

THE ADDITIONAL RITUALS OF THE ROSY CROSS.

THE THIRD ORDER OF THE ROSY CROSS.

WORLD OF CREATION.

PART V.

THE PONTIFICAL CEREMONY OF CELEBRATING
THE FESTIVALS OF THE WINTER AND
SUMMER SOLSTICE.

PARS PRIMA :
QUÆ EST PARS MAGNA SECRETA.

MYSTERIUM DAATH.

The arrangement of the House follows the unwritten precedents. The Door of the Sanctuary is open to its full extent. The High Priest of the Sanctuary is discovered within, at the Eastern end, in full vestments and regalia. On the circular Altar there is placed a Chalice containing Sacramental Wine and covered by a Paten, on which is Unleavened Bread.

2 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

A white cloth is laid over these Vessels. The Fratres et Sorores of the 7-4 Degree are assembled and clothed. Frater Civis Regni Superni, Spokesman of the Adepti Exempti, has his seat in front of the Brethren, bearing his Wand. He gives a Battery of one knock—

The High Priest.—In the Name of the Three Supernals : in the Holy and Undivided Name. The Lord is the part of mine inheritance : the Lord is the Bread of Life. He giveth Bread to them that fear Him. The Lord is the part of my Chalice : He giveth the Chalice of Salvation. The Wine is ecstasy, containing in itself all sweetness.

Frater Civis Regni Superni gives a Battery of one knock — and all rise.

The High Priest.—Assist me to open, O Lord, this Consecrated Temple in the Grade which is above all Grades, in the Mystery which has not been declared. I open it as a Door in CHESED for the descent of Supernal Influences from the Light of the Crown, from the Face of Eternal Beauty, on which all the choirs of sanctity have desired to look from the beginning. I open it as a Door for the Descent of Divine Influence from Thee, O Father of Wisdom, by Whom the worlds were made, and from Thee, O Mother of Understanding, Holy, Holy Bride. Glory be unto the Three Supernals in the place where no evil enters, the place of the Tree of Life. There are Three that bear witness in Heaven, and these Three are One. Hereof is the Bond of Union between all who desire below and all who are blessed above, from henceforth and for ever. Glory be unto the Three Supernals, glory in the place of peace, praise from the Mercy suspiring in CHESED and receiving as a

free gift the Compassion abiding in KETHER, world without end. Glory be unto the Three Supernals in the Sepulchre of Mystical Death; and from those who are asleep in GEBURAH, looking for resurrection in GOD, be there praise till the Day of Renewal. Glory be unto the Three Supernals, glory to the Eternal Beauty, ever ancient and ever new; glory from the place of the living, the House of the Second Birth and the Temple of TIPHERETH, the Beauty of the Life which is in Christ. DAATH is an Open Door and DAATH the channel of reflection. Amen. It derives to the SEPHIROTH below, even unto Thee, O MALKUTH. Lift up thine eyes therefore, Thou Mother in manifestation, because of the redemption that is at hand, and the Light of the Supernals upon Thee through the ages and ages.

He then adds with moving lips but not in an audible voice :—

The High Priest.—By the power in me vested, I raise this Fellowship of the Rosy Cross, from the World of Benignity in TIPHERETH, to the Threshold of Ineffable Mystery, the unseen Portal in DAATH. (*And then as he raises his hands on high.*) Lift up mine arms, lest they fail, O JEHOVAH ELOHIM—Holy Father, Holy Mother. May mine eyes in their desire be uplifted: may I see the Supreme Crown of KETHER and the Glory of the First Hypostasis.

The High Priest raises the Elements in the sight of the Holy Assembly: but the veil is still over them. Frater Civis Regni Superni gives a Battery of one knock



Frater Civis Regni Superni.—And Melchisedek King of Salem brought forth Bread and Wine.

4 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

The High Priest uncovers the Elements.

Frater Civis Regni Superni.—And he was the Priest of the Most High GOD.

There is a Vessel of Consecrated Water and there is an Aspergillus on the Pillar at the Northern side of the Sanctuary Door. On the Pillar at the Southern side there is a Vessel of Consecrated Fire from which the fume of Incense rises. Frater Civis Regni Superni passes to the Northern Pillar, from which he takes the Lavacrum and Aspergillus. Following the Sun, he goes before the Adepti Exempti, makes the Kabalistic Sign of the Cross with the Aspergillus and sprinkles Water thrice.

