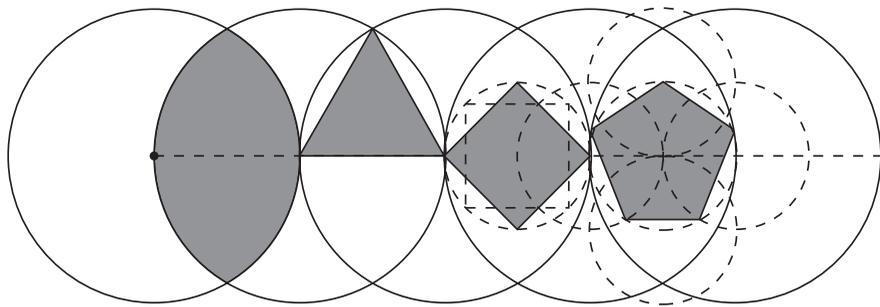


Serpent Flame



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Serpente et Astrum Camp
Ordo Templi Orientis, Australia

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Anno IVvi

Sol in Cancer, Luna in Taurus

Dies Solis

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Camp Master's Rave

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



SALUTATION ON ALL
POINTS OF THE
TRIANGLE !

It has definitely been a busy past three months for us. Many things have been happening within and about the Camp.

Firstly, Frater ShAIB has been appointed Serpente et Astrum Camp Secretary.

Frater ShAIB has worked closely with Soror HANH and myself since Serpente's beginnings and will fill an important space in the structure of Serpente. Frater R.V.N. stated recently in a letter to all Local Body Masters;

"Throughout the O.T.O., on an administrative, magical and ritual level, the basis of stability is the triangle."

Now we have the foundations of the triangle in place and, in order to keep its stability, we should turn to some of the symbolism of the triangle and the various trinities. There are fairly obvious ones (in no particular order) like Kether, Chokmah, Binah; Air, Fire, Water; Mercury, Sulfur, Salt; etc, etc.... But there were also three Fates, three Furies and three Graces in Greek Mythology. For the more scientifically minded we have the Proton, Electron and Neutron as the building blocks of all the elements in the known universe. And then there is the more commonly accepted breakdown of the modes

of existence, Animal, Vegetable and Mineral. In this last case the Treasurer is symbolised by Mineral, reminiscent of Disks and Coins. The Secretary is Vegetable as pertaining to the main role of dealing with the paperwork, which is generally manufactured from pulped vegetable fibres. Which only leaves me as the Animal.

A welcome also to new Serpente Minerval Soror Phoenix who was initiated recently through Oceania Lodge. Her artwork 'Lorelei' can be found elsewhere in this issue as well as on the Serpente et Astrum web site.

The Serpente site has now been up and running since April at <http://www.otoaustralia.org.au/serpente> and contains essays on Qabalah and Ritual. There is also a gallery of artwork by Serpente members and the calendar is updated monthly.

Also in April we celebrated Feasts for the Three days of the Writing of the Book of the Law. On each day a different Serpente member performed the Star Ruby to banish the workspace and a reading of the appropriate chapter of Liber AL was given. This was followed by Feasts of definitely fit for the Gods. Feast were also held for Winter Solstice and the Feast of the Prophet and his Bride with Serpente members and visiting Oceania Lodge guests enjoying great company and much 'sweet wine'.

In early July members of Serpente et Astrum attended the E.G.C. conference hosted by

Oceania Lodge. This was a marvellous weekend with Brothers and Sisters from all over Australia joining together to celebrate and share knowledge on Liber XV, *The Gnostic Mass*. Many talks were given and the Mass run through with Commentary by Sabazius and Soror Helena left us all with plenty to think about. Frater ShAIB has a report on the Retreat in this issue.

The first part of Soror HANH's '*Science in Art*' series also appears in the pages of this issue. This installment looks at the geometric progression from the Point to the Circle and some of their related symbolism. Future issues will look at the Point and the Circle in relation

to Cosmology, Chemistry and Physics, all the while delving into how these ideas relate back to philosophical and mystical thought.

Serpente et Astrum's publishing programme is also now fully underway with "*The Soldier and the Hunchback*" and "*Energised Enthusiasm*" currently being printed and both should be available by the time you read this. Numerous other publications will be popping up on the Serpente web site in both HTML and PDF formats and this task will probably keep us busy for a while.

