

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

(E.S.S.G) 2 = 9 Rituum Officium - Seasonal

In Memorium: Valentinius of Alexandria, (110 - 180 C.E.)

This is the Seasonal Ritual which shall establish a structured definition of the Sophian Gnostic System of Valentinus, whom some have deemed the “almost pope” and greatest of the Gnostics. In fact it was the Valentinian school which coined the term “Gnosis” as an appellation for those who believed that salvation lay in spiritual “experience” rather than faith. Valentinus was a respected member of the Christian community and was even nominated for the bishopric of Rome but lost the election by very narrow margin. As pope, Valentinus would probably have radically transformed Christianity, allowing for an authoritative version of Gnosticism to flourish in the Roman Catholic Church. Valentinus also claimed to have been instructed in the secret teachings of Jesus by one of the direct disciples known as Theodas. But it was peerless works like the Gospel of Truth and Tripartite Tractate which profoundly influenced generations of esoteric students and even the next stages of Gnostic speculation.

I Consecration of the Quest

II Installation of the Gate

A) Opening the Temple

III Seasonal Ritual

1. Introduction

Prior to working these rituals, the Temple members must say a Mass (Low) and set the Four Angles with the Host fragments.

The members must have read and discussed the character of the Sophian Gnostic System and this becomes the subject of an initial meditation which shall set the atmosphere for the following.

2. Introit

The Celebrant bows and gives salute to the Western Watchtower, in honor of the season of the Autumn Equinox. All members bow in following and the celebrant says:

The cycle of spiritual light turns again, and at each quarter a new philosophy is declared, a new Gnosis is revealed, a different magick is expressed: all unto the endless and eternal spiral of the evolution of consciousness.

I reveal the Gnosis of Sophia (Wisdom) which is the celebration of the salvation caused by experiencing the Light of Wisdom.

3. Gnostic Exegesis

The Celebrant begins to circumambulate the magick circle deocil, slowly while saying the following.

There is a perfect, unknowable, pre-existent Aion dwelling in the invisible unnameable domains beyond all comprehension. From this Aion, which is the Unity of all Being, came forth the Ogdoad, the Decad and the Duodecad, all as pairs of Aions, there being thirty in all. And these make up the Pleroma which is the fullness, the most perfect pre-existent pattern of all potential.

Now the 30th Aion was called Sophia, for she contained the desire to behold the Absolute, the longing to be one with all - and therein was planted the seed of future spiritual quests. She extended herself beyond the bounds of her partner, Thelema (willed) and would have been melted into the oneness of the Pleroma except that the Limit (horos) which holds the integrity of all Aions apart from that ineffable magnitude, ceased her strivings. And this cessation released the passion of Sophia and generated the primary essence of material creation and spiritual manifestation - the imperfect image of Sophia, known as Achamoth. But the limit intervened and separated creation from creatrix forever.

The limit is also known as the Cross, the threshold, the redeemer and emancipator, the definer and the guide. This limit is overcome through transformation wherein the highest spiritual influence is given to congress with the human soul.

However, by means of the limit was Achamoth crucified and banished from out of the midst of the Pleroma. And she went forth in ignorance to spawn her own cosmos, ever haunted by the knowledge and true vision of her spiritual self (Sophia). Yet this banished spiritual light, however flawed and imperfect would receive through the compassion and generosity of the one, the final pair of Aions who would give solution to the error caused by ignorance and redeem the light that Achamoth possessed and in which her creations were endowed. These two Aions were the Christos and the Holy Spirit, emitted from the fixity and consolidation of the pleroma.

Through the Christos is the nature of the Unity of Being understood and through the Holy Spirit is the peace of fulfillment established. These give hope to those trapped in the autonomous cosmos who are without a kindred spirit and to those who seek the knowledge of their own light amidst the darkness of the unconscious world - a world of tyranny and stasis.

3. Seasonal Vortex

The Sentinel in the Eastern Watchtower makes the sign of the Equal Arm cross and vibrates the letter ***Sigma*** and intones the word ***Nous*** (Mind) and ***Aleitheia*** (Truth) and says:

When Nous [mind] and Aleitheia [truth] join there comes forth the blessed experience of insight and enlightenment, for the secret way of the spirit is perceived and the illusions of despair fall away. The knowledge of truth is the unerring pathway.

The Sentinel in the Southern Watchtower makes the sign of the Equal Arm cross and vibrates the letter ***Omikron*** and intones the word ***Logos*** (Reason) and ***Zoe*** (Life) and says:

When Logos [reason] and Zoe [life] join there comes forth the combined guidance wherein the life-path is disciplined by the structures of spiritual evolution and holistic redemption.

The Sentinel in the Western Watchtower makes the sign of the Equal Arm cross and vibrates the letter ***Phi*** and intones the word ***Sige*** (Silence) and ***Bythos*** (Depth), and says:

The vastness of the realities of the spirit [Bythos] forever speak and praise the exalted state of unity and there is much wisdom accumulated therein - yet the unenlightened, like the dead, hear nothing but the silence [Sige] which shrouds this Gnosis from the profane.

The Sentinel in the Northern Watchtower makes the sign of the Equal Arm cross and vibrates the letter ***Alpha*** and intones the word ***Anthros*** (Humanity) and ***Eklesia*** (Temple), and says:

The place where the spirit communes with the souls of humanity [Anthros] cannot be defined by boundaries except the demarcation between the sacred and the profane. For the inner tabernacle of devotion (Eklesia) knows not any physical abode but within the heart of wisdom basking in the light of redemption.

The Celebrant in the Center of the circle makes the sign of the Equal Arm cross and vibrates the letter ***Iota*** and intones the word ***Soter*** (Healer) and ***Lutotres*** (Redeemer), and says:

Perfect redemption is the cognition itself of the ineffable greatness: for since through ignorance came about the defect [of Creation].. the whole system springing from ignorance is dissolved in Gnosis. Through Gnosis, then, is redeemed the inner, spiritual man; so that to us suffices the Gnosis of Universal Being: and this is true redemption.

The Celebrant joins the East, South, West and Northern nodes to the Ultrapoint in the center of the circle. He says:

Sigma, Omikron, Phi, Iota, Alpha;

G.? .M3! ., the absolute brings forth the light of unity which fosters wholeness. In this fashion, through the wisdom of the spirit, are we all reborn!

All members complete the ritual with meditation upon what has been revealed.