Frater Civis Regni Superni.—Do Thou purify us, O Lord, from stain, that we may look with our own eyes upon the Symbols of Thy Great Mysteries.

Replacing the Vessel of Water, he takes the Thuribulum from the Southern Pillar and offers Incense in the same manner.

Frater Civis Regni Superni.—With Incense from Thine Altar which is above, and with Supernal Fire, do Thou consecrate our hearts and our reins, that we may be present when Thy Hidden Things are declared in the Land of the Living.

The Thuribulum being restored to the Southern Pillar and Frater Civis Regni Superni having returned to his place :—

The High Priest (speaking henceforth audibly).—Symbols of the Life which is Eternal, be unto us a channel for the communication of Eternal Life.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 5

The High Priest bends his head over the Elements, and there is the pause of a moment. Frater Civis Regni Superni gives a Battery of one knock——and kneels down, with the Adepti Exempti in the body of the Temple.

The High Priest removes the Paten from the Chalice and having laid it on the Altar he extends his hands over the Bread.

The High Priest.—Be thou seed of the Fruit of Life, and when placed in prepared ground, do thou give increase in due season, even twelve manners of fruit, for the glory in adornment of the garden, for the nourishment of elect nations, the grace of the World to Come and the descent of the Kingdom.

He extends his hands over the Chalice.

The High Priest.—The bond between man and GOD is the life of the Chalice of Salvation. Be thou the Sign of that Covenant, an open and plenary channel for the communication of Divine Essence, substance of the world within and Life of the life of man.

There is here the pause of a moment.

The High Priest.—The Food of Angels is in CHESSED. That Food is too light for our sustenance : give us therefore, O Lord, the wells of nourishment which are concealed in Thy limitless light.

He proceeds to the Consecration of the Elements in the terms of the MASS OF UNION, speaking inaudibly throughout. Thereafter he adds slowly and clearly.

The High Priest.—The Bread is the Bread of Heaven : this Bread is Heaven in its sweetness. The Wine is the Wine of Heaven : this Wine is ecstasy.

6 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

He takes up one of the Hosts.

The High Priest.—Thou hast drawn me through the Gate of Death; I have dwelt in the Palace of Thy Clemency; I have traversed the Path of TETH.

He breaks the Host and places one of the particles in the Chalice.

The High Priest.—The fraction of the body of this world: the Mystery of Divine Substance communicated to the soul of man. . . . One thing I have desired in my heart, and that is Thou.

He consumes what remains of the Host.

The High Priest.—I desire to be dissolved and to be with Thee. The Life of life is Thy union. The Mystery of Divine Life communicated to the soul of man.

He partakes of the Chalice and then, having bowed his head in recollection for a few moments :—

The High Priest.—The Lord shall be unto me an everlasting light, and my GOD shall be my glory.

He replaces the Paten on the Chalice, and following the Sun passes outside the Sanctuary to the Altar in the middle place of the Temple, saying in the course of his progress :—

The High Priest.—This is the place of the clean oblation: the place is prepared and meet: the Temple pure and holy. This is the place of unspotted offerings, the place of the offerings of life. Thrice holy is the Temple of Thy service, O Lord, my GOD, in the life which henceforth and for ever is ours, O Father, in Thee, and this the life of resurrection.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 7

*He has reached the Eastern side of the Altar. In the mean time, Frater Civis Regni Superni approaches the Adeptus Exemptus who has been chosen to serve in the Temple as Celebrant-in-Chief during the ensuing twelve months, and leads him to the Western side of the Altar. Other Adepts are seated.**

The High Priest.—And after years of famine, O Brethren of the Rose and Cross, milk in the land and honey, corn in the land and wine. Lift up your hearts therefore, as cups at a feast are lifted. Lift up your branches of myrtle. I am the Messenger of the Super-nals, and I pronounce separation for ever between the good and evil. The Tree of Knowledge becometh the Tree of Life; the Grace of the Knowledge of Goodness filleth the heart entirely.

