

THE RITUAL  
OF THE BANNER OF THE EAST

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From  
"The Sceptre of Power"  
(New Falcon Publications)

Issued by the  
Thelemic Order and  
Temple of the Golden Dawn

Let us first take a good look at the Banner of the East in the Complete Golden Dawn System of Magick (Published by Falcon Press). On a veil of white is shown a yellow cross of six squares. Superimposed on the Golden Cross is a red ascending triangle and a descending blue triangle, and again the interlaced Hexagram is referred to Tiphareth. In the centre is a little White Tau, a three-pointed figure.

This Banner is suspended in the East -- that point in the Temple through which a spiritual Force enters. Nothing more is said about this Banner or any of the symbols; but I want you to remember that any of the symbols given in the Golden Dawn are not to be construed as merely intellectual. Every symbol conceals a practical formula. There is a considerable formula concealed in the Banner of the East. In this Banner symbolism is implied an infinite White Light operating in a balanced way. You have the red fire of the spirit descending upon the blue waters of creation in a balanced, harmonious way. It is the balanced state of Illumination.

The technique implied here is the same. The heart would be the White Tau. What you want to do is this: Here your imagination can take the place of a large Banner. Create in your imagination this large Banner. Imagine yourself superimposed upon the Banner. Imagine yourself as an enormous cross of gold; then see the red triangle interlaced with the blue triangle, and in the heart where Tiphareth is see the White Tau.

What words shall we use as a sympathetic vibration? Two words which imply a harmonious, balanced state. They are JEHESHUAH, JEHOVASHAH, that is, YOD-HEH-VAV-HEH and the letter SHIN bursting through. (Note: Thelemites may substitute these words with the name RA-HOOR-KHUIT.) And if we desire to do so, the invocation to be used would be one which would represent the ascent of the individual in the Light -- "I am the Resurrection and the Life". One makes up composite Rituals for one's self, and in this case you can make one up instead of using "I am the Resurrection ...." If you understand the basic formula involved you apply it to everything and thus create your own initiation.

That is all one need to say about this particular formula.

Let us endeavor to do this Ritual collectively, taking one individual as the subject, and we will see him or her as the focal point (being placed in the centre of the circle). We shall see the Banner of the East enveloping the subject; and as it is the symbolism of Light, it should be a healing symbol. And remember that the more Light there is working through the system,

the more there is a tendency within to restore equilibrium.

You are the Golden Cross, and superimposed on that the Hexagram of a red ascending triangle with a blue descending triangle. Your whole aura, all about you is White. See clearly this White Aura. The Gold Cross symbolized the equilibrium and balanced man. The Banner of the East itself hangs on a white pole showing purity and illumination of the Adept.---