

CHAPTER V

HOW TO BUILD A MAGIC CIRCLE

Almost every book purporting to deal with 'practical Magic' gives formulae for making and consecrating Magical Circles, but none seem to give very precise reasons for such an activity, or suggest further developments and uses in connection with it. Yet it is indeed the basic exercise out of which everything else must come for the practitioner. The Circle of Zero, as it were, defining the Nil from whence emerges All. To an outside observer ignorant of the process, few things might seem more ridiculous than an adult person making rings round themselves and attaching mental labels at the intersections like some childish game. In fact, however, the principles behind the practice are as sound and scientific on spiritual levels as any form of designing on physical ones. To 'set up a Circle' properly is a highly skilled affair, and no mere mumbo jumbo at all. If we consider what is happening from an Inner observation point, this will soon become evident.

To construct a Magic Circle is to create Inner Cosmos according to Intention. Although imagination is the method used for the construction, the forces which focus through it are very real energies of consciousness deriving from sources other than the operative arranger of their symbolic forms. Naturally the individual ability of the operator is a decisive factor, upon which the efficacious degree of any circle depends. Circles do not put themselves together without a directing will, whether they are Cosmic creations of a Divinity, or the personal cosmoi of human beings, both of which a genuine Magic Circle should intersect.

We live in circles of all descriptions. Family, social, political, economic, religious, and every kind of circle imaginable. We may be born into them, coerced into them, or enter them for any reason whatever. Why should a Magic Circle be any different in principle? The answer is because while other circles are so to speak 'ready-made', a true Magic Circle has to be set up by individual Initiates themselves of their own will in relation to their contact-points with what might be termed the spiritual

world around them. No one can make a Magic Circle for anybody else, though we may all be included in those belonging to others. Until Initiates are capable of creating the circles of Cosmos around themselves, they will not be admitted into the wider circles of Inner Reality that exist beyond the usual limits of human awareness. Nor will the substitute of a mere 'dream-world' as an escape-sphere from disliked external conditions be acceptable to the Inner Guardians. Such is not a Magic Circle, but a refusal to realize the responsibilities of an awakening soul. An authentic Magic Circle is the strange anomaly of being a construction of imagination designed to relate both Inner and Outer realities together through the symbolically channelled consciousness of its maker. When properly formed, it will do exactly that.

The first thing any mortal child must learn is orientation and adaption to its physical world and the phenomena encountered therein. We must discover the spatial dimensions of up, down, back, forth, left and right in order to make sense of our bodies. Then we must gain a time sense of past, present, and future, so that our minds are able to work.

In those circles of space and time, events happen. In sensing the significance of events we exercise our souls. There we have the Three Rings of Cosmos, a representation of which is made by every correct Magic Circle. Literally we are being born again into new dimensions of Inner being, and have to go through another type of orientation and adjustment on those levels. They too have Time-Space-Event equivalents to those of mundane life, though very differently indeed from our limited edition of existence on this planet. Nor is the type of consciousness used in one state valid for another, being quite different in application and expression. To operate in a human world we have to use human consciousness, and to operate in other states of being we must use the necessary kinds of awareness proper to their limits. If, while we yet inhabit human bodies, we would work otherwise, then we must find some means of adapting our consciousness from one condition to another and back again safely. Hence the need for, and value of, a Magic Circle.

The Triple Magical Circle of Cosmos

The seven co-ordinating points of the Triple Magical Circle of Cosmos are Heaven, Earth, the Four Quarters, and the Centre. Otherwise, Divinity, Humanity, the four Archangels, and the Initiate. These define the symbolic limits of the Inner Dimensions with which the Initiate is attempting to make a stable relationship on the principles of a gyroscope establishing self-gravity by its own rotation.

All the ritual procedure connected with this process is for the sake of acquiring poise, balance, orientation, and the most favourable adjustment between Initiate and Innerworld. It sounds easy enough when described in books—a gesture to each quarter, an uttered Name, and the Circle is supposed to be there in theory. In hard fact no Circle can possibly be built in that way without an enormous amount of time and effort spent in developing it to such a point of amenability.

Any Initiate capable of establishing a true Circle at an almost instant rate would admit that it existed around already, him and he was simply directing his attention to pre-prepared points arranged in his consciousness. For this to be possible, many a long hour of meditation and work will be necessary. No Name of Power is worth more to the utterer than the amount of energy he has charged it with himself. It is useless calling on Angelic or other Names unless sufficient conscious effort has already been put into them by the magical means of meditation and mediation. All a Name does is to evoke at one instance what has been accumulated bit by bit over prolonged periods. A Magical Name is not unlike a filing code that selects a card in a moment providing data which has maybe taken many years to build up into a collection of consciousness.

Rulers of the Quarters

The Names of the Archangels or Rulers of the Quarters then, should be Keywords, each to a typified quarter of the total Circle of Consciousness the Initiate aims to centre around himself. That is to say, if we took the whole of an initiated human awareness and sorted it into four major categories of a distinctive kind, the descriptive name of each quadrant is magically termed 'Arch-

angelic', and personified as such. Furthermore, if each segment is considered as part of the whole Circle and given an individual 'letter', the four in combination will 'spell' the Divine Name controlling, creating, and cosmatting them as One. To 'Utter the Name' is thus to invoke or call upon the totality of Being, whether it is the Ultimate Divinity, or an individual soul. The overall picture of Magic Names is of the One Name co-ordinating the four 'Archangels', their Names holding their particular Angelic Orders together, and so on right down to individual spirits and souls. Not unlike the schoolboy address system of reaching any person from the Infinite by writing:

John Doe Esq,
14
Any Street,
Anytown,
England,
Earth,
Solar System,
The Universe,
Creation.