Frater Civis Regni Superni assists the Celebrant-in-Chief Elect to kneel at the Western side of the Altar and then resumes his seat.

The High Priest.—Who is hungry for the Lord? Who is athirst?

The Celebrant-in-Chief Elect says, with bowed head and clasped hands:—

Celebrant-in-Chief Elect.—Behold the Servant of the Lord, and the Servant of the Servants of GOD, in the House of my GOD and Lord, in His Holy Temple.

The High Priest.—That hunger is Justice: may the Three Which bear witness in Heaven deal with you in Eternal Justice and feed you.

* In the Ceremony of the Summer Solstice it is the Celebrant-in-Chief who comes forward—but without official vestments and insignia—to receive the elements.

8 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

The High Priest lifts up one of the Hosts and places it in the mouth of the Celebrant-in-Chief Elect, who raises his head to receive it and again bows it.

The High Priest.—That thirst is Righteousness. May you gather grapes in living vineyards and tread the Wine-Press of Salvation. May the Keeper of the Eternal Vineyard bring you Wine of Life in great flagons, in cups running over.

*The Celebrant-in-Chief Elect raises his head ; the Chalice is placed to his lips and he drinks thereof. Again he bows his head. The Priest replaces the Paten on the Chalice and covers them with the white cloth.**

The High Priest.—Frater Electus ex Millibus (*vel nomen aliud*), Merciful and Exempt Adept, like other graduates in the House of the Holy Spirit and its School of Sanctity, you have gone forth in search of that light which enters into the heart of those who have put aside the burden of their birth according to the will of flesh and the will of man, that they might be reborn in GOD. You have followed the life of rebirth, which is also a life of crucifixion in respect of all that is below. In the sleep of mystical death, you have realised the Divine within by an union at the centre, as a marriage with the Life of life. In the Glorious Mysteries of Resurrection, you have entered into the life of union, which is wedded life in GOD. By these and all other memorials of your everlasting spirit, I bid you arise, my Brother (*the High Priest leans across the Altar, takes him by the two hands and raises him*), as one who is clothed in peace, and the Light of the Supernals be

* In the Ceremony of the Summer Solstice the Celebrant-in-Chief goes back to his place ; the High Priest returns direct to the Sanctuary and proceeds with the work therein.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 9

upon you for ever and ever. I commission and warrant you to represent in the Third Order of the Rosy Cross the Ineffable Mercy of GOD toward those who are called to partake in this Temple and Sanctaury of the Mysteries which lead into salvation. Bring those who have been prepared and consecrated in the Lower Grades of the Fellowship by a straight and narrow path to the Portal of TIPHERETH. So shall you reach down into NETZACH and draw all things after you from YESOD. Bring them into the Sanctuary of Adepts, that they may hear the Divine Voice speaking of the Divine in the universe and the self-knowing spirit testifying concerning itself and the Mystery of Attainment in Christ. Give unto them their sleep in GEBURAH and after the ecstasy of union do thou raise them in the glory of CHESED. Salutation and peace and joy, all grace and holiness of heart, be with you now and henceforward during the twelve-months' work of your Office. So let your light be extended in the heaven of this Holy Temple that you may be worthy to depart in peace at the end of your stewardship.

The Celebrant-in-Chief Elect says, with crossed arms :—

Celebrant-in-Chief Elect.—I go forth in the power of thy Warrant, carrying the tidings of salvation and the Living Symbols of the Word.

The High Priest returns direct to the Sanctuary and there facing West at the Eastern side of the interior Altar, he says with outstretched arms and open hands :—

The High Priest.—The Light of the Supernals be upon you, the grace of the Supernals enter and abide

10 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

in your hearts, with the blessing of all blessings, leading through the knowledge of Goodness to Divine Understanding, the Sum of Wisdom and the Glorious Crown of Life.

There is here the pause of a moment.

The High Priest.—By the power in me vested, I close this Holy Temple in the Grade which is above all Grades, in the Mystery which has not been declared.

And then with moving lips only:—

The High Priest.—In the Name of the Three Super-nals, in the Holy and Undivided Name, I who am the Priest of DAATH, at the Sacred Portal thereof, do restore this Third Order of the Rosy Cross—CHESSED, GEBURAH and TIPHERETH—from the Threshold of Ineffable Mystery to its proper place in the First Reflected Triad.

