

## **Trial of the earth**

*by the Chamber of Reflection*

This layout is not strictly speaking a board, but rather a succession of reflections on the various symbols. A coherent whole which takes all its direction thanks to a global vision.

### *General atmosphere*

The uninitiated has a first reflex of retreat because he generally lives in fear: fear of dying, fear of the future, fear of change, fear of others, fear of living.

These fears generally derive from a single fear: fear of oneself.

In the Reflection Chamber, the profane finds himself in 4 unusual states that he finds difficult to bear: solitude, darkness, silence and immobility.

These states are conducive to the confrontation with oneself.

The goal is to provoke a psychological shock, in order to "wake up" and invite to meditation by the loss of reference points and the acuity of the senses.

### *Candle*

The only source of light in the reflection chamber.

Is composed of 3 elements: wick, fatty substance and flame.

Comparable to a life which is consumed while flickering.

Symbolizes the light of the soul.

### *Bread*

Elaboration of a deep transformation. All germination comes from rotting. It is the essential food of the body and the spirit. This means that one should not neglect earthly food, but it is not an end in itself. A philosopher used to say: "without flour there is no knowledge and without knowledge there is no flour"... Food is therefore only obtained by working, and work by being nourished. The profane receives the strength he needs to withstand the trials.

Symbol of moral strength and sharing of goods.

### *Water*

Symbol of purification and fertility. Water is associated with life.

The pitcher of water is associated with bread in the essential food of the body.

### *Sulfur*

Heat of the earth. Symbolizes the energy that comes from the being therefore the initiative, the personal action, the spirit, it is also associated with light, active principle, male.

### *Mercury*

Energy or influence coming from the outside, environment, symbol of the soul.

Female principle. It should be noted that it is enough to modify the proportions of these two elements (sulfur, mercury) in a metal to create another. Would the metal to be modified here be the profane?

### *Salt*

Biologically indispensable, its excess or deficiency is also harmful to the body. Defined as neutral, it is therefore a place of balance, of sharing.

Stable part of the being.

It can be an agent of purification as well as an agent of destruction.

Symbol of wisdom and balance. If mercury and sulfur are found in the bowels of the earth, it is interesting to underline that salt comes from the action of the wind and the sun on the sea water.

It is the fire delivered from the waters. Thus are symbolized, in the Chamber of Reflection, the four elements: earth, air, water and fire. Mercury and sulfur crystallize in the salt. Three indissociable elements.

### *Rooster*

Announces the dawn, a transformation by the light. Awakening of sleeping forces

In the antiquity, the rooster was supposed to lead the souls of the dead towards another world, a new birth.

- Symbols: Boldness, Courage and vigilance.
- Banner: Vigilance and perseverance

Also goes with the rooster.

Be attentive... look for the meaning of the symbols with patience.

### Display of the Sentences

“If curiosity has brought you here, go away”, “If your soul has felt fear, go no further!” “If you persevere, you will be purified by the elements, you will come out of the abyss of darkness, you will see the light”, “If you fear to be enlightened about your defects, do not come among us”.

According to certain rites, we can find other sentences of the same type.

“Go with the rooster.” Express human weaknesses and the idea that entering F.:M.: is not a superficial and thoughtless act.

### *Hourglass*

Time that flows, regularly, in the same direction. Slow transformation of the being.

Elevation by reversal. Return to the origins.

Eternal restarting. or is the beginning. or is the end.

Earthly part. Celestial part. The narrow door takes only the necessary.

Human intervention is needed to reverse the course of things, but as the sand cannot rise to the top and flows inexorably downward, one must know the laws that govern the world before this change of situation.

### *Scythe*

Allegory of death by equalizing all that lives.

Associated with the harvest, the wheat that is sown and maintained is mowed.

The death of the plant is a source of life for the animal kingdom.

### *Skull*

Human mortality. Precariousness of life. Reality, the brutal truth...

It is also what survives after death. To die is to pass from one state to another.

Seat of the thought = Universal, no distinction of race.

The death of the profane who will be reborn has a spiritual life.

Considered in antiquity as a trophy marking a victory by appropriating the best of the other, his spirit. That's why we find it next to the V::M::

Means that it is necessary to appropriate the thought and the experience of the ancients.

*V::I::T::R::I::O::L::*

*“Visitae Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem”*

Most often translated as:

*“Visit the interior of the earth and by rectifying, you will find the hidden stone”* = the search for the deep being in silence and meditation.

By rectifying means that at a given moment of the visit,

It will be necessary to make an intellectual change based on the acquired knowledge.

It is not the Hidden Stone that provides the knowledge, it is the knowledge that allows to find the Hidden Stone.

*Testament*

A philosophical testimony about one's intentions. It is a return on oneself and a projection towards the future. Faced with his will, the layman is obliged to reflect.

The will is a virtual bridge linking the profane past to the future of the initiate.

*Stripping of metals*

Abandonment of the profane ideas received. Abandonment of passions. of power.

Some extrapolate by explaining that in Lodge, we no longer use iron tools that prepare the stones, these being ready to assemble. Only measuring instruments are used, which are silent.

They do not engage the muscles, only the intellectual faculties. This is why the E.:A.: who roughs his Stone does so outside the Temple, and that inside, he is bound to silence.

The restitution of metals afterwards means that the initiate does not despise wealth, the fruit of work, but he does not let himself be intoxicated by it and knows how to give it its rightful place, where it does not hinder his spiritual development.

#### *Conclusion*

On leaving the Ch.:of Ref.:, the candidate will be considered to have undergone the ordeal of the Earth. All seeds must pass through the earth to germinate, to find air, water, fire and to grow. It is an invitation to the stripping in order to be able to receive the Light.

The whole ceremony that will follow will take place as if he had been transformed by this ordeal... *“Here everything is a symbol”*.

I have spoken W.:M.:

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