Nine steps from Existence to a single individual by a series of Names directing consciousness from one stage to another, establishing a relationship between them all. Magical Names should provide equally reasonable linkage throughout the stages of Inner Existence.

The Names and attributes of the Rulers of Quarters vary according to the Mystery System, but for Western workers there seems little doubt that the most practical Concepts are those of the four Archangels Raphael, Michael, Gabriel, and Auriel. They are well established by Tradition, and have characteristics entirely in keeping with our culture and ethnological developments. Familiar figures as they may be to many, it might be useful to recapitulate their idiosyncrasies here, and perhaps learn some additional data or gain fresh ideas thereby. To paraphrase a proverb, there are many new tunes to be had from old fiddles.

Although there are endless speculations on the natures and beings of Angels, Arch or otherwise, such can be a very time-wasting and profitless occupation. So far as average Initiates are concerned, Archangels are personalized foci of typified conscious

energies with an existence of their own as Entities operating through Inner Dimensions. They are major fulfillers of specified functions in the construction and continuity of Cosmos. Each is a 'heading' as it were, under which all other allied aspects of awareness and action are grouped. Though they have Inner reality by themselves, Initiates are responsible for building up their TIs at the quarters of their personal circles, because it is through those TIs that Archangels interact consciously with Initiates, and the Initiates in turn participate fractionally of the powers inherent in those incredible energies. True, the individual fraction of power temporarily acquired by an Initiate is probably a very minute one indeed as compared with its source. The Initiate is unlikely to accomplish anything very spectacular in physical terms by means of these forces, which must be applied through spiritual and mental paths for the most practical results. This of course will eventually produce physical results if those are an ultimate requirement of the directing Will, but the decisive factor is the mediatorial ability of the Initiates themselves.

Just how well or otherwise are Initiates able to mediate the energies they contact through their Circles, depends on the degree to which they have worked therein, and this again ties back with the basis on which that Circle is constructed. The Archangels of the Quarters being our basis in this instance, let us meet them in person, commencing from the East according to the Way of Light.

Raphael

Raphael ('Healer of God') typifies the youthful enthusiasm and 'go-aheadness' we need to make progress on our Pathways. He is the rising of the Inner Light in mankind, and heals the hurts we encounter both from circumstances and each other in our eagerness to follow where he leads us. (Though Angels are referred to as 'he' or 'she', it must be remembered they are non-reproductive and therefore sexless to us, and may be dealt with from either polarity.) Raphael personifies our natural curiosity and desire to know all about everything. To some extent he equates with Hermes as leader of souls and instructor of minds. His Key-Symbol is the Sword and Arrow ('Keen as a Sword, swift as an Arrow to its mark'). His Element is Air as signifying

Life, and of course he is a winged being to indicate Aspiration and Faith. Like Hermes, Raphael is patron of travel and most enterprises of adventure in human activities such as commerce, inventions, theatricals, and the like. As a healer of hurts he bears a golden vial of balm, which is not to be interpreted in the sense of gold being sufficient payment for any hurt. It may, however, be taken to mean that compensation for whatever injuries we sustain in our spiritual struggles will eventually come to us one way or another. If this reaches us via Raphael, it is likely to be in the nature of new opportunities or abilities to overcome old difficulties.

Raphael is usually visualized as a young being with brown hair and grey eyes, lively voice and engaging disposition. His colours are associated with Springtime and the dawn, pale blues, delicate greens, etc. His robes are of these tints in the traditional angelic pattern, and his girdle is deep blue. It is technically possible to visualize the Archangels in modern dress of any description, but this would be a bad aesthetic and magical error. They should be seen as timelessly as is practicable, linked by the natural colours of the Solar cycles and seasons in combination with the elements, so that we associate them with the creative energies around and within us.

Michael

In the South, Michael ('the Godlike') stands in full mid-day splendour, a familiar figure in armour, commonly pictured as spearing a symbolically evil monster. He shows the power of Light over Darkness, and is figured as being at the Right Hand of God. This in fact is his position at his Quarter of the Magical Circle to an East-facing Initiate. He is the Right Hand Angel who tells us what we ought to do, while his colleague on our left (Auriel) warns us what not to do. Michael appointed himself as mediator of Mankind before the Throne of God, and promised to stand by even the worst mortal as long as they had the slightest good in them. He is thus the Champion of Cosmos over Chaos, and definitely a Solar Angel. Occasionally he is shown on horseback, the horse being a Sun creature, and Apollo in the Sun-chariot equates with an equestrian Michael.

It is Michael who cures diseases of humanity arising from un-

balance and disorder of natural forces. He typifies our inherent longing to be 'Right' in every way, and if we ever achieve any degree of such an objective, it will be with his help. Michael's Key-Symbol is the Rod, or spear-staff, his period full noon, and his Season Summer. For that reason he is visualized with golden hair, brilliant blue eyes, a commanding voice, and a wholly admirable nature. The kind of superior officer whose orders would be obeyed without question, and in whom may be placed entire confidence. Michael is indeed the Grand Master of the Mysteries of Light.

Fire is Michael's Element, and as might be expected, his colours align with Summer and Noon, being deep greens, vivid blues, bright yellows and the red of roses. His girdle or belt is golden-yellow, and there should be a Solar Symbol on his brazen breastplate. Usually his armour is quasi-Roman in type, with a kilt, but he may well be thought of sometimes in off-duty uniform. He is patron of sports, athletics, and open-air pursuits, and in his capacity of Judge of Souls, hopes for high standards of performance within the principles of fair play from humans.