The Celebrant Elect returns to his seat. The High Priest passes with the Sun through the Door of the Sanctuary, which he closes behind him. He takes his proper place in the body of the Temple.

Here ends the Mystery of DAATH.

PARS SECUNDA.

MYSTERIUM CHESED.

The Temple is opened in full according to the Ritual of the Grade of Adeptus Exemptus by the Celebrant-in-Chief and the Most Holy Priestess. The Fratres et Sorores are seated. The Usher of the Grade goes to the Eastern side of the Altar and there uplifts his Wand.

Frater Civis Regni Superni.—Summer and winter shall not cease. Fratres et Sorores, Merciful and Exempt Adepts, I proclaim the High Festival of the Winter Solstice.

He returns to his place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—The House of the Holy Spirit is open in the Grade of CHESED for the commemoration of the event and the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries attached thereto.* Give me grace, O Lord, to end my task in peace, that—having been manifested in the mystical body of this life which I draw from

* In the Ceremony of the Summer Solstice the speech of the Celebrant-in-Chief ends at this point, with the addition of the following words:—THE LIFE OF RESURRECTION IS THE SOLSTICE OF ETERNAL SUMMER. He puts aside his Wand and proceeds to the Western end of the Altar, facing East. The High Priest, rising in his place and standing thereat, inquires: WHENCE COME YOU, FRATER DILECTISSIME? The Ceremony proceeds as in the text above, with the answer to this question, and after reciting the Thrice-Great Pledge of Fidelity, the Celebrant returns to his seat, resumes his Wand, and the Closing is taken forthwith in the Grade of Adeptus Exemptus.

12 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

Thee—I may pass into the hidden refuge of Thy more perfect union. I have served Thee, my King and GOD, in those Grades of salvation by which the Fellowship of the Rosy Cross is bound upon the Tree of Life. I have drawn those whom Thou hast given me from the deeps below MALKUTH. I have brought them from the sphere of YESOD, by a straight way, to the Portal of the Third Order, and thence into the life of the Cross. I have put them to rest in GEBURAH, and at the end I have raised them gloriously when Easter dawned in their souls. Set upon my forehead the seal of Thine unchanging simplicity. Bid me go inward. Take me to the still rest of the Active centre, into the World of Ascension in DAATH.

The Priestess.—Frater Civis Regni Superni, where is the Faithful Witness who shall testify in the Coming time?

The Usher of the Grade proceeds with the Sun to the place of the Celebrant Elect, whom he brings to the Western side of the Altar, looking toward the East, and returns to his own place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Art thou he that is to come, or do we look for another?

The Celebrant Elect.—O Adepti Exempti, in virtue of the warrants which I carry, receive the perfect Signs.

He gives the Sign of a Neophyte.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of him who, standing on the threshold of the Path, bears witness to the Mystery of the Tree.

He gives the Sign of a Zelator.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 13

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of him who, passing between the Pillars, receives the blessing of the Quest.

He gives the Sign of a Frater Theoreticus.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of him who enters the Path of Attainment, and the Mystery of the Tree of Life is rooted in his part of mind.

He gives the Sign of a Practicus.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of Him whose heart is in the Holy Quest and the Tree of Life is rooted in the heart of him.

He gives the Sign of a Philosophus.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of him in whom the Tree of Life overshadows the whole personality and the will of his inmost being is directed to the end in GOD.

He gives the Sign of an Adeptus Minor.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of Messiah extended on the Tree of Life, and the Sign of the Christ Mystical abiding in the life of the heart.

He gives the Sign of an Adeptus Major.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of the inward state of him who has died in Christ, of the soul dissolved in the spirit by an ecstasy of love, of the Word quickened in the soul by the central realisation thereof.

The Most Holy Priestess rises from her seat between the Pillars, passes about the Altar and faces the Celebrant Elect from the Eastern side.

14 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

The Celebrant Elect gives the Sign of an Adeptus Exemptus.

The Celebrant Elect.—The Sign of resurrection in Christ, of the Word manifest in risen life and expounding the Mystery of the Tree.