Love is the law, love under will.

Frater ASHR
Camp Master

Gnostic Crusaders

An O.T.O. Journey Into Deepest, Darkest Galston

A Report on the EGC Retreat
by Frater ShAIB

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

On a cold Friday afternoon in July a select body of men and women from all climes made their way to the valley of Galston to partake in the first National EGC Retreat hosted by Oceania Lodge. In my view the retreat was a complete success; and judging from the opinions of those around me almost everyone else thought the same.

It was a unique experience for everyone. Spanning just over

two and half days most warmed to the fraternal companionship of their fellow Sisters and Brothers. Under the lamen of the Ordo Templi Orientis we strode into the Crusader Conference Centre (an Anglican Bible Study centre – a potential disaster from the very beginning!) masquerading as Gnostic Catholics (which I don't think they ever actually bought - though thanks must go to Soror Shalimar for her quick thinking!). From the very outset there were comments of besieging the place...The Soldiers of Freedom had arrived! After a quick search for mules and camels to bear the load of the contents of Frater ATSh's car we realised we had lots to do before dark.

We soon realised the bonding ritual Oceania Ritual Group had constructed was not going to happen...everyone was knackered. Those from Alpha & Omega had driven non-stop to the retreat and bore the scars of such a long trip. Sabazius and Soror Helena and their children were suffering jetlag and people from Darkwood were still turning up at all hours. The Gatekeeper spared those who arrived late. The caretaker was akin to someone you might see at 7am on TV on a Sunday morning. He preached, he quizzed, he poked his nose in everywhere he shouldn't and then when we believed he may be asleep we were accosted with Amazing Grace played at 11pm with the chanting of "Jesus...Oh Jesus". After an excellent dinner (Petra, having a kitchen the size of the bottom floor of her house, was in her element) we retired in bouts of two or three throughout the night to the `Boys and Girls' labelled cabins. I am sure some slept with fear in their hearts that night.

Breakfast was graced with a visit from some of the tamest Kookaburras I have ever laid eyes on. The children petted without fear, all I could see was the beaks. I was blessed with the role of Deacon in the Mass discussion/run-through and gained much insight and knowledge under the guidance of Sabazius and Helena. Frater Numa and Frater RVN also shared some of their wisdom with us. It was a long but very satisfying day and we all wanted and needed a drink and a chat. The night was not without chaos. It was found that Sabazius and Helena were to leave

early for Darkwood the next afternoon...a Mass was scheduled for that time! Something had to be done, and that something was placed in the ever-willing hands of Hiram's reincarnation Brother Steven. A Mass temple had to be erected that night so we could have Mass early next morn. Steve's McGyver-like qualities shone forth and those who have never set up a Mass temple witnessed what could be done with a paperclip and a post-it note.

An on again-off again pub run eventually happened much to the delight of all those awake."...eat rich foods and drink sweet wines and wines that foam!..." We did and I lost a game of outdoor chess because of it! Damn it was cold at 4am.

Bleary eyes greeted the last morning of our stay. The caretaker had probably taken solace in flagellation and prayer for our damned souls and thankfully left us alone. The Mass was something we were all looking forward to, even considering our condition. And Brother Kon and Sister Michelle their team pulled it off beautifully. We rose from the ashes as the Phoenix does and our hearts were uplifted. Soon after we cleaned up, packed our belongings said our good-byes and left knowing we were never to return. We realised that the bonding ritual was the Retreat itself and was powerful magick indeed.

Love is the law, love under will.
Frater ShaIB

The Science in Art Pt 1.

The Geometry of the Point and the Circle

by Sr. HANH

*"Infinite space is called the Goddess NUIT, while the infinitely small and atomic yet omnipresent point is called HADIT. These are unmanifest. One conjunction of these infinites is called RA-HOOR-KHUIT, a unity which includes and heads all things."*¹

1. Geometric Construction

1.1. The Point (Fig.1)

"1. Had! The manifestation of Nuit." Liber CCXX Vol.I:1.²

Mathematically, defining the term 'point' can only be attempted by replacing it with equally undefinable terms or by merely describing certain properties of the figure. Thus the term 'point' is undefinable. It can be simply described as an 'existence' in time and space. It has no dimension or direction. No fixed position with which to constrain it. Let us call this 'Point A'.

