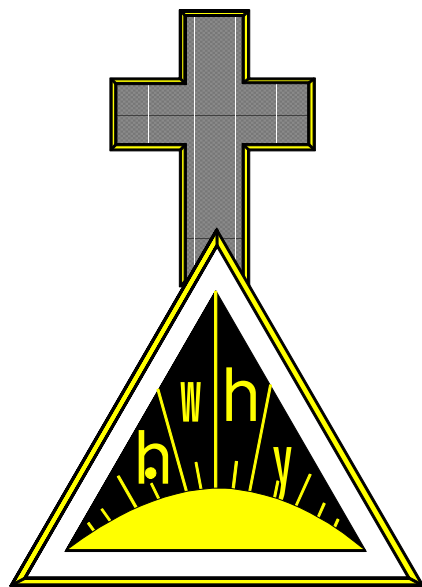


The Hermetic Order Of The  
GOLDEN DAWN<sup>Intl.</sup>

**TEMPLE SYMBOLISM OF  
THE PHILOSOPHUS GRADE**



**PHILOSOPHUS 4=7**

In the grade of Philosophus, there are only three officers that conduct the initiation. They are the Hierophant, Hegemon, and Hiereus. All of these members must be 4=7 or higher; of course, the Hierophant must be a member of the Second Order.

The Hierophant begins by opening up the Temple in the grade of Philosophus. The grade is attributed to the element of Fire. It is also attributed to the planet of Venus. The paths that are attributed to this grade are the twenty-ninth, twenty-eighth, and twenty-seventh paths of q, x and p.

When the Hierophant asks the Hiereus, "What does the twenty-ninth path refer?", the Hiereus responds, "To the reflection of the sphere of Pisces." The twenty-eighth path alludes to the sphere of Aquarius which is x; the twenty-seventh path alludes to the sphere of Mars, which is the path of p.

The element of Fire is then invoked by the Hierophant in the name of *twabx hwhy*, which means, "Blessed be thou, the Leader of Armies."

The first path that will be traversed is the twenty-ninth path. The candidate walked through the twenty-ninth path where he or she learns the symbolism and nature of that path. Interesting to note, we proceed through the element of Water to get to the element of Fire, which is found in *j xn*, Water being found in Pisces. This path highlighted in the ritual when the Hierophant says, "I am the priest with the mask of Osiris, I am the Water stagnant, silent and still." The Hiereus responds, "I am the priest with the mask of Horus, I am the Water turbid and troubled." The Hegemon says "I am the priest with the mask of Isis, the traveler through the gates of Anubis is my name; I am Water pure and limpid, ever flowing on toward the sea." The entire initiation can be found elsewhere in this book or in *The Golden Dawn* by Israel Regardie, Llewellyn Publications. The symbolism of the twenty-ninth path should be studied in the initiation and read and understood. There should also be some review of the twenty-ninth path of q in the Major Arcana series which will give you an esoteric view of that path.

The candidate is then asked to leave the Temple, and upon re-entering the Temple, he is advanced to the twenty-eighth path. The twenty-eighth path leads from the grade of Theoricus to Fire, or the grade of Philosophus. On the twenty-ninth path, the entrance badge was the Calvary Cross of Twelve Squares of which you can read about the symbolism in this grade material. On the twenty-eighth path, the entrance badge now becomes the Solid Pyramid of the Elements. Even though Aquarius, the twenty-eighth path of x, refers to the element of Air, in another way it also refers to fluidity, the fluidity of thought. So as we traverse this path, the twenty-eighth path of Aquarius, again we are traversing an aspect of fluidity into the element of Fire. Another way of putting it is that q becomes subconscious fluidity and the path of x becomes emotional fluidity under the direction of thought. The Hierophant says, "The Priestess with the mask of Isis and spoke and said, 'I am the rain of heaven descending upon the Earth.'" The Hiereus says, "The Priestess with the mask of Nephthys spoke and said, 'I am the dew descending noiseless and silent.'" The Hegemon responds, "The Priestess with the mask of Athor spoke and said, 'I am the ruler of mist and of cloud, wrapping the Earth as it were with a garment floating and hovering between the Earth and the heaven.'" So again, the aspect of fluidity and Water are highlighted on the path of x. This is further found in the picture of the Star card. Again, the Philosophus is