The Most Holy Priestess and the Celebrant Elect exchange the Grip of the Grade of CHESED across the Altar.

The Priestess.—The perfect testimony of perfect Signs is given and received, O Brother of the Rosy Cross.

She returns to her place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Whence come you, Frater Electissime?

The Celebrant Elect.—I have been in search of my spirit through the ages. I have reached the term of quest. I have come with the glad tidings, to bear my faithful witness in all the Holy Houses of the Rosy Cross.

Adeptus Exemptus.—What manner of glad tidings, O Merciful and Exempt Adept?

The Celebrant Elect.—Tidings of the trinity which enters into unity, of attainment in self-knowing spirit, of ineffable union in spirit, soul and flesh. I testify concerning the deep things of experience declared in the way of truth, seeing that the work of redemption revolves on those who have sought and obtained redemption. On my own part, and as vicegerent and spokesman of all Adepti Exempti under the obedience of this Rite, I look to carry unto the bounds and ends of the mystical earth my glad tidings concerning the

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 15

glorious resurrection of Adeptship to the new life which is hidden and manifested in GOD. So far as I may fail in this high and holy task, may my peers and co-heirs concur with myself in atonement, that nothing may be stinted or restricted of that which has been put into my charge, so only that the prescribed order is maintained duly and that which belongs to the Sanctuary is reserved thereto. Hereof is the faithful witness of every Exempt Adept in the Grade of CHESED.

The High Priest rises and passes to the Eastern side of the Cubical Altar in the middle place of the Temple.

The High Priest.—Frater Electus ex millibus (*vel nomen aliud*), before the Altar in this House of the Lord there must be a pledge between us and you, and GOD shall watch upon the covenant for ever. May that which we do in your person, collectively and individually, be ratified in DAATH, wherein is the life of Ascension; and the power of the Supernals attest it for ever and ever. I say unto you, lift up your hands, and the testimony which I utter on my own part in the fulness of the manifested Word, you shall now recite not only in the secret soul and the inmost heart but with the lips of him whose mouth is opened in the Grade of Exempt Adept.

The Usher of the Grade gives a Battery of one knock—
}—and all rise. *The High Priest imposes the Thrice Great Pledge of Fidelity, and it is repeated by the Celebrant Elect. The High Priest returns to his place, and the Brethren are seated. While still standing at the Altar:—*

Adeptus Exemptus.—May he that comes after me so

16 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

work and so achieve that he shall be preferred before me and that the latchet of his shoes I shall be called unworthy to loose.

The Celebrant Elect.—O Lord and Master of all, vouchsafe to look with pity on these Adepti Exempti, exalted and merciful, who are placed in my charge for the sacred and glorious Offices of this Hidden Temple devoted to Thy service. May that which is here and now to them ascribed in symbolism be effectually and really imparted; and may those whom I bring during the term of my Office into the Mysteries of the Grade of CHESED be integration in the Life of the Tree, by the dispensation of Thy Divine Mercy.

The Celebrant Elect returns to his seat.

The Closing is taken in the Grade of Adeptus Exemptus.

Here ends the Mystery of CHESED.

PARS TERTIA.

MYSTERIUM GEBURAH.

The Adepti Majores are admitted. The Temple is opened in full according to the Ritual of the Grade of Adeptus Major by the Celebrants of that Grade. The Fratres et Sorores are seated. The Usher of the Grade goes to the Eastern side of the Altar and there uplifts his Wand.

Frater Peregrinus Vallis.—Summer and Winter shall not cease. Fratres et Sorores, Adepti Majores, I proclaim the High Festival of the Winter Solstice.

He returns to his place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—The House of the Holy Spirit is open in the Grade of GEBURAH for the commemoration of the event and the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries attached thereto.* I have watched for more

* In the Ceremony of the Summer Solstice the speech of the Celebrant-in-Chief ends at this point. The Second Celebrant puts aside his Wand and proceeds to the Western end of the Altar, facing East. The High Priest, rising in his place and standing thereat, inquires: **WHENCE COME YOU, FRATER DILLECTISSIME?** The Ceremony proceeds as in the text above, omitting the address of the Adeptus Exemptus beginning: **MERCIFUL EXEMPT ADEPT, MY PEER AND MY SUCCESSOR**—and the Grip being exchanged between the Second and First Celebrant, who goes to the Eastern side of the Altar for this purpose, and then returns to his place. Thereafter the High Priest imposes the Obligation of the Grade on the Second Celebrant. At the end they return to their places, the Adeptus Major resumes his Wand, and the Closing is taken forthwith in plenary form.

