

Ordo Templi Orientis New Zealand



“Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law”

20 March 2011, Anno IVxix



... is a wonderful thing. It often takes disasters such as the Christchurch earthquake to make us take stock of how fortunate we are, forcing us back into the moment to ask, “How am I?” And being able to reply with, “Everything is just fine with me in this moment.” If only we could do this on a regular basis. If everyone was satisfied with their lot, it would surely be a better world.

Gratitude is a useful magickal tool. It allows a spiritual practice throughout if

we utilise our spare moments to be present, grateful, and truly alive.

We have a limited number of moments in our lives; it is up to us whether we make them count.

When the very eccentric, red haired Swami Giri visited recently, he suggested putting a sign up in your home – “This is my last day,” and in the bedroom, “This is my last sleep.” I tried it; it works. Moments become luscious when you think they are your last.

Speaking of luscious, our Gnostic Masses certainly fit the bill. If you haven't been to one, don't waste time; come along, and bring others with you.

Thelemic Gnosis is an absolute blessing; we are so fortunate to have the OTO in New Zealand, and I am personally so very grateful for the life I have had with the Order.

Sr OSIS

What is my spiritual practice?

“Those with even a passing acquaintance with some of the Asian magical grimoires known as Tantras will know that, like their western counterparts, the meaning and detail associated with particular activities are often deliberately hidden. In tantric parlance this is sometimes referred to as “sandhya bhasha” or the use of twilight language. This language hides a meaning that is only understood when revealed through oral transmission between guru and shishya (student). Thankfully, not all tantric passages are so guarded. In the Kulanava Tantra, for example, is a verse that can be translated as “good company and direct experience are the two clear eyes of the occult seeker!” These for me are key points in my own spiritual practice. On one hand, the verse urges the occult seeker to test everything through direct experience and by doing things themselves. On the other, it recognises the balancing effect of having others around when weird things are happening and that without the company of like-minded individuals we find it difficult to maintain our own practice. This to me is the heart of my spiritual practice. It is the direct touch of experience combined with nurturing and balancing friendships.”

Br Andrew



Remarkables remembered

Combining a five-day OTO gathering with perfect summer weather and New Zealand's adventure playground, “The Remarkables” promised a lot – and delivered.

Rose Croix initiations were celebrated as the central feature, while an abundance of other opportunities to chat about the OTO, Crowley and life in general ensured that

everyone (regardless of our degree) had opportunities to learn, teach and debate.

With other activities including paragliding, walking, crossing the Queenstown lakes on the TSS Earnslaw, swimming, and (especially) enjoying lots of great food, there was never a dull moment. Yet for me, the highlight was meeting other Brothers and Sisters from around New Zealand and


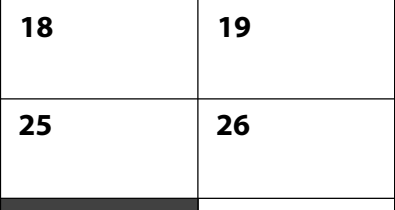




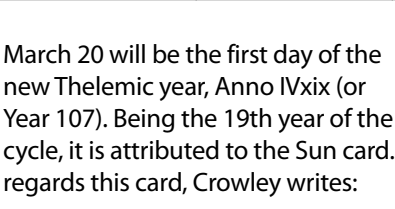
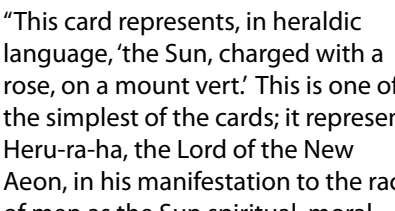
across the region – and realising how our shared experiences in the Order can make the borders and barriers of distance disappear.

Many thanks are due to Soror Osis for organising such an amazing event – and to all the other attendees, who made it an experience I (for one) will never forget.

Fr Gavin



Auckland dates to diary ...