Gabriel

At the Western Point, Archangel Gabriel (Javriel the 'Potency of God') rules. He is the Fertility-figure, the Lord of Resurrection who triumphs over Death by the Potency of Love. He personifies Compassion and feeling, tenderness and strength combined. His Key-Symbol is the Cup or Horn with all its significance, and he is visualized with chestnut hair, amber eyes, a friendly and sympathetic voice, together with a completely congenial disposition. He typifies our great need of loving and being loved, desire of conviviality, and our deepest necessity for true spiritual sustenance, without which we might as well not live at all.

Since Gabriel is at Sunset-Autumn position, his colours match up accordingly. Reds, russet-yellows, and similar hues. His girdle is red. His concern is with the kinder side of humanity, and he is represented as a mature being connected with our more peaceful pursuits, consolidation of gains, and enjoyment of existence. He directs our attention to the moral as distinct from the intellectual side of the Mysteries, and presides over the companionship that should prevail in every Circle.

His Element being Water, Gabriel is a pervasive Angel, cooling hot-headedness, soothing irritations, and generally dissolving most difficulties capable of solution by such means. The tears of Gabriel wash away the sorrows of our world, because they are tears of sympathetic and understanding love. It is Gabriel who provides confidence to face death in no particularly brave or heroic manner, but quietly and normally as part of our Eternal Existence. Gabriel convinces us that Love is immortal, and as products of it—so are we. However many times our flesh bodies die and are dissolved in the Ocean of Life, our souls will be safe in Gabriel's keeping while they continue along the unseen edge of the Cosmic Circle to re-emerge into material manifestation again until we are sufficiently developed as individuals to exist otherwise. The Cup of Gabriel is also the Cauldron of regeneration.

Auriel

Lastly, at the Northern Station, Archangel Auriel ('Light of God') presides. Unless properly understood, he might seem rather a dark Angel indeed. His robes are sombre, being aligned with Winter and Midnight. Blacks, dark browns, greys, though lightened by the sparkle of frost and the shining of stars in brilliant moonlight. He is represented as a kindly Elder with greying black hair and beard, dark eyes, and a deep deliberate voice. His girdle is black, but relieved with silver. His Key-Symbol is the Shield and Mirror, and his Element is Earth.

Auriel is very much an Angel of Light. He is the Light shining in Darkness, that, the Darkness did not understand and could not extinguish. Consciousness in Unconsciousness, Knowledge in Ignorance, Being in Unbeing. He is the Light of Experience and Wisdom, shining brightly in the Dark Womb of the Eternal Mother. He typifies the Seed of Light that manifests in us as living beings, and which we bear from life to life that it may grow ever brighter until it becomes an Inner Sun of its own System, and we become Solar Logoi in our turn.

Auriel is associated with all the tolerance, wisdom, and development that should come with sheer experience of life and death until a soul grows enough to take such matters in its spiritual stride and seek better forms of being. He rightly belongs to Earth,

because when we live on Earth as we should in Heaven, our object as humans will be attained, and both Heaven and Earth will 'pass away'. An unlikely event in our predictable future, but attainable in individual instances. Humanity will never achieve 'salvation' *en masse*, but only in single file through the narrow Gates leading to Light. Correct Pillar passage in any Temple should be for one person only.

The Magic Mirror of Auriel reflects us to ourselves, showing up our mistakes, and picturing whatever we should learn. Occasionally Auriel is shown with a Book of Wisdom instead of the Shield. His Shield however, is supposed to protect us from adversity by cushioning our consciousness against shocks and blows, or sparing us from knowing what would hurt us needlessly because we had no means of dealing with it. Auriel is a kind Angel, who attempts to enlighten the Children of Light, but sees no advantage in allowing them to suffer senselessly. It is he that tries to stop us making the same mistakes over and over again. Altogether, Auriel is the Light of Law and Learning, without which we shall never grow up in Spirit.

Location of the Quarters

Such is the briefest possible outline of the Archangels at the Quarters of our Magical Circle. The more they are thought about and worked with, the more real and meaningful they will become. It is a matter of constructing their TIs from all the 'spare parts' provided by the checklist. As they are assembled, a great many other details will fill themselves in and drop into place. It will be discovered for instance, that if their girdles were tied together in a circle, it would form a Circle of Light spectromatically, with red at the bottom end, yellow in the middle, blue at the top, and silver-black connecting through the invisible bands. Apart from the Seasons, the Archangels are recognizable as the Ages of Mankind, and about everything else divisible into four. The normal Magical relationship to them as a team is facing East, but of course all Quarters are faced individually for various reasons. The basis of East-facing is much older than Christianity. In Hebrew the Quarters are definitely indicated by the words:

Yamin	Right, or South.
Kedem	Front, or East.
Shemal	Left, or North.
Achor	Behind, or West.

In the Ancient Egyptian Mysteries, the Quarters were aligned with Osiris and Ra on the North-South axis, and Nephthys—Isis on the East-West median. This was supposed to be a closely guarded secret, and the text runs: 'Let no outsider know this. Do it not in the presence of anyone save thy father or son or alone with the Gods, for it is a Great Mystery known not to man.' The father or son referred to, would of course apply to seniors or juniors in the same Mystery workings. Sometimes the picture of Isis was painted in the bottom of a coffin with arms stretched up sideways, so that the corpse lay enfolded in the 'arms of the Goddess' from behind, since the souls of the faithful were 'taken West' with the Boat of the Son. The affairs of the living were worked along the East-West Light line, and those of the dead along the North-South magnetic axis, since Osiris was the God of the Dead and governed the North.