18 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

than one hour in the vigil of holy souls. The day has been given me for labour; the night remains for contemplation; and both are offices of love. Give unto me henceforth, O Lord, more perfect knowledge of Thy love in the ineffable wonder of Thy silence. I have brought those whom Thou hast given me from the world of regenerated life to a Portal which opens on the centre, to the valley of mystical darkness and the union of souls therein. O Lord, my task is done. Remember Thy Sabbath and the promise of that narrow path which leads to the Crown. I desire to put off mortality and to be clothed in Thee.

Adeptus Major.—Frater Peregrinus Vallis, where is the Faithful Witness on whom the task devolves?

The Usher of the Grade proceeds with the Sun to the place of the Celebrant Elect, whom he brings to the Western side of the Altar, looking toward the East, and returns to his place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Art thou he that is to come, or do we look for another?

The Celebrant Elect.—O Adepti Majores, in virtue of the warrants which I carry, receive the sacred testimony. I have cast out the images of matter, the illusory testimony of the senses, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. I have put away the desires of the body. I have cast out the symbols of the mind: I have set aside the desires thereof. The end has dawned in the silence. The emotions of the soul are transmuted; the desire of human will is absorbed in the purpose of GOD. The spirit and the soul are one: the life of the soul is hidden with Christ in GOD.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 19

Adeptus Major.—Hereof is the Mystery that we celebrate. Be it given unto him who thus puts off mortality to assume the Body of Christ.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Whence come you, Frater dilectissime ?

The Celebrant Elect.—From the House of Love and of the soul going to its bridal ; from a Temple of Holy Espousals ; from a place of peace, and there is the Voice of the Silence ; from a world within, stilled in the Waters of Contemplation—and these are Waters of Love. I have known the mystic union of the Lover and Beloved. I come forth with the glad tidings, and I will bear my faithful witness in the Holy Temples.

Adeptus Major.—What manner of glad tidings, O Traveller in the Valley of Death ?

The Celebrant Elect.—Tidings of ineffable experience which lies within the Mystery of Death, of the light within which exceeds all light without, and the coming of the Peacemaker. I have heard the call of the union, the still small voice speaking in the heart of longing, and the Centre has drawn me back. I testify that the Eternal GOD is immanent in creation, as a Great Architect hidden within a Sanctuary of His own building. I testify to the Divine immanent in the soul of man and that the Divine awakens within it. O Wanderers in the Valley of Silence, Keepers of the Halls of GEBURAH, Watchers in the Rock-Hewn Sepulchre, I have known the sanctity of death beyond the Setting Sun. As vicegerent and spokesman, I testify on your part and on that of Adepti Majores, wheresoever assembled under the obedience of this Rite, that—GOD willing—we desire to be dissolved and henceforth to

abide in Him. May I on my own part be uplifted into the Divine Purpose, that all whom I commend in this Grade into the hands of GOD may be united with the Living Power of the Word and the Light thereof. Whensoever He shall call, I will enter the Great Mystery imploring peace upon the world. Hereof is the faithful witness of every Adeptus Major in the Grade of GEBURAH.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Merciful Exempt Adept, my peer and my successor, go forth in the power of your Warrant and complete this High Ceremony of the Winter Solstice, that when the Holy Order of the Rosy Cross is withdrawn for one moment of time from the World of Regenerated Life in the Grade of TIPHERETH, it may be formulated once more in beauty.

The Celebrants rise and exchange with the Celebrant Elect the Grip of the Grade.

Adeptus Major.—YOD, HE.

Adeptus Exemptus.—The union of JEHOVAH and ELOHIM, of GOD and His SHEKINAH in KETHER.