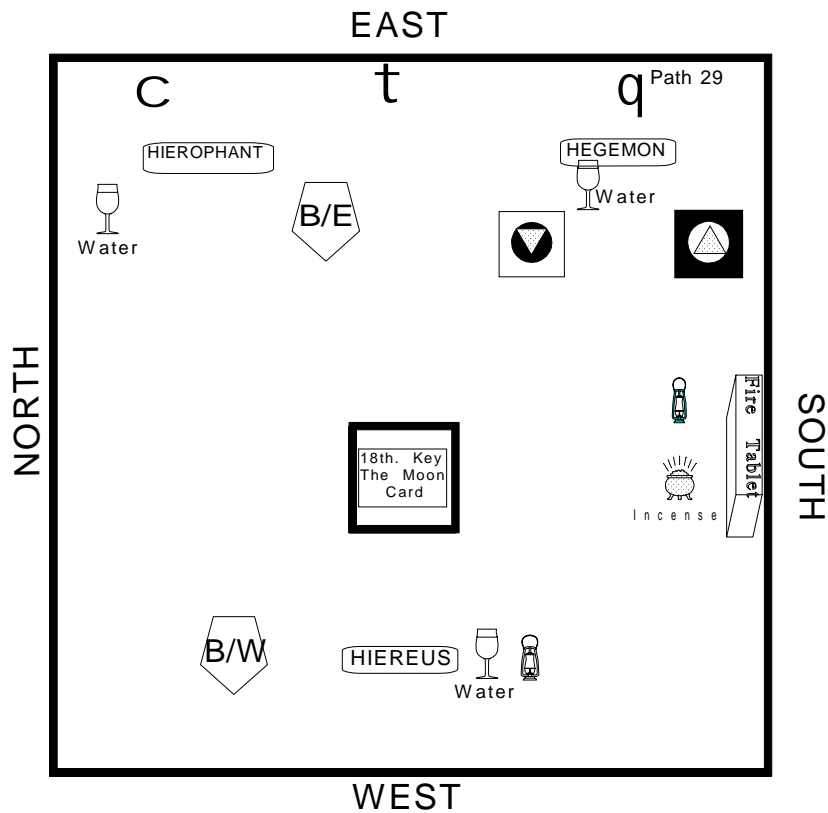
recommended to go back and read the lesson on the path of x, the Star card, for more esoteric understanding, and to examine the initiation itself.

The Hierophant then goes on to explain the symbolism of the Pyramid of the Four Elements. Aesch being Fire; Mayim, Water; Ruach, Air; Aretz, Earth. At the apex is the word Eth, and at the base is the word Olam, meaning "world." The symbolism of this entrance badge may be found in this grade book, and by examining the initiation itself. The aspirant is then asked to quit the Temple again. Prior to this, however, he or she is introduced to the Dekagram, Enneagram, Dodekagram, Heptagram, and the Octagram. In the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, these figures are introduced in the Philosophus grade, but actually, they are pre-studied in the Practicus grade as a preparation for understanding them and their nature in the Philosophus grade. They should be reviewed as part of Philosophus study.