We must remember that in equatorial countries the North wind was the blessed one, since it brought coolness and comfort from the scorching heat, whereas in Northern latitudes it was an accursed wind bringing ice and sterility with it. Even so, the North of our Magic Circles is still the Place of the Dead with Winter, and we guide ourselves by the Pole Star, sometimes represented above Auriel, or on his headdress.

With the Christian Mysteries, the central Christ-Figure into which Initiates attempt to identify themselves, joins Divinity above and Man below into a single personification. There are no definite Quarter-Concept personifications, since the Christian Mysteries are based on Triadism like those of the Druids. However, the Quarters may be associated with such Quarternties as the Four Events of the Saviour's Birth, Life, Death, and Resurrection, the Four Arms of the Cross, the Four Gospels, etc. The Elements of the Eucharist consisting of Salt, Wine, Water, and Bread, are common to other Mysteries than Christian. So are the Passion-fluids of seed, blood, tears, and sweat.

If we consider the four main headings concerned with agriculture, sowing, tending, harvesting, and clearing the Earth of

its crops, we shall see the Cycle of Cain. If we take a quarternity of herding, breeding, rearing, slaughtering, and consuming the animals, we shall have the Cycle of Abel. Everything fits somewhere into the Magic Circles of Time-Space-Events which Initiates of the Mysteries are expected to construct around themselves.

It might well be asked why an Initiate or anyone else should go to the considerable lengths and amount of effort necessary to cast, or construct those Circles of Consciousness in which they will live, move, and hold their Magical Being. What possible advantages can there be in playing such games with oneself in one's own mind? If our Gods or Demons are no more than projections of ourselves into our own awareness, what benefits can they bring, or why need we fear their antipathy?

It is probably impossible to over-emphasize the importance of the fact that in creating forms for and of Inner Entities, we are simply making conveniences of consciousness to establish mutual relationships. The actual Energies concerned are beyond any form we know or can imagine, therefore they must be translated into our terms. They bless or blast us depending on how we relate ourselves with them. Electricity will bless us from a lamp, or blast us if we stick the wires thereto in our mouths. More subtle Energies in what we term 'spiritual' dimensions will either bless us by cosmating our consciousness into harmoniously formed Circles (or cycles), or else by wrong relationships will blast us by causing chaos in our consciousness through fragmentation of force into anti-patterns of discord. Need anyone doubt such effects when they are to be encountered so often in this world?

Correct relationships with the Energies of Life and Existence are of paramount importance to us all. Divinity is more than an idea in anyone's mind. It is the Difference between our Being and Non-Being. So far as we are concerned, It is Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How we **ARE**. Our Eternal i **AM**. Those who cannot see the importance of relating themselves reasonably with an Energy so vital to their own actuality are obviously 'lost to Light', because they are utterly blind.

Initiates of the Mysteries are well aware that the 'Gods and Demons' they work with via their Circles are what might be called 'Inner Art Forms' energized by actual Forces derived from

and directed by what Jung calls the 'Collective Consciousness', which of course includes their own. To some extent, this is not unlike painting a picture or writing a story, and then having the characters come to life of their own volition like Pygmalion's statue, though scarcely for the same reason.

Nevertheless, these characterizations of Inner Energy will only behave according to their specific terms of reference. That is to say, a Michael-concept will always be and act as a Michael-concept should, its essential nature remaining unaltered throughout its existence. What has happened is that a Michael-concept becomes a focus for energies of what might be called the 'Michalean frequency band' only. Just as a pre-set crystal will only permit electro-magnetic energy of its own frequency to pass through it and manifest otherwise, so does a pre-set Michael-concept respond to its particular modification of conscious energies received from any source. Hence the need for a comprehensive set of concepts covering the widest area of Awareness with the fewest practical number of changes. The Four Archangel-concepts are intended to personify and present this coverage of Cosmos.

Each Personification provides the Initiate with access to that specific type of Consciousness as far as they are able to reach through It into the Collective Consciousness It typifies. If we try and imagine the CC as a literal Ocean containing all the Awareness there is or ever was, and every kind of different species of Awareness as fish within it, we shall have a useful picture to play with. Suppose the fish to be of all different sizes, colours, and descriptions. How could we depend on landing any particular sort of fish we might need? Obviously by using only bait and tackle to catch it in precisely the right way. Say, for instance, we were after green fish of one species alone, and nothing but a green bait shaped like a pothook, attached to a yellow line at a depth of thirty feet during the night of a full moon would catch the creatures? In other words, to arrive at any given sort of conscious energy, we must operate through whatever pre-requisites may be called for to effect the contact. The Archangel-concepts fulfil that function at the Quarters of our Magical Cosmoi. Most so-called Magical Formulae are in fact pre-arranged patterns, which, if followed faithfully, should result in

exchanges of Inner conscious energies with a definite input-output relationship.

This is the practical purpose of rituals, even of the nastiest kind. If any of the unpleasantly insane rites from medieval Grimoires were scrupulously carried out, the consciousness (and conscience) of the operator would have been subjected to such a horrible conditioning, that it would infallibly make contact with Inner entities of the worst description. True, these might not reach objective levels immediately or dramatically, but their influence would be none the less real for that. Their reality would certainly be demonstrated well enough by the human operator's behaviour and changes of character. The 'Formulae', or conditioning process of consciousness laid down in Magical procedural patterns are perfectly valid exercises of Awareness, whether they are laid out for good or evil purposes. Once set up the course, and chase an individual consciousness around it often enough, and the soul becomes conditioned accordingly. It is the aim of the Holy Mysteries of Light to set out a circular course that will direct the dedicated souls therein to the Creator of the Cosmos they are trying to copy.

The main question at issue concerns the relative realities of Inner and Outer Cosmoi. We are familiar enough with the exoteric so-called scientific, materialistic, 'humanist', or otherwise termed viewpoint which denies reality to whatever is not in objective evidence and observable by outwardly polarized awareness. So too, are we familiar with the 'all is Maya—illusion' esotericist who takes the opposite line of everything being 'in the mind' while the Supreme Spirit is 'Ultimate Thought'.

Between these Pillars of Extremity the Initiate of Light seeks the Middle Way out of the problems proposed by both antagonists. In the old Egyptian Mysteries, one of the candidate's experiences was to pass between Pylons in which concealed priests hurled opposing queries and epithets at him, as well as trying to prevent his progress with all sorts of snares, barriers, and other devices. All this had to be overcome, and the candidate sail serenely through the test along the median Line of Light. At a ceremonial Initiation of course, prepared stimuli and responses were provided, whereas in real life, whether Inwardly or Outwardly, we have to find our own answers to the Problems of the Pillars.

Dweller on the Threshold

Here we have to decide just how real Gods, Archangels, or other Entities are in their own right or in relationship to ourselves via the Telesmic Images we propose to make for and of them. It seems a fair question to ask that if these Great Ones are indeed real, why do they not manifest directly to us in objective fashion and speak for themselves in our language? Why should we have to do all the work of making vehicles for them before we can establish conscious contact with their awareness? Why does there seem to be no evidence of their existence which we may appreciate with our ordinary senses, which we presumably derive from our Creation?

These, and allied queries meet us fairly and squarely at the Portals between which we cannot pass until our solution of them permits us. Once, this barrier was called the 'Dweller on the Threshold', which consists of whatever in ourselves refuses admission to the Inner Adytum of Spirit for that part of us which seeks evolverment away from our purely earthly projections. Each must deal with their particular 'Dweller' in their own way, for every one is peculiar to the individual concerned. The struggle with the 'Dweller' is always a solitary one, and usually a most distressing experience, since it amounts to practically civil war in a divided self.

At an earlier period of our Inner development, the 'Dweller' was frequently shown as some kind of a foreign fiend determined to prevent our slightest spiritual progression. A terrible shock awaited pure minded Initiates with a noble opinion of their souls who discovered the 'Dweller' to be part and parcel of themselves entirely opposed to all that seemed best within them. A sort of Anti-God as it were. With the best intentions, they 'summoned the Dweller' which often appeared to the Inner eye as a most unpleasant sort of fiend, and attacked it with every weapon suggested by self-righteous virtue. To their amazement and horror, they found themselves sustaining every injury they inflicted on the monster, which made them realize they were wounding themselves, and the monster's hideous face was really a distortion of their own. Many a mind broke under the impact of this appalling revelation. To see the worst of oneself focused into a personalization is a most demoralizing affair.

The problem of the 'Dweller' for an individual is the same as that for the whole human race on a world-wide scale, but the only solution is a personal one, each unit of humanity being responsible for his own contribution to the general question. When we learn how to deal with the worst of ourselves both individually and collectively without the insanity of destructive warfare, we shall have overcome our 'devils', and 'Dwellers' in the most valuable way. The wise Initiate does not waste useful energy in combat with his 'Dweller', but converts this entity into a 'Doorkeeper', an office which changes a predator into a protector. This is largely accomplished by the realization that the Dweller was only fulfilling its natural function of excluding from the higher Spheres of Inner Life what is unfitted to enter them.

It may seem odd perhaps, that what we consider our noblest nature is prevented from passing into what seems to us its proper Heavenly habitat by our own worst propensities acting in the interests of Divinity. Yet in effect, this is what happens. We may not abandon our lower natures and enter Paradise independently of them because they are part of us and must be included with us wherever and however we proceed as persons. They are to be 'redeemed.' or re-directed, not destroyed and extirpated. We should not consider our Dwellers as antagonists, but as our own inadequacies and imperfections preventing our progression beyond a certain point as much for our own good as anyone else's. We may feel that we should be able to fly, but unless some indwelling type of consciousness convinced us that we could not, many would perish by leaping from a height with unfounded optimism.

Just as our best intentions save us from the worst in us, so does our worst side save us from our good intentions paving a Hell-bent path. We cannot afford to be without either Pillar of Personality, because together they must ultimately merge into the Middle Pillar of Poised Power, which is the becoming of our True Being. All the noble motives and good intentions we have will not get us anywhere worth reaching without the sheer basic energy and crude force of our lowest Life-contacts.

Just as our material progress and evolution depends on refinement of raw basics into highly specialized products to accomplish intentions decided by our degree of social development, so does our spiritual evolution depend on the same process applied

through our Inner Dimensions of being. Whether we call it transmutation or transubstantiation makes little difference to the arts of Inner Alchemy that must be practised in order to convert Saturn into Sol, or the peripheral planet of a System into a nucleus for another.

It is an interesting thought that our nuclear explosions which are miniature Suns, derive from elements named after our known peripherals of Uranus and Pluto. In spiritual terms this signifies changing our 'Dark Dweller on the Threshold' into a 'Sun of God' providing power for new aeons of living consciousness. The 'Devil' redeemed into a 'Deity'. Chaos turned into Cosmos.

How is such a Magical miracle to be worked? In the same way that purely physical matter is processed into perfection. The bulk of any raw mass is subjected to whatever selective treatment may be necessary for categorizing its contents, isolating its required principles, and making molecular adjustments so that the product obtained is suitable for the purpose demanded. The operations of commercial chemistry may quite well be translated into spiritual terminology and applied to non-physical states of being. Alchemists knew this well enough, and sought to learn from their physical experiments methods of spiritual procedure for obtaining equivalent Inner results. They also realized the possibilities of continuing this cycle so that techniques learned in spiritual states might be simulated physically with profitable results.

Refining the raw material

The Operation of the Magical Cosmic Circle is thus the first practical processing of raw conglomerate conscious material by directing it into four selected streams personified as Archangels linking the Principles of Divinity and Humanity through the being of the individual Initiate arranging this Pattern of Perfection. Once this is properly done, subsequent selective work and refinements to required limits may proceed quite normally. Entire instructions for this advanced type of magical practice are only obtainable from sources of consciousness contactable via the Archangels or other Telesmics reachable by Initiates in their Cosmoi. Furthermore, each must receive his own particular instructions for himself through his personal contacts.

The 'Received Teaching' (or Qabalah) is essentially what every Initiate receives individually. Hence the need of personalizations in practical Magic. The so-called System of Abra-Melin (probably from **ABR MLAIM**—'powerful consecrations') is based on these premisses. All Initiates can be trained or instructed by others up to a point where they should be able to make their own Inner Contacts for themselves. From that point on, their Enlightenment must come through those Contacts alone. The 'Holy Guardian Angel' has to take over from the Initiates' fellow-human Sponsors, or the personified Higher Self must walk its lonely Way of Light towards Ultimate Truth.

How indeed shall we ever know if Gods, Demons, Angels, Spirits or any immaterial Entity has reality, or whether we simply make them up out of nothing? For that matter, we ourselves and our whole Cosmos have been made up out of Nothing, so why should our existence have reality?

The materialist screams for 'proof' entirely on his own terms, and the mystic is inclined to consider all material phenomena as aberrations of the Divine Mind, demanding virtually impossible expansions of Spirit for himself as 'evidence' of Divinity and Inner Life. The one is asking 'Heavenly' conditions demonstrated with earthly materials, and the other is expecting 'Earthly' experiences to be manifested by Divinity. They typify the Inconvincible in search of the Incredible. Both are demanding energies from entirely differing Dimensions of Existence to manifest beyond their natural Laws of Limitation without any or adequate means of inter-connection. Both are making the same mistake in opposite ways, insisting on 'evidence' of Existence which could not be supplied without automatically negating itself. The only point either extremist 'proves', is their own personal refusal or inability to pass beyond the perceptual limits they have accepted as their conscious periphery.

To demand objective or phenomenal 'proof' of Inner Existences is not only a waste of time and effort, but shows a sad misunderstanding of the entire question. No amount of even the most fantastic phenomena would prove or disprove any such issue. The hard core of this whole controversial matter is this. Either a given consciousness is able to operate through different Dimensions of Existence and maintain a balanced relationship with them all—or it is not. Either we accept our own evidence of

Inner Life from, experience and intuition, or we do not. One or the other. The outcome either way is entirely an individual affair. As Outward facing humans, we are individual souls directing our attention into a field of commonly shared mundane consciousness, but as Inward facing beings, we are separating from our Group-Soul as solitary Spirits whose individual consciousness is only shareable with others of comparable condition, The Initiate of Light strives to achieve poise between both polarities.

Few pastimes are more futile or productive of wasted human energies than our age-old attempts to demonstrate or deny the Existence of God and other states of Conscious Being other than our own. Wise Initiates do not enter this controversy between other investigators of imponderables, but concern themselves with the more important Magnum Opus of constructing their own Cosmos from what might be termed 'crude consciousness'.

They do this because they know that only from and through such a creation of theirs will they ever reach and realize the actualities about which those outside the Circle are likely to argue and quarrel for ever more. Full well do genuine Initiates appreciate the necessity for acquiring means before any end may be achieved. Therefore they proceed quietly about their business of getting such means together and developing their abilities for using them. Whether this takes one life or many, is relatively unimportant so long as it is done in the most practicable way.

A properly instructed Initiate also knows perfectly well that he must not reveal his Inner workings to the uninitiated or make any attempt to 'convert' or unduly influence others towards the Holy Mysteries. None must be persuaded against their True Will. It is most important that the Mysteries be approached by all from Within themselves of their own True Will. The veritable Holy Mysteries are beyond price since they are unreachable by any currency save that of consciousness itself. The most that human money will buy is admission to expensively equipped private theatre-clubs disguised as Temples or other places of occult entertainment.

Real Mystery Temples are *not* 'made with hands', even though it may be pleasant and practical to make use of their symbolic counterparts in material form. All Initiates must build their own Temple for both work and worship, making it from their minds,

hearts, and souls, acting by the Spirit of the Indwelling One in Whose Name the Temple is being built. All the money in the world would buy no more than a few art-representations suggesting designs for such Temples, and those need cost no more than the necessary visits to any average public library. No soul of the right determination and ingenuity is ever denied access to the Mysteries. In fact such is the actual 'admission fee'.

Apprenticeship to a Master

This was partly the reason why it was insisted on, and is still desirable, that Initiates made as much as possible of their physical Magic robes and instruments with their own hands. It was to accustom them into habits of converting raw materials into constructed creations. If they learned to cosmate physically, then they could do the same on other levels of life. The true Initiates are Craftsmen of Consciousness, whether working physically or spiritually. Who then, teaches them their trade? None but instructors able to reach them on whatever level their work is to manifest. The material details of craftsmanship are best learned from human specialists, but the finest spiritual craftsmanship is best learned through apprenticeship to 'Masters' who make contact with the soul in its own proper sphere.

These so-called 'Masters' and 'Teachers' are neither more nor less than spiritual potencies of various types which maintain life-linkage with humanity as a whole or as specified sections and even individuals. Many, though not all, have evolved through the human incarnatory cycles themselves, and are continuing their existence through states of consciousness far beyond the reach of average mortals. Their motives for intentionally relating themselves with earth-existent souls incarnating as humanity vary a good deal. By no means all are concerned with our noblest ends or highest capabilities. Many might be described as benevolently neutral to us, neither helping nor hindering our spiritual advancement. Others, for their own reasons, are malevolently opposed to humanity as such or in particular instances, and will do what they can to spoil our chances of over-reaching their spiritual status. Others again concern themselves with our truest welfare as living souls and do their utmost to help our progress along similar Paths to their own. Whether we regard such beings

as good, bad or indifferent, none of them can compel us into any course of life or activity against our True Wills. Our degree of Divinity in us decides the outcome.

Initiates of the Mysteries seek to make and maintain contact with, Inner Schools of transcendental training which will afford opportunities for living beyond their bodily bonds to an incarnate identity. What is more, such Schools and their attached Teachers must be of the right kind, aligned with the Initiates most direct Light-line between themselves and their highest aims. Not all Circles are dedicated to what we call 'Good', nor are the 'Good' ones all suitable for any kind of Initiate. To each, his own. Every individual Initiate must sooner or later take his proper spiritual place in whichever Circle of Consciousness will prove of most benefit to him and where he can be of most value to others. How is this position to be achieved?

It is a well enough known saying that 'When the pupil is prepared, the Master will accept him'. This is literally true. In the genuine Mysteries, when the pupil-Initiate has done the correct preparatory work of his own initiative, an appropriate 'Master' will infallibly establish Inner contact with him. The Initiate will be recognized for what he is in himself, and dealt with accordingly.

Such recognition is relatively a very simple matter from a spiritual viewpoint, the status of the Initiate being easily known by the patterning of his Inner force-fields. This, of course, is determined by his behaviour and condition of consciousness. None of this may be disguised in any way from those whose awareness is directed from an 'overseers' angle of vision. As we believe and behave, so do we automatically set up force-fields around ourselves which have definite rhythms and patterns associated with our basic beings. We might say for instance that such and such a person radiates this, that or the other sound and colour effect. That would only be their person-pattern projected in ways appreciated by physical eyes and ears. These would also have equivalents perceptible by spiritual senses, and this is how individual souls are singled out from higher life-levels when they are ready for advancement thereto.

Group Angels

All humans radiate force-patterns which are recognizable and classifiable by observing Intelligences from other than human states of being. Just as we become accustomed to rapidly classifying our fellow humans under general and specific headings such as: 'Male middle-aged Asiatic Islamic doctor', which would provide considerable information about such a person, so can Inner experts (or 'Masters') estimate our spiritual condition from the patterns we present in the Light of their perception, and realize exactly what sort of a soul we are. General categories of humans are more or less mass-guided by what are sometimes called 'Group-Angels', or Intelligences associated with racial and ethnical or religious circles of humanity. As souls evolve away from their root groupings and individualize themselves, so do they receive increasingly individual attention from those 'Inners' who are concerned with human progress (or otherwise) along the particular lines of interest. 'Masters' of all descriptions who are willing to deal with incarnate or earth-based beings, are constantly alert for the spiritual signals that indicate a soul prepared for their particular ministrations. They are not likely to miss this call-sign any more than a guided missile misses homing on its target.

Everything depends on the type of signal we send out spiritually as to what sort of Inner contacts we are likely to make. Apart from our own natural frequency or pattern, there is the superimposed symbolic design of whatever System or Order we are working with, whether of the Mysteries or not. Just as a Nation is recognized by its Emblem or Flag, so are spiritual Systems recognized by their Symbols. It is for that especial reason Initiates are carefully trained by ritual and other procedures in the production and use of their particular Symbol.

Qabalists for example formulate the Tree of Life in a variety of ways, and most Mysteries use the basic Circled Cross. Such Symbols sent into spiritual dimensions via the consciousness of the Initiate will automatically attract the attention of 'Masters' concerned with what they represent.

Only by so working within a Circle characterized by the Symbol-pattern of whatever spiritual sorts of consciousness we intend associating with, may we feel any assurance of making

such contacts. This is where the Initiate of the Mysteries scores over others who merely seek 'Spirit Guides' or echoes of departed relatives. For those content with pleasantries and platitudes, these facile comforters are usually harmless enough or even mildly beneficial. They are very easy to obtain. Any kind of human group meeting together in some sort of a circle for the purpose will achieve some measure of contact with types of consciousness other than their own. Whether they use devices like tables, ouija boards, pendulums, or human mediums, they will get results commensurate with themselves. Probably about the worst thing possible for them, is to sit around with amiably open minds awaiting an impact from whatever type of entity shows sufficient interest in them to make it. Fortunately for these experimenters, they are unlikely to provide the slightest interest, except in the most general way, for entities with any great power to injure them.

Initiates of the Mysteries differ from 'spirit-seekers' in several important ways. They are discriminative, selective, and deliberate in making their Inner contacts from levels of living consciousness at the precise spiritual state to which they direct their True Magical Wills. Furthermore, those levels are somewhat closer to Inner Reality than the more easily reached ones most immediately behind physical manifestation. It is the aim of Initiates to work much more deeply in the Ocean of Consciousness than at what used to be called 'Lower Astral' conditions. This is why the older practitioners of Ritual Magic used to operate especially 'tuned' Rites in which all the appurtenances, etc., were aligned with whatever single Keynote or frequency accorded with the Will behind the operation. It was not a question of mere harmonious decoration, but of using every possible means to keep the Operator's consciousness 'on contact' with the specific type of Inner Consciousness invoked for some particular reason consistent with its nature. It is this concentrated polarization of conscious power which operates the processes of practical Magic, much as a radio transmitter and receiver must remain tuned to each other's natural frequency in order to exchange energies.

Contacting Intelligences

Here the logical question presents itself—does this mean that any sincere soul who takes the trouble to arrange themselves into

specified Magical Patterns with the requisite amounts of effort, will make contact with the Intelligences directing what are known as the Holy Mysteries on Inner Life levels? The answer is yes, it means exactly that. If anyone considers the efforts worth while, and is prepared to devote himself whole-heartedly to the work, he will indeed come into eventual consciousness contact with the Powers behind the patterns they project towards Inner Space. The nature of such contacts depends upon the individual spiritual condition of those making them.

It is highly unlikely for instance, that contacts of consciousness made on deep Inner levels will take the form of materialized or vividly imagined personages in superhuman guise issuing mandates and messages of momentous import. Any such happenings should be highly suspect. We must remember that Inner Awareness inverses polarity with Outer, and therefore the order of consciousness is diametrically opposed between the Dimensions of Life.

As a simple illustration, let us consider what happens in an ordinary way. We meet someone or a group of people who present their consciousness to us in some form such as conversation, pictorially, or otherwise. We experience the impact of this, react with it, and subsequently alter to a certain degree in consequence. Now supposing the order of these events were turned around so to speak, and our objective awareness became activated accordingly. In the first instance we should be conscious of a change in ourselves, then of various factors associated with that change, and last of all the persons or individuals responsible for initiating or directing the causative energies towards us. That is analogous to the workings of Inwardizing consciousness. It is not that events really happen backwards, but that our Inner senses register them along a very different time-scale to the one accepted on earth.

Initial contacts with Inner Existence are normally in the nature of a growing certainty that not only does such a condition of Being actually exist, but that certain changes in ourselves and our consciousness are definitely related therewith. As we progress, we may discover what those changes amount to. Later, we may be led to finding out how they take place. Eventually we might even find out what Entity or Entities are responsible. Finally, it is conceivably possible we shall be able to direct those Energies of Existence by our own True Wills.

Anyone thinking that Magic or other Rites will promptly produce Appearances or the like psychical phenomena for their entertainment or edification is doomed to sad disappointment from the start. Yet, because of our inversed Inner-Outer Existences, we have to commence our Magical careers by using creatively constructive imagery concerning the Ultimates we seek in Spirit. If we are not prepared to work from the False of our own making, we shall never arrive at the Truth which makes us, and constructs the Cosmoi in which we live.

There is nothing very extraordinary in this. After all, we have been working that way for many thousands of years, during which, beliefs we assumed as absolute truthful facts have subsequently come to be regarded as fables and unrealities. In Magical practice we must operate the other way around, commencing with concepts which we accept as representational symbols of yet unreached realities, by means of which we hope to attain those actualities with ever-increasing degrees of True Light. The initiated Magician realizes perfectly well that the forms and figures he works with are necessarily false and incorrect from an ordinary standpoint, but that nothing can possibly be either false or inaccurate unless a Truth exists to make it so. Thus the Initiate of Light accepts apparent fables very gladly indeed for the sake of the Inner Realities which only they can contain. It seems odd that if we want Truth we must look for it in the heart of a Lie, but this is a method of Magic none can afford to ignore.

A really practical Magician does not worry about the existence or non-existence of Otherworld Beings, nor waste time speculating on their natures, possibilities, and idiosyncrasies. He goes ahead and creates his own concepts of whatever Beings he would believe in if there were any. Those will eventually put him in touch with the actualities of consciousness they stand for. It is as simple as that. The old legend of the boy Jesus and his companions making clay birds for a prize which He won because His models became living birds and flew away, is a literal instruction of how to work magic. The other boys' birds remained nothing but clay, because they only thought of them as such. Those boys believed their birds to be false images of a living reality, and so, up to that point, they were. Jesus however, continued the cycle of consciousness beyond this limit. He demanded

His images to produce the life-truth without which they could not be false, and so they did—for Him. Lesser Initiates must expect proportionately lesser results, but may be quite assured of results nevertheless.

Does this mean that Initiates are supposed to have faith in Concepts they might not believe in? Yes. It does. That is even the secret. To believe in the impossible until it becomes improbable is the first step from Zero to One. Perhaps we may not, like the White Queen, believe in as many as six impossible things before breakfast, but Initiates would do well by heeding her advice to do it for half an hour a day. How else has Mankind made any advance along the various Paths of progression? It is not our recent so-called scientific discoveries which have led us towards enlightenment, but our original fantasies and exercises in exploring the Universe of our Unconsciousness. Without the second we should not arrive at our present position of making the first.

Man neglects or despises Myth and Magic at gravest peril to his progress. Man the materialist says : 'I will not believe in anything until I have fully experienced evidence of its existence in relation to myself and other humans.' Man the Magician says: 'I will believe in the Nothing out of which anything may come into contact with me according to the Will that in me Is.' There is an infinity of difference between the two viewpoints, and as usual, the Initiate of Light seeks the Median Way. Let us consider some of the methods made use of by magical ritualists for this reason.