The Celebrants return to their places. The Usher of the Grade leads the Celebrant Elect to the Door of the Sanctuary and causes him to turn Westward. He then goes back to his place. The High Priest comes forward and faces the Celebrant Elect.

The High Priest.—Fratr Electus ex millibus (*vel nomen aliud*), before the Sanctuary in this House of the Lord there must be a pledge between us and you, and GOD shall watch upon the Covenant for ever. May that which we do in your person, collectively and individually, be ratified in CHESED, wherein is the life

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 21

of Resurrection ; and the power of the Supernals attest it for ever and ever. So stand therefore, my Brother, with arms extended in the Sacred Cruciform Sign, and say in your heart of hearts that which you utter with your lips.

The Usher of the Grade gives a Battery of one knock — 9 — and all rise. The High Priest imposes the Sacrament of the Holy Pledge. Then after he returns to his place and the Brethren are seated. While still standing before the Door of the Sanctuary :—

The Celebrant Elect.—O Lord and Master of All, vouchsafe to look with pity on these Mighty Adepts Majores, who are placed in my charge for the sacred and glorious Offices of our Hidden Temple, dedicated to Thy service. May that which is here and now to them ascribed in symbolism be effectually and really imparted ; and may those whom I shall bring during my term of Office into the Mysteries of the Grade of GEBURAH be integrated in the Life of the Tree, by the dispensation of Thine All-Merciful Judgment.

He opens the Door of the Sanctuary, enters therein and shuts the Door behind him.

The Closing is then taken in the Grade of Adeptus Major.

Here ends the Mystery of GEBURAH.

PARS QUARTA.

MYSTERIUM TIPHEREETH.

The arrangement of the Temple follows the unwritten precedents. The Auxiliary Frater Adeptus assumes his vestments and insignia. The Honourable Frater Custos Liminis has charge of a Thurible, from which incense rises. The Celebrants repair to their places. The lights of the Temple are extinguished, with the exception of three candles burning on the Altar and symbolising the Offices of the Celebrants. The Adepti Minores are admitted and take their seats. As Usher of the Grade, the Honourable Frater Custos Liminis goes to the Eastern side of the Circular Altar and there uplifts his Wand.

Frater Custos Liminis.—Summer and Winter shall not cease. Fratres et Sorores, Adepti Minores, I proclaim the High Festival of the Winter Solstice.

Adeptus Exemptus.—The House of the Holy Spirit is open in the Grade of TIPHEREETH for the commemoration of the event and the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries attached thereto. It is opened in darkness for the Office of a Sacred Watch, awaiting the Light of the Word and the Glory of the Lord manifested in this Temple devoted to His service by the Fellowship of the Rosy Cross.

The Usher of the Grade returns to his proper place.

Adeptus Major.—Quench not the light of Israel in the withdrawing thereof.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—He bringeth out to light from the darkness, even the shadow of death.

Adeptus Major.—When the Chief Shepherd shall appear, may we receive a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—He shall be as the light of the morning, even a morning without clouds.

Adeptus Major.—This shall be day of our deliverance, Thy day, O Lord and Master, the day of saving grace, wherein all things shall be renewed.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—Set an end, O Lord, to the darkness, and let not Thine Order be suspended.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Below is the darkness of material things; above is the light of the Spirit; between them are the gifts and the graces which are manifested by the Spirit in the heights to the soul awakening in man. Below is the reflected light of the Lesser Mysteries, comprised by the Lower Grades of the Rosy Cross; above are the Greater Mysteries; between them lies the Regenerated Life of TIPHEREETH, beneath the Everlasting Wings of the Holy One, looking toward Divine Experience in the Mystic Death of the Adept, and thereafter to the Life of Resurrection, when the Spirit of Christ within shall rule our consecrated elements.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—We have watched in all Grades of the Order, expecting Thy coming, because of Thy most sure promises. We gave our bodies to Thy service in the consecrations of the SEPHIRA MALKUTH, and Thy reflected light shone through the kingdom