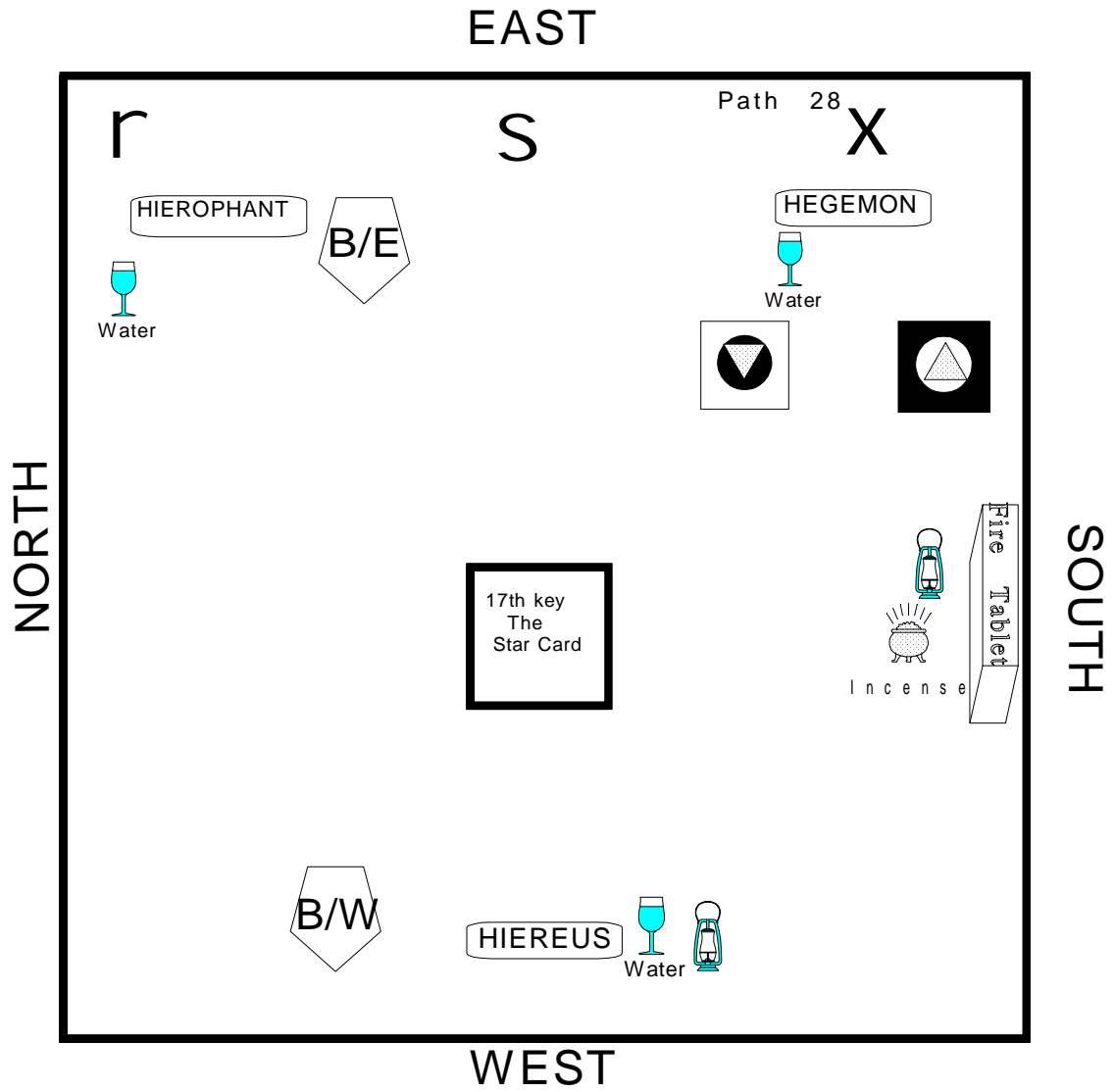
Upon returning back to the Temple, the Practicus is led through path twenty-seven, the path of p. The admission badge for this path is the Calvary Cross of Ten Squares. This is also referred to in the initiation as the path of Mars. Many of you will know it from your study of the Major Arcana series as the path of the Blasted Tower, Lord of the Host of the Mighty. It is here that a different symbolism is taken. Now, we are talking about the Lord of the Host of Armies, the Dukes of Edom, yet the symbolism of Water is still present as the Hegemon talks about, "The voice of the Lord is upon the Waters. The God of glory thundereth. The Lord is upon many Waters." The symbolism of the Calvary Cross and the path of p can be studied in the initiation itself and in the concerning the Calvary Cross of Ten Squares. In addition, a recommended reading is the Major Arcana series which examines the path of p from an esoteric standpoint.