M	T	W	TH	F	S	SUN
MARCH	1	2	3			6
7	8	9	10			13
14			17	18	19	SUPREME RITUAL
EQUINOX OF THE GODS			24	25	26	27
28			31	APRIL 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	THREE DAYS OF THE WRITING OF THE BOOK OF THE LAW		
		13	14	15	16	17
		20	21	22	23	GNOSTIC MASS
		27	28	29	30	

March 20 will be the first day of the new Thelemic year, Anno IVxix (or Year 107). Being the 19th year of the cycle, it is attributed to the Sun card. In regards this card, Crowley writes:

"This card represents, in heraldic language, 'the Sun, charged with a rose, on a mount vert.' This is one of the simplest of the cards; it represents Heru-ra-ha, the Lord of the New Aeon, in his manifestation to the race of men as the Sun spiritual, moral, and physical. He is the Lord of Light, Life, Liberty and Love. This Aeon has for its purpose the complete emancipation of the human race.

The green mound represents the fertile earth, its shape, so to speak, aspiring to the heavens. But around the top of the mound is a wall, which indicates that the aspiration of the new Aeon does not mean the absence of control. Yet outside this wall are the twin children who (in one form or another) have so frequently recurred in this whole symbolism. They represent the male and female, eternally young, shameless and

innocent. They are dancing in the light, and yet they dwell upon the earth. They represent the next stage which is to be attained by mankind, in which complete freedom is alike the cause and the result of the new access of solar energy upon the earth. The restriction of such ideas

as sin and death in their old sense has been abolished. At their feet are the most sacred signs of the old Aeon, the combination of the Rose and Cross from which they are arisen, yet which still forms their support."

Sunday March 20 - TONIGHT! Feast for the Supreme Ritual

A group ritual and pot-luck tea from 6pm. The ritual is Mass of the Phoenix - <http://hermetic.com/crowley/libers/lib44.html>. You do not need to know it off by heart, but it would be an idea to at least familiarise yourself with it a little beforehand. Please RSVP to kantharos@otonewzealand.org.nz.

Monday March 21: Feast for the Equinox of the Gods

Tomorrow being the Autumn Equinox, we will celebrate with a group recitation from the Treasure House of Images - <http://hermetic.com/crowley/libers/lib963.html> from 7pm and go out afterwards for a cheap and cheerful curry in Mt Eden.

Friday April 8, Saturday April 9, Sunday, April 10 Feasts for the writing of The Book of the Law

A reading of each Chapter followed by feasting (Friday at restaurant, Saturday with Fr Ascendas, & a BBQ with Fr Sol Invictus Sunday).



Are you ready for initiation?

Frater Nomad

Kanthalos Lodge is now in the planning stages for its 2011 Man of Earth initiations. Minerval, First, Second and Third Degree initiations will take place on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd of July in Auckland.

If you are interested in taking initiation this year, please get in touch as soon as you can (kanthalos@otonewzealand.org.nz). You need not commit at this stage, but the earlier I can get the application from you, the better as they need to be received by the International Initiation Secretary 40 days prior. Hence, all completed applications should be received by me no later than 1st June.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in initiation. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask.

The Holy Books: A feast every day in your hearts

Have you introduced yourself to the Holy Books? The Holy Books are divinely inspired texts that form the cornerstone of Thelema. Received while in high mystical states and through direct-voice dictation from the praeterhuman intelligence, Aiwass, these books of Crowley's can seem impenetrable. At this start of a Thelemic New Year, then, James Eshelman's Tephilah may be a fun approach.

Based on the Jewish tradition of daily reading in the Sepher ha-Torah, Eshelman has devised a way to familiarise oneself with the Holy Books through daily readings beginning March 20th - TODAY - through the entire Thelemic year. Find out more about Eshelman's Tephilah here: <http://aumha.org/arcana.htm>.

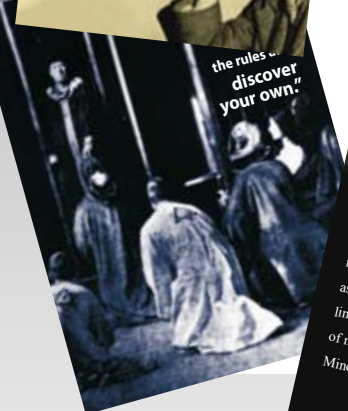
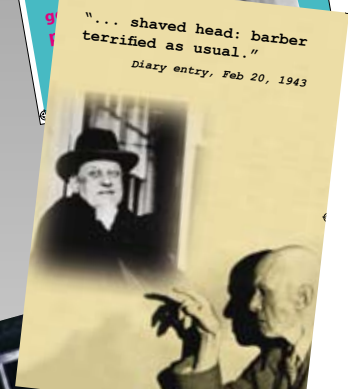
"Lately I have found myself focussed primarily on the Mass of the Phoenix. Since it is much easier to maintain its regular performance at this time of year, when sunset is later in the day, I have been enjoying the benefits that come from making it a part of the daily routine. Though it is hard to put into words what these benefits actually are, I can say unreservedly that the ritual gives me an intense feeling of connection to the Sun, and therefore God. ("Worship me with fire and blood...") I also feel that the Oath given in the climax of the ritual reverberates into the following day, so that subconsciously I am more willing to allow my True Will to flow forth, rather than checking it with my intellect."