24 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

W. The SHEKINAH testified concerning Thee, and the vestiges of Grace from the Crown fed us at Holy Tables. Thy House is a House of Prayer, but the spirit of this world had made it a den of thieves. In the hope of Thy coming we cast out from the Temple of Mind those traffickers in wares which have no part on Thine Altars. Our Temple was filled with constant thought of Thee. The shadow of Thy Presence abode therein; and a sacred fear which is the beginning of wisdom inspired us in the SEPHIRA YESOD, as in a Holy of Holies. But it was surely Thine own voice over the troubled sea of emotion, passion and desire of the heart, which uttered that: Peace, be still; and a quiet like the perfect end fell upon the flux of the soul. A glory like Thy glory was declared in the SEPHIRA HOD. We believed that the time was nigh, even at the doors; and we made ready for Thine advent in NETZACH, where the will within us turned to Thy Holy Ends. Thereafter a way was opened to the second birth of being and the life of regeneration in TIPHERETH, where all Thy speaking symbols testify by true signs concerning Thy Presence. May the high light shine in our souls and the spirit prophesy within. May we know Thee, O Christ, within and be nourished by Thy Divine Substance, wherein is life everlasting.

Adeptus Exemptus.—May the day of expectation be also the day of union, and in this House of the Holy Spirit give unto us reintegration in Thee.

The Auxiliary Frater Adeptus rises and draws near to the Altar on the Eastern side. He lifts up the light attributed to his Office in the Altar symbolism and, raising it to his forehead, circumambulates the Temple slowly, pausing at the four quarters.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus (at the South).—I know that my Redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. (*At the West.*) He will redeem us with stretched out arm and with great judgments. (*At the North.*) We have remembered that GOD is our Rock, and the High GOD is our Redeemer. (*He returns to the East, which he faces.*) In the soul's famine, He shall redeem the soul from death ; He shall redeem it from the grave ; He shall draw nigh unto the soul and save it ; He shall save the souls of His servants. (*He turns Westward.*) O Lord, Thou hast pleaded the cause of our souls ; Thou hast ransomed our life. All flesh shall know the Saviour. Blessed be the Lord Who hath not left us this day without a Redeemer.

He returns to the Altar and there extinguishes his light, saying :—

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ.

He replaces his extinguished light on the Altar and goes direct to his seat, where he lays down his official vestments and insignia. He stands now at his seat, facing West.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—As a vesture shalt Thou change us and we shall be changed. I have assumed vestments for Thy glory ; I put them off for Thy praise. Give me in Thine own good time the whole armour of salvation.

He moves round the Altar with the Sun and takes his place in the body of the Temple, among unofficial Adepts Minores.

Adeptus Major.—Thou hast made us in the likeness of the universe, as a Garden that is entered at birth,

and we have found in Thy high consecrations a secret door which opens from earthly into spiritual life, as a Paradise of the Soul within. We have dwelt in Thy light in that Garden and the Second Birth in Thee has sanctified all its ways. The growth of Nature becometh the growth of Grace. The earth is the root of that kingdom which cometh from heaven above; the air is a breath of Paradise; the rain that waters the Garden is the life-giving rain of love, and the rays of the Sun that warms it are rays of Thy Divine Life. But in the Garden, O Master of all, we have found another and more secret door, which leads from regenerated life to a mystical death at the centre. In the Valley of the Shadows, in the Underworld of Being, give unto those who desire Thee the blessed victory of death, the vision of the dark night, the Mystery of Union therein and the Eternal Word of Life.

Adeptus Exemptus.—If a man shall keep this testimony alive in the Temple of his heart, he shall not see death for ever. May neither death nor life divide us from Thy love, O GOD.

The Adeptus Major rises and draws near to the Altar on its Eastern side. He lifts up the light attributed to his Office in the Altar symbolism and, raising it to his forehead, circumambulates the Temple slowly, pausing at the four quarters.

Adeptus Major (at the South).—I have commended my soul into Thy hands, O GOD. (*At the West.*) It shall be given me to see Thee outside the flesh of my body; I shall see Thee and no other: I shall behold Thee with mine eyes. (*At the North.*) I am least among the sons of election, but I have gone down into

the Valley of Shadows, to be judged in Thy Love therein. (*He returns to the East, which he faces.*) I have seen Thee in the Valley of Vision. Thy light was upon all the ways. I WAS safe under the covert of Thy wings in the Mystic Tomb. Thou hast