

“Belgrade Working” - The Great Work: Two Ways of Going. By Frater Iao Sabao

(Translated from the Italian into English by Giuseppe Zappia)

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

On the 12th & 13th of November, 2016, Anno VII, in the heart of Belgrade at the Hotel Moskva, a series of Lectures were delivered by J. Daniel Gunther - esoteric student and Senior Instructor of the A.:A.: - and Frater Shiva X^o - National Grand Master General, Ordo Templi Orientis – Grand Lodge of Australia.

The “Belgrade Working” - as the weekend had come to be known - was organised by the Serbian publisher “Alef”. There were 82 attendees from 17 different nations, united by one spirit, with One Star in sight; a testament to the present global interest surrounding the evolutionary development of the Formulae of Thelema.

The Lecture to inaugurate the event was titled “*The Order that Hath No Name Among Men*”, delivered by J. Daniel Gunther. In this most insightful piece the author discusses the White School and the Law of Thelema, presenting them as pure expressions that have been delivered to the World, issuing from the A.:A.:.

A summary of the three-fold purpose/function of the Great Order was then given, as follows:

1. To train and to test individual Initiates.
2. To maintain a form of social order in which Initiation is easy to pursue.
3. To develop the Magical Formulae of the New Aeon.

Furthermore, each Aspirant to the A.:A.: is sworn to identify his own Great Work with that of assisting Humanity in its efforts to attain to greater heights of evolutionary progress.

Though returning to the key proposed by Aleister Crowley, J. Daniel Gunther (pictured right) further explains that it is also for each individual student to Aspire continuously to his Star and to enflame himself in prayer. Seeking ever to strengthen the bond between himself and the Holy One.

Another crucial and illuminating topic addressed was regarding the (long held) erroneous and misleading belief in so-called “lineages” of the A.:A.:. It was noted that the A.:A.: was not founded by Aleister Crowley and George Cecil Jones between 1906 and 1907, but rather that it has existed in many forms throughout the Ages, the sacred torch having been



carried aloft by its Adepts and Guardians of the esoteric tradition through time. It therefore has no “lineage”.

“The Order is One, unbroken in its Chain of succession from V.V.V.V.V. through its senior living Adepti.”

“By their fruits ye shall know them.”: only in this way can truth be distinguished from falsehood.

The Lecture then turned to a matter that has in recent years served as a developmental point of focus for many Aspirants: Duplexity - the Great Alliance between the A.:A.: and O.T.O..

With the Revelation of the Law of Thelema and the acceptance of that Law by the O.T.O., the Secret Chiefs of the Great Order are understood to be attempting a new experiment that is entwined with an archetypal idea, identified by the term “Duplexity”. J. Daniel Gunther then went on to elaborate upon these twin phases of the Path, two rites of passage, one from Life unto Death, and the other from Death unto Life. Two Ways of Going - The Path of Night, perpetual Initiation in the Spiritual World and The Path of Day, Initiation in the Natural World. Two Ways along the Path that is the Great Work, each one unique and yet harmonious, directed toward the One purpose, with One Star in Sight. The first Path is that of the A.:A.:, the second that of the O.T.O.

The reasoning behind this Grand Experiment, according to Gunther, is simple:

“We tend to be social creatures that flourish in the company of like minded people, yet there are many amongst us for whom the private Work is more suited than that of the group.”

Two unique Ways of performing the Great Work, yet united in One Spirit. The afternoon continued with Gunther's Lecture “The Parables of Thelema”. Here the author delivered an analysis of some of the fundamental and key themes contained within the Holy Book - Liber LXV: “The New Birth”, “The Pale Image” and the Symbolism of “The Hummingbird”. I personally understood there to be a common thread running throughout each of these themes: The Unity of Action, Word and Thought. The necessity of a complete and utter Devotion to the Great Work, “delivered from the lust for result” (Liber AL I:44).

Further to this - ‘The Virgin who sighs’ - (Liber LXV I:47-50) ‘the creation of the pale image’ - (Liber LXV II:7-16) and ‘the Hummingbird’ - that flies from flower to flower without focus, oblivious to all signposts and landmarks (Liber LXV V:54); seemed indicative of the traps and pitfalls that can lead the Aspirant to stray from the straight Path.

“The Initiate must struggle against the inertia of incarnation which usually takes on the character of torpor and spiritual sloth.”

Initiation in the Aeon of the Child. p. 61.

“One of the primary goals of the Neophyte of the A.:A.: consists in resurrection from a Death which the world calls Life.”

The Angel & The Abyss. p. 17.