Fr Nomad

"I should be cool enough to say, 'Life is my spiritual practice,' but in reality, that's a stretch. My main practice now is Kriya yoga at '4.30 each morning.'" I use parenthesis so as not to delude myself - 4.30am is variously 5am or 6am; 'each morning' typically amounts to 20 days out of 30, but one presses on - even when one meditation is exquisite and a defining moment, while the next 20 or so are full of thoughts. Still, I am mindful of the words of our Kriya Guru to 'Have courage and be patient.' I have been given a covenant - by my own inner and by the Kriya Masters - 'practice Kriya yoga and you will achieve Samadhi' - well, I am holding them to that promise!"

Sr OSIS

To raise funds for Kanthalos Lodge, a set of six Crowley cards is now available for purchase from the website at www.otonewzealand.org.nz. A shrink wrapped set of six cards with envelopes enclosed costs just NZ\$20.00



AGLA 2011



THE GARDEN UNSEALED

PRESENTED BY ALPHA & OMEGA LODGE

CELEBRATING THE
5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGL
SET IN A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION ONLY 50 MINUTES FROM ADELAIDE

AGLA is going to be very special this year, All it needs is YOU!

It is not only the AUGL's Fifth Anniversary, it is likely to be the biggest party ever put on by the O.T.O. in the Southern Hemisphere!

The weekend will be fully catered - all meals provided, including a Special Feast. There will be Workshops, Man Of Earth Initiations, a Gnostic Mass, and a couple of Surprise Events.

Accommodation is bunkhouse-style, or, if you wish to bring your own camping equipment - there are plenty of flat sites available.

Early-bird bookings will be available, from now until the end of February, at a cost of \$265, with a deposit of \$65 securing your place.

For further details & bookings write to: Alpha and Omega Lodge PO Box 8178
Station Arcade, Adelaide 5000 or email 'alphaomega@otoaustralia.org.au'.

APRIL 15TH-17TH 2011

In Remembrance: Kenneth Grant (1924-2011)

By Br Scott



Originally published at <http://coilhouse.net/2011/02/in-remembrance-kenneth-grant-1924-2011/>, February 2nd, 2011. Special thanks to Jan Magee for permission to reproduce her photo of Grant in his study

It was announced today that occultist, author, artist, and gentleman Kenneth Grant passed away after an illness on January 15, 2011. He was 86 years old.

Grant, long a compelling figure in the world of occultism, has a legacy that extends back over half a century. He was the last man alive to have close ties to Aleister Crowley, having served as personal secretary to "The Beast," and having been initiated into the Ordo Templi Orientis and Argentum Astrum by Crowley himself. After Crowley's death, Grant and his wife Steffi were among the few attendees at Crowley's funeral service. Subsequently, Grant became well known for helping to keep Crowley's concepts and philosophies alive in the troubled decades following his death, and for the further continuation and expansion of Thelemic ideas over six decades.

Kenneth Grant's occultism was not the fervent, dry adherence of the ideologue. Rather, he fashioned a deeply personal, fantastical, dynamic, and intricate system of magic woven together from syncretic elements of Tantra, Voudon, Gnosticism, Surrealism, fiction and a variety of other exotic threads. Building on the foundations of Crowley's work, Grant expanded the current understanding of the meaning and implications of the "Law of Thelema." Much like the mystic William Blake, Grant forged his own path beyond esoteric speculation, writing first-hand accounts of what he perceived to exist outside of the range of mundane experience.

Over the course of sixty years, Grant cataloged his evolving exploration of Crowley's system of Magick and philosophy across a series of nine books that came to be known as the Typhonian Trilogies. Grant had stated that he wanted the act of reading these books to be an esoteric experience in and of itself. Certainly, the trilogies contain a maelstrom of esoteric ideas, dream imagery, and highly technical esotericism that, for the receptive reader, can border on a consciousness-altering experience. In addition to these seminal works, Grant wrote a variety of articles, fiction, and poetry, all of which are being made available via his official publisher, Starfire.