The entrance badge into the grade of Philosophus is that of the badge of the Hegemon. This is the Calvary Cross of Six Squares with a circle. If you study the meaning of this symbol, you will find that the cross embraces trapt, j xn, dwh, dwsy, and rests upon twklm. The circle includes dsj, hrwbg and twklm. Additional information is given in the lesson on the badge of the Hegemon. Upon being introduced to the symbolism of the Temple at this point, the aspirant is also shown to the Great Southern Watchtower as well as the symbolism of the badge of the Hegemon, and the position of the Red Cross and White Triangle that is highlighted in this grade. In addition, the grade refers to the planet Venus and its Kamea of forty-nine squares, which is highlighted in the ritual itself. One particular interesting symbol that shows up in this grade that is not depicted in other grades is the symbolic picture representing the Fall. The great goddess who was supporting the columns of the sephiroth in the Practicus grade in the form of the sign of Theoricus, now being tempted by the Tree of Knowledge, reaches down into the Qlippoth. Immediately, the columns are unsupported and the sephirotic system was shattered, and with it fell Adam. Adam of course is symbolic of the Microprosopus. It is at this point at the end of the ceremony that the Hierophant congratulates the Philosophus for having achieved the grade and making it through a very long ceremony. Upon the Philosophus is conferred the Mystic Title, "Pharos Illuminans," which means the "Illuminating Tower of Light." The Hierophant goes on to say, "I give you the symbol of Aesch which is the Hebrew word for Fire." Doing this, the Hierophant then projects his or her will through the scepter, pulling down the Fire and projecting it into the aura of the Philosophus. The Hierophant then goes on to say that