Thus the Aspirant of the Outer College must prepare himself, day by day, step by step, that he may Attain to the 2nd Crisis of the Great Order: The Knowledge and Conversation of the

Holy Guardian Angel. Gunther also brilliantly discusses the alchemical process involved in the Union of Opposites, a cardinal practice/endeavour and a marked Attainment that is often indicative of the spiritual maturation of the student.



The first meeting ended with Part I of “*Aspiring to the Holy Order 2016 Remix*”, which was delivered by Frater Shiva X° (pictured left). In it the author presents the O.T.O. as a system of consciousness and therefore constantly evolving System.

The Lecture commences with the birth of the Organisation (O.T.O.) as a paramasonic body, progressing next to the meeting between Theodor Reuss and Aleister Crowley. Shiva goes on to explain that the O.T.O. was not working in any real sense until the involvement of Aleister

Crowley. Therefore it became evident that the impact Thelema had upon the O.T.O. was crucial, the Master Therion reformulating the old mindset of the Generals in charge of the “War Engine”. In fact in his “Confessions” Crowley himself describes the O.T.O. as the Great Sentinel for Humanity.

The unification of East and West is next discussed as being an important theme observed throughout the System of the O.T.O. inherited from the Order of the Knights Templar, under the Grandmaster Iacobus Burgundus Molensis. On an archetypal level this melding of East and West recalls and resolves within itself the collective unification of the opposites, as well as the unification of the sempiternal and the temporal, thus the spiritual made one with the material.

This is the Work that was ushered in at The Equinox of the Gods, for The New Aeon Formula of the Child has for its aim the unification of spirit and matter, as borne witness to in the Child Horus. The work was then closed, with an Invitation:

“If you want freedom
You must fight for it.

If you want to fight
You must organize.

If you want to organize
- join the O.T.O.”

After a cold night accompanied by rain and hail the “Belgrade Working” again heated up with “New Aeon Doctrines in the Light of Jungian Psychology” delivered by Gunther, as well as Part 2 of “Aspiring to the Holy Order” by Frater Shiva.

Gunther presents some key points of the doctrine of Thelema in the light of Jungian Psychology, urging all to approach the Mysteries in a Scientific manner and to be prepared to abandon flights of fancy and or what may appear to be profound perceptions in order to better assimilate and integrate the results set off by the current of Initiation into one’s daily life.

“The method of Science, the aim of Religion.”

Gunther's Lecture also discusses the relationship between personal consciousness and the unconscious, as well as the archetypes of the collective unconscious. He further explains the function of the Shadow (unifying as it is confrontational) in relation to the Great Work, and gives a description of this element of the Psyche as it has been interpreted by the Western Hermetic Tradition. Later we encounter the figures of the Anima and Animus, as components of the Psyche.

Finally a discussion regarding the relationship between the Ego and the Self, the Ego-Self Axis and the developmental nature of this relationship as it has evolved throughout the centuries, from the Aeon of Isis up until the present Aeon of Horus.

It was noted that the Self functions as a transpersonal faculty of the Psyche, the Creator of Images, but also that it must not be confused with the Holy Guardian Angel. For He is a Star, unique, and with His own Will. Gunther concludes that He (the Holy Guardian Angel) is the Spiritual Instructor of the Aspirant, that has been assigned to guide him, if his own Aspiration is True.

The Day ended with Frater Shiva's "Aspiring to the Holy Order" Part 2. The theme - Duplexity in light of the Paris Workings of 1915, and a look at the evolutionary scale of this Work, how it has evolved and continues to evolve still, culminating in the reconstitution of the Order. Frater Shiva further emphasises the harmonious relationship between the A.:A.: and O.T.O..

He also discusses the notion that O.T.O. may be understood as a Moralistic Order, stating that progress in O.T.O. is related to Moral Development, which for the genuine Aspirant can include profound, difficult and or even traumatic, psychosexual maturation. An underlying yet crucial component involved in the overall growth of the Initiate.

Further to his interpretation of O.T.O. Frater Shiva explained that by accepting Thelema and the Order in its reconstituted form - its model of Government based upon enlightened principals and its Social structure - a unique Universal Gnosis based on the ethics and morals of The Book of the Law may be accessed.

These then are the two Ways of development regarding the Formula of the New Aeon, one suited to the individual Work and one suited to Group Work, ultimately Two that are One, and None!

"The Perfect and the Perfect are one Perfect and not two; nay, are none!

AL I:45.

The Belgrade Working ended as it had begun, the Duplexity completed and closed the Circle! Students and Aspirants alike from all quarters of the Globe met and gave birth to the Dance of Iacchus, the fruits of which were offered up unto the Prophet of the Lovely Star!



Belgrade Parliament Building.

Love is the law, love under will.