Grant is also responsible for the enduring legend of the occultist and artist Austin Osman Spare, who had a profound influence on both his and Steffi's art and world view. As Spare's executor, Grant helped to catalogue and publish Spare's paintings, drawings, and writings, securing his friend's art the long-term influence and respect it wields today. Were it not for the Grant's loyal championing, the world would most likely lack knowledge of the rich, haunting body of work that Spare left behind.

Grant is survived by his aforementioned wife, the artist Steffi Grant – who has been an integral presence in Grant's work since the beginning – and their family. His work continues via the Typhonian Order and individual explorers the world over. Through whatever strange spheres or iridescent geometric shapes he may choose as his vehicle among the scintillating transplutonian stars, may his journey continue!

"My secret centre, my heart and my tongue, the innermost point of view of the Sun." This succinctly summarises my personal spiritual practise and journey, that of solar consciousness. This consciousness weaves in and out of all aspects of my life. Most of my practises are a reminder that I am one and indivisible from 'Our Lord the Sun.' Our 'Day Star' is a symbol of my secret centre and the star that burns in the heart of every woman and man. The Sun is a potent and constant symbolic representation of the 'Divine Singularity' of God, without and within. This recognition that we are all one and indivisible from another is the great equaliser in all things.

In the service of Nuit."

Fr Sol Invictus

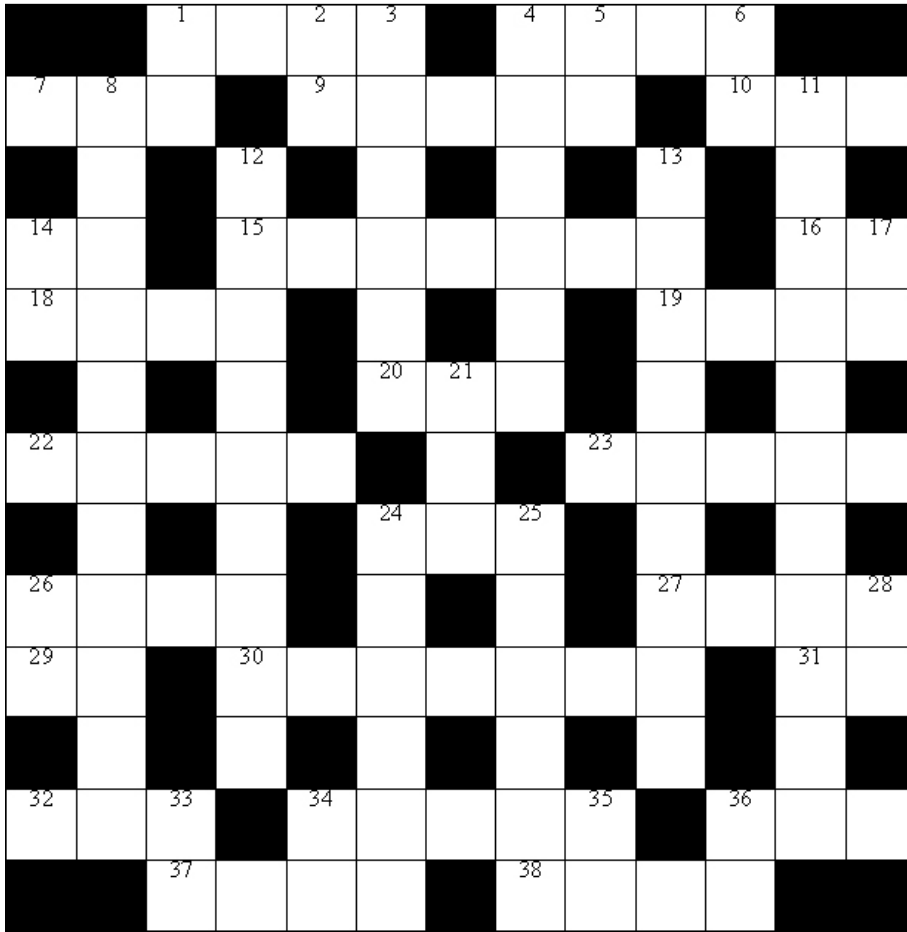
"I practice Taiji and Kriya yoga. I practice Kriya most days for about an hour and a half and find the practice stilling and centering. It provides me with a solid base to live my day in, and mostly it leaves me less vulnerable to the battering of the day's highs and lows. This is only a side effect and the real goal of this practice is enlightenment. The experience I had during my week-long Kriya retreat really opened my eyes to what is possible with meditation, the sense of oneness, the love, the more love...