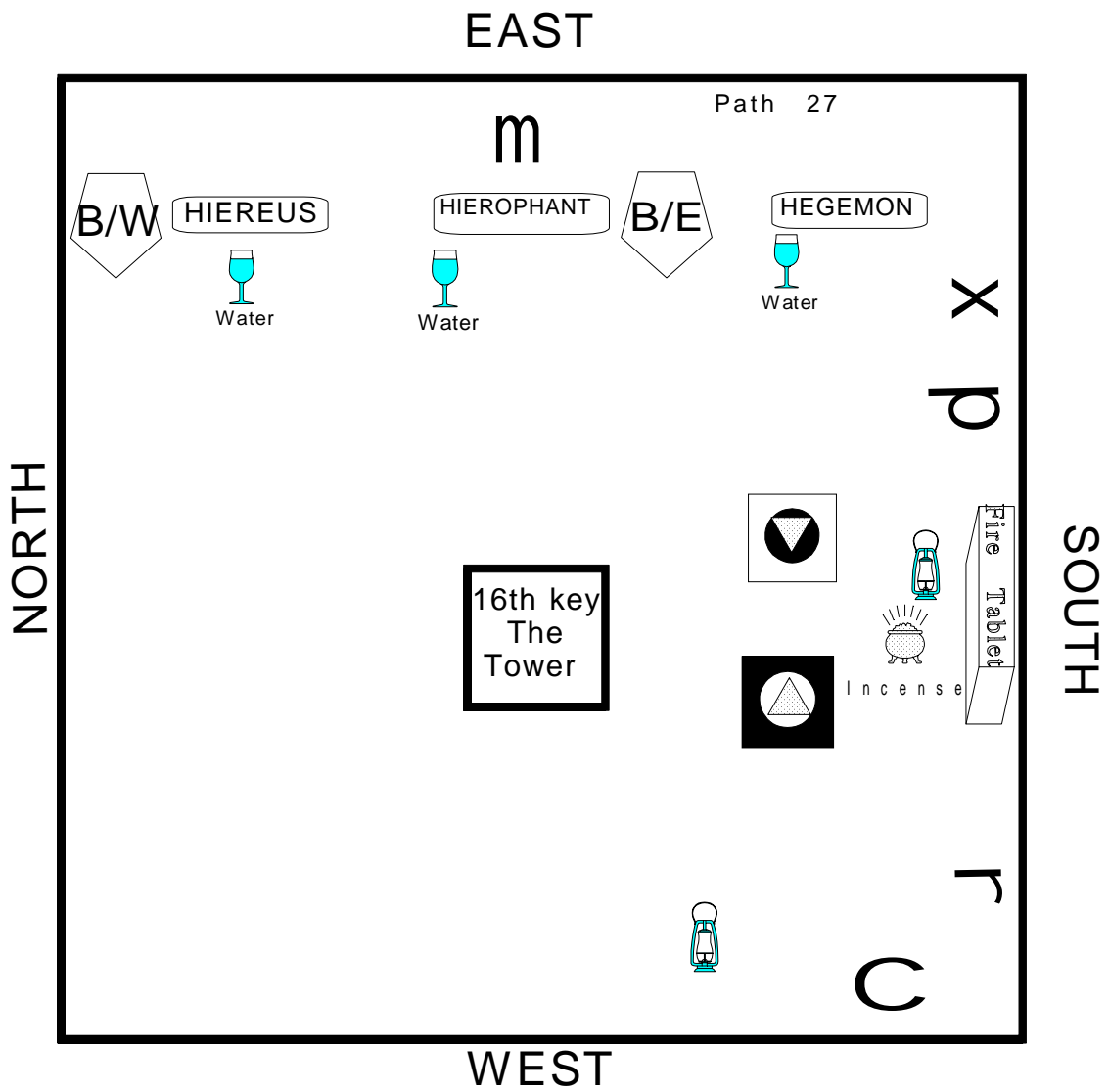
the aspirant has achieved the highest grade of the First Order, which is in fact, a connecting grade to the Second Order. In addition, the Philosophus is given the title of Honored Frater or Soror. You will notice that Adepts are always referred to as Very Honored Frater or Soror, and the Chief of the Temple is referred to as Greatly Honored Frater or Soror. The Grand Word of this grade is  $\text{twabx hwh}$ , which means, "Lord of Armies." The Mystic Number is twenty-eight, and from it is formed the Password of the grade which is j k, meaning, "power." Please study the initiation of the Philosophus grade as well as the individual pieces of symbolism which revolve around the nature of the grade. After you have a very good working knowledge of this grade, you will come to appreciate the beauty and complexity from which the initiation and the symbolism thereof are put together.



