

Mind, Body & Soul

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Fraters, one of the most over looked instruments in Free Masonry is the “Cable-Tow” and the “Blind-fold.” The candidate who is about to be initiated is our mysteries is full of anticipation on what could happen...and the **gnosis** which is about to be received. **Gnosis** means, knowledge of spiritual matters; mystical knowledge. In the ancient mystery schools, a candidate would go through different preparatory means before he was even considered ready as a true initiate. For in Matthew 22:14, “Many are called, but few are chosen.”¹

We are all asked in whom we put our trust and what is it that we seek. We have a sense of inner guidance as to what we are looking for and in what direction we wish to partake this journey. Robert Lomas said, “When you submit yourself to our Masonic rites you profess to enter then in the name of your Supreme Being. You admit that to seek the Light in the predominant wish of your heart. By that act the Light of the Centre is solemnly invoked upon you, and you forge a spiritual link with it. You must learn how the Tracing Boards disclose the secrets of your own nature and declare the practical work you must undertake.”² Knowing this well in advance, before knocking upon the doors the candidate then knows he is entering upon his own will and accord. The stewards will then begin to prepare him and one of the last things that should be brought to his attention is our Sanskrit Vedic prayer for true initiation which hangs above our Temple doors. “From the Unreal, lead me to the Real! From Darkness, lead me to Light! From the Mortal, bring me to Immortality!”³ (In Sanskrit this prayer only consisted of six words a very concise and yet descriptive language.) The true essence of humility is begun here, when one begins to be divested of all the worldly and material possessions.

But to rely now on your first guide, blind-folded and a cable tow around the neck, you are now led to a door of a subconscious level. That exalted feeling of being on a conscious level, where sight alone will no longer suffice. Cold, in the darkness and a cable tow around the neck, the initiate must now begin to use his other sensory senses. “ He is now, but to proceed humbly, meekly, cautiously and under that instructed guidance. The ancient maximum '*Know thyself*' was coupled with another *Ni quid nimis*, nothing in excess.”⁴ -W.L. Wilmshurst. Here is where he is now brought to spiritual union and has a grave sense of mixed feelings, higher

sense of hearing and knowing that the eyes of others are now watching his every step, ever remembering that the cable tow is around his neck...his bare lifeline.

I must pause for a brief second to explain the psycho-physiological on the mysteries of the human organism. Under this cable tow we begin to create a Union of the **physical**: pertaining to the body, touch, pat, feel experience. The **mental**: pertaining to the mind, existing in the mind. **Emotional**: governed by emotion, the affective state of consciousness and **Etheric**: sulfur ether, the upper regions of space, sky and Heaven. The last one being more of a start on the esoteric side will be discussed later.

“The cable-tow connects the gross body of the fact that consciousness becomes temporarily transferred from the latter to the former, and that the two are capable of conjoint function in complete independence of the physical brain and body.”⁴ This is also experienced when sleeping...that the dreams feels so real, experienced as if in the now and present. W. L. Wilmshurst said it best, “Such initiation always occurs when the physical body is in a state of trance and sleep and when the temporary liberated conscious has been transferred to a higher level. Physical organism cerebral and nerve centers become illuminated revitalizing and raised to a higher pitch, vibratory then previously possessed.”⁵ Thus ascending that spiritual latter, in commune with Deity using Jacobs Latter with the 72 Angels. Or in other philosophical systems known as the chakras of the flow of the balanced life force spiraling up and down like the caduceus of Hermes...which in a perfect or the flow of energy in the kabbalistic sense using the Tree of Life.

Thus we now enter into the Etherical or esoteric side. For at this point the cable-tow turns into what is known as the *Silver Cord* to Alchemists. Silver is the technical esoteric term for a thread like substance that connects the body to the soul, also used when practicing astral projection or other out of body experiences. Gold is representative for spiritual and Iron or Bronze is for the physical. Worshipful brother (John Nelson P.M.) from the lodge explained it best. This cord now becomes the life-line like an umbilical cord to a baby. That the search for light begins inside you as you travel and use this life-cord, from the conscious to the subconscious, spiritual and mental journeys.

“But man having (what the bulb does not,) freedom of will to fulfill or to violate the Law of his nature has chosen the Latter course, and consequently by indulgence in perverse desire and wrongly directed, thought has fouled and disorganized his sheath...hence, in spiritual darkness.”⁵ Here I will reference part of our ritual in the S.R.I.C.F. Booklet on the “Rose of Sharon.”⁶ “The Rose allude

to the beauty and grandeur of His Resurrection from the dead and are typical of the eternal glory of the Rose of Sharon.”⁶ This rose, though highly valued throughout the world lack a precision of common names.

You then learn to apply all the discorded parts, aware and conscious and apply healing, harmonizing and vibratory power. It is read in Mark 4:39 “Peace, be still.”¹ All the mixed emotions that happen to us from time to time during the trials of life where we must silence our minds and think with clarity and sometimes remember to pray and be in commune with Deity. This exalted order of conscious being...which then works the fulfillment of human spiritual evolution. And we Fraters of the craft have been shown how to achieve that higher degree of consciousness. Thus aware of this, we are “divested of money and metals in the philosophical sense...while it is quite another to have become insusceptible to all attraction by material interests and sense, allurements and to be consciously possessed of the wisdom accruing from experience.” To keep our passions in due bounds to those circumstances around us and those around us.

One of my favorite things about us is that we are known as the “Invisible Brotherhood”⁷ as Tobias Churton has written of our predecessors and title of his book on the research on the fraters of the Rose and Cross. We go out in our daily lives working through actions and gestures while others never know we belong to this illuminating order. In John 7:17 it states, “He that will do the Will shall know the Doctrine.” In the supreme study, knowing depends extremely upon doing; comprehension is conditionally doing, comprehension is condition upon and the correlation of action. We practice and promise to diffuse light to the mass while ever remembering to remain humble and meek as we practice our teachings. To be reborn, true inner initiations were called the Birth Of Horus, in the great religion we know today as the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Christ, or Christos in Greek is synonymous for Logos. Logos means the rational principle that governs and develops the Universe and two, the divine word or reason incarnate in Jesus Christ.

“Blind again like children to the world” Matthew 18:31 states. So too are we when we first enter through the portal of our grade. Symbolically meeting in the center of the Earth, except the initiate although blind-folded once more is now an aspirant. An aspirant now more ambitious and now seeking to achieve something more. Seeking the mystical union and guidance of our four Ancients. We balance our intellect known as which we know as **Air**, our emotions sometimes in turmoil represented as **Water**. And we begin to recognize truth and discriminate between irrational urges of the flesh which is **Earth** and the truth which tries all things through the spirit of **Fire**. And once more fraters we are again trying to get out of

that spiritual darkness, applying the true Light and illuminating all things. I leave you with a statement I learned from C. W. Leadbeater, "The goal of the occultist, no less than that of the mystic is conscious union with God; but the method of approach is different. The aim of the occultist is to attain that Union by means of knowledge and of will, to train the whole nature, physical, emotional and mental, until it becomes a perfect expression of the divine spirit within." What others know through the Chamber of Reflection, V.I.T.R.I.O.L. *Visita Interiora Terrea, Rectificandoque, Invenies Occultum Lapiedem*. Visit the interior of the Earth, and rectifying it, you will find the hidden stone. With the cable-tow obsolete here...we once more...come in blind-folded, to look within.