I started Taiji five years ago after my acupuncturist asked if I would like to try. I find the practice physical and balancing, the slow movements are deceptively tricky. Often my mind drifts away with the more practiced sections of the sequence playing out on autopilot, usually just before I stuff it up. It's humbling that way, and the only way I can do it is with a kind of attention without thinking. I hope to continue to cultivate this attentive state through the practice because it brings me joy to meet the present moment in my body."

Fr Ascendas

Grossword

Frater Nomad



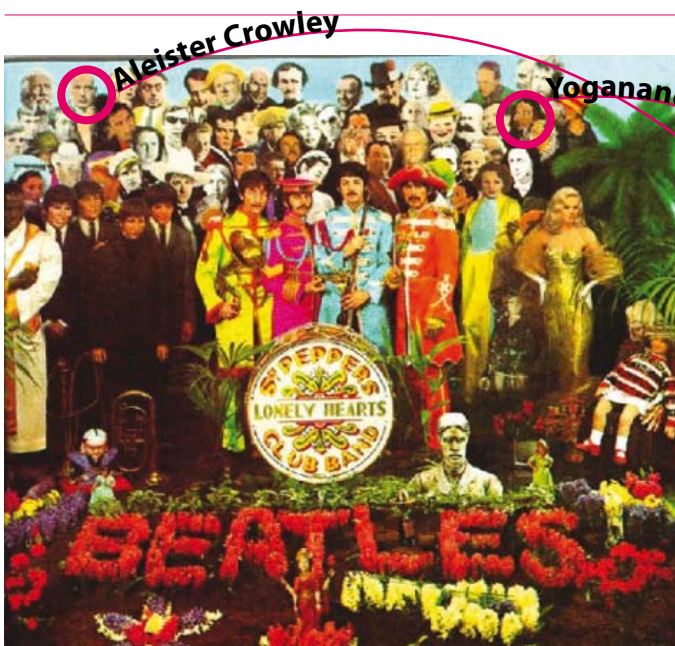
29. Book on Atlantis
 30. Where Crowley wrote 'The Comment'
 31. ___ Pan!
 32. "Let my servants be ___ & secret"
 34. Curved
 36. Ayin
 37. "But the work of the comment? That is ___"
 38. "Tear ___ that lying spectre of the centuries"

Down

1. Junior
 2. Thelemic deity
 3. Improve
 4. Story
 5. Ancient city
 6. Liber Legis
 8. Descriptive of Ganesha
 11. Uprightness
 12. 'The Priestess of ___'
 13. Shiite leader
 14. Nonsense [1-1]
 17. Variant of "aye"
 21. 'Liber ___' (Book 4)
 24. Base two
 25. Flowed heavily
 26. 12th letter
 28. Preposition
 33. Royal "I"
 34. Equally
 35. ___ what thou wilt
 36. 14th letter

Across

1. Solstice month
 4. Moon goddess
 7. Possessive pronoun
 9. Love ___ will
 10. Light
 14. Exist
 15. Conform with [5-2]
 16. Sun god
 18. Whirl
 19. Showy
 20. Thelemic deity
 22. "faint & ___, of the stars, and two."
 23. 'The Vision & the ___'
 24. 28th Aethyr
 26. Ornamental case
 27. Music in speech



People we like

Released in the summer of 1967, the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover featured The Beatles surrounded by a large group of their heroes such as Crowley, of course, but also to my recent surprise, a number of Indian gurus at the request of Harrison – including two gurus from my own practice lineage, Kriya masters Swami Sri Yukteswar (to the left of Crowley) and his initiate, Paramahansa Yogananda (of Autobiography of a Yogi fame).

Also in the mix is Carl Gustav Jung, Aldous Huxley, and Sigmund Freud. EMI's legal department reportedly contacted each of the people who were still living to obtain their permission.