power to behold
Thy face?*

*Ah yes! Ah yes! I know thee well!
Where'er I go, there Thou doth dwell with grace.
How much time hast Thou given me
Out of Thy timeless Eternity?
How many threads of Thy boundless space
Enfold my soul in a timed embrace?
Time enough to live... to grow?
To reach... to yearn... to pray... to know?
To chant... to serve to learn to flow
With Thy Love?*

*Dear God! Dear God! Ah yes! I see.
Time enough in Timelessness
To rendezvous with Destiny,
Until Thy Will, awake in me,
Brings Timeless immortality
That I may share... with Thee.*