1.2. The Line (Fig.2)

The path 'AB' could then be thought of as the path of a moving point, 'A' towards 'B'. If this movement were followed by stop-motion photography, there would show a series of points, overlapping to create the 'blur' of a 'line'.

A line can be considered to extend infinitely in either direction and can be terminated at any point. Thus achieving expansion into the (x) plane or length.

To give the 'Point A' some

definition, we must observe it from the perspective of another point, 'B', thus giving 'A' some relative position in space that can be perceived by another.

1.3. The Angle or Arc (Fig.3)

An angle is a figure formed by two 'straight' lines that meet, where a straight line is the shortest path between two points, 'AB' and say, 'AC', incorporating a new perspective point, 'C' with which to view point 'A'. Thus achieving expansion into the (y) plane or breadth.

1.4. The Circle and Sphere (Fig. 4)

If this 'Arc' is positioned at point 'B' (a distance from point 'A') and extended to point 'C' then through 360°, until it returns to its origin point 'B', one can create from it, a Circle. Thus a circle is derived from the point 'A' and a radius 'r' and is the set of all points whose

A ●

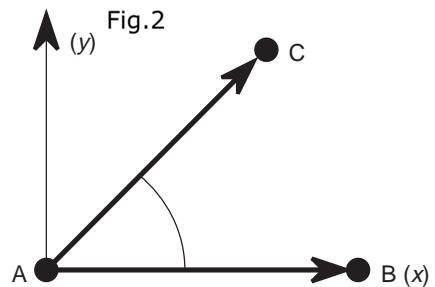


Fig.3

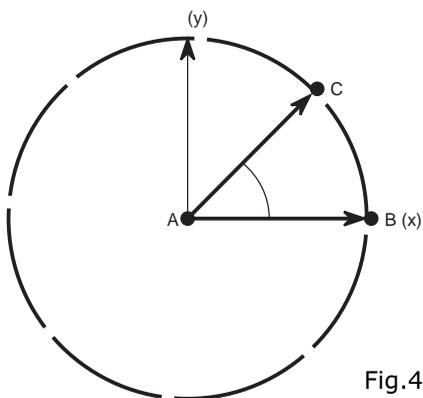


Fig.4

distance from 'A' is ' r ' in 2-d (planar) space. The extension of these points of radius ' r ' in any direction gives rise to a sphere or depth in 3-d space. Thus giving rise to a concept of 'universality'.

"1. Nu! the hiding of Hadit." Liber CCXX Vol.II:1.³

2.Synopsis of Ideologies

2.1 The Point or Microcosm.

The geometric structure of 'the Point' can be seen to embody the undefinable essence of 'existence', the basic unit, 1 dimension or finite space. It is from the point that all other geometric constructions initiate, whether as a building block for more complex forms (ie. lines) or as a position of reference.

In Hebrew an ALEPH is a point (microcosmos) that somehow contains or reflects the entire universe (macrocosmos). Supposedly, someone standing at one of these points could hear or see anything or perhaps everything at once. There are also phrases that can be attributed here. Such phrases like AHYH ASHr AHYH, 'I Am That Am', Existence of Existences and is title

of Kether, the first Sephirah of the Tree of Life, or AChD RASH AChDVThV RASH YChVDV ThMVRHZV AChD, which means: "One is His beginning, one is His individuality, His permutation is one." ARARITA is an acronym for this Hebrew phrase and is frequently used as a name of God.

The Hebrew word YECHIDAH 'Only One' or 'Unique One' is also attributed to Kether, and is the part of the soul corresponding to the *atma* (SKT), and is equivalent to the *sahasrara chakra* of yoga. In Sanskrit ATMA means literally 'breath' or 'soul'. In Vedantic philosophy the atma is the one omnipresent universal spirit, without and condition or attribute, because it is all things. The true self. The mahamantra, or root-sound of creation is AUM. The primordial vibration. The word is attributed to the Trimurti and embodies the entire cycle of creation (Brahma), preservation (Vishnu), and Destruction (Shiva). The word AUM (Om) is the root of the Hebrew word *Amen*, the Egyptian *Amon*, the Tibetan *Hum*.