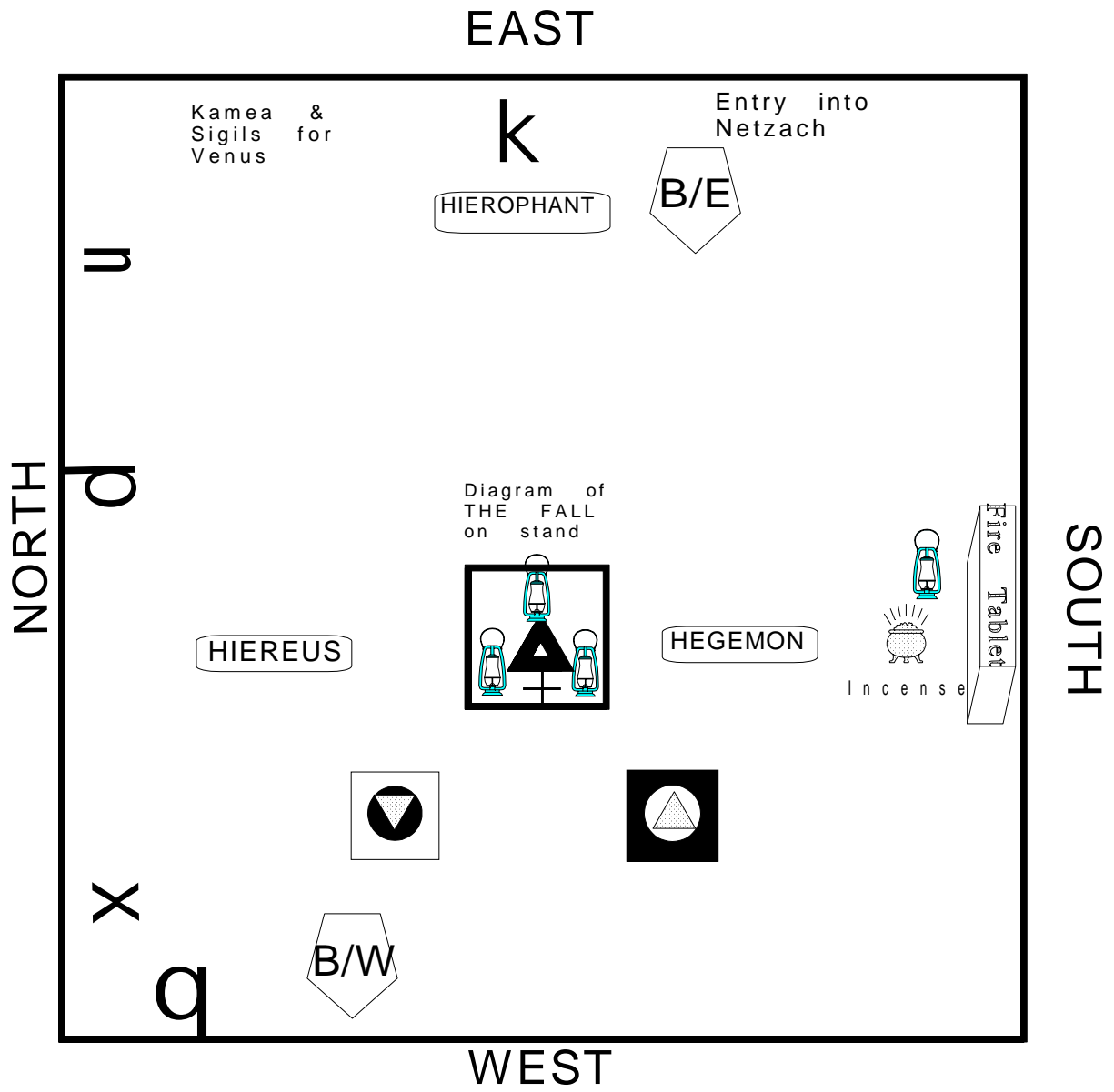
## The Path of q



# The Path of X

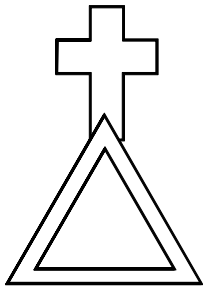


# The Path of p

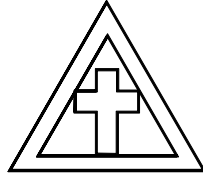


Entry into j xn

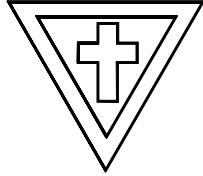
# Placement of the Cross and Triangle



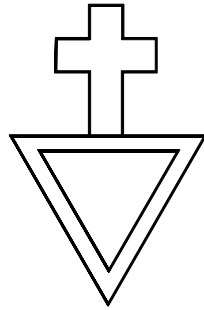
**0=0**



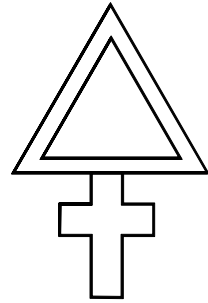
**1=10**



**2=9**



**3=8**



**4=7**