2.1 The Circle or Macrocosm.

Again within the Sanskrit mysteries, as Bindu refers to the point, so SUNYA is 'The Void' or Zero, which represents both everything and nothing. Roughly equivalent to NIRVANA (from *nir-va*, 'to blow out'). 'The Great Void' is MAHASUNYA, that which is beyond all manifestation and is eternal. 'The Universal Void' of Mahayana Buddhism is SUNYATA. The Supreme Reality beyond manifestation. According to the teachings of Nagarjuna, "Nothing comes into existence, nor does

anything disappear. Nothing is eternal, nor has anything an end. Nothing is identical, nor is anything differentiated. Nothing moves in one direction, nor in any other." By transcending paradox, one may attain awareness of sunyata. Realisation of sunyata grows out of the awakening of *prajna*, which is wisdom or spiritual understanding. NETI NETI is literally, 'not this, not that'. It refers to the idea of that the supreme godhead is transcendent and cannot be described or understood.

2.3 The Union of Point and Circle

The UNION of the Point and Circle can be seen to be applied through many philosophies. The Japanese ZEN is a system of mental stillness originating in India, where it was known as *dhyana*. It was carried to China by the Buddhist monk Bodhidharma, where it was called *ch'an*. From China it travelled to Japan as Zen. Styles of Zen differ, but there are primarily three means used to attain release from attachment to the objective world: *zazen* (wall gazing), the *mondo* (a sudden illogical question demanding spontaneous answer), and the *koan* (a riddle or paradox requiring an intuitional leap beyond rationality). The goal of Zen is to permit experience by direct perception or intuition. This lightning-flash sort of awareness is called *satori* and is said to be equivalent to *prajna* or *samadhi*. MUSHIN means literally, 'No-Mind'. A Zen Buddhist term meaning action or consciousness without cerebration or intellection.

The Sanskrit SAMADHI means literally 'together with'

(*sam*) 'the Lord' (*adhi*), and is the highest of the eight *angas* or limbs of yoga. Samadhi is a state of total involvement, unwavering awareness, and complete stillness of mind. The content of the meditation and the meditator are one. There are many different kinds and levels of samadhi. The meditation may be developed with a mental image, concentration upon a specific principle, or with consciousness itself as the object of meditation. Samadhi is the principle of total absorption in meditation. The culmination of samadhi is *sahaja-samadhi*, which is not a trance state but a condition of permanent awareness.

In the *Tao Te Ching* it is written, "The Tao which can be spoken is not the true Tao." TAO means literally 'way'. The Absolute, or noumenal reality. The One which brought forth the Ten Thousand Things. The union of yin and yang. Beyond attribute, the Tao is described, at best, in mysterious terms. Lao Tze is credited with writing the main text of Taoism, the *Tao Te Ching*, or "Way of Changes". The essence of Tao is TAO SHU. The point at which all attribute and distinctions (the Ten Thousand Things) disappear. Wu is the Eternal non-being and Wu WEI is No-activity. Spontaneity. Non-interference with the Tao. TUN WU is a Ch'an Buddhist term for satori. An important Taoist concept is Hsu meaning 'emptiness' or 'non-existence', in the sense of stillness and receptivity. HSUAN TE is Virtue through emptiness. The cultivation of one's original nature.

3. Bibliography

3.1 One should consult *The Book of the Law* for further study on this subject, but also see:

⊙ Liber 418, *The Vision and the Voice*, 30th Aethyr.

⊙ Berashith

⊙ Liber Aleph "Book of Wisdom or Folly"

⊙ Soldier and the Hunchback

⊙ The Book of Lies

3.2. Reference Materials

X *Liber AL vel Legis, The Book of the Law*. A. Crowley

X *The Magician's Companion: A Practical & Encyclopedic Guide to Magical & Religious Symbolism*. B. Whitcomb. 1993. Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, MN, USA.

¹ Aleister Crowley. 1997. *Liber ABA, Magick, Book 4, Chapter 0*. p. 137

² *Nuit is matter, Hadit is motion, in their full physical sense. (The proton and the electron, in a metaphysical sense, suggest close analogies, or the noun and verb in grammar.)* Aleister Crowley. 1988. *Law is For All*, p. 70

³ *Nu conceals Had because He is everywhere in the Infinite, and She manifests Him for the same reason. Every individual manifests the whole; and the whole conceals the individual. The soul interprets the universe; the universe veils the soul. Nature understands herself by becoming self-conscious in her units; the consciousness loses its sense of separateness by dissolution in Her.* Aleister Crowley. 1988. *Law is For All*, p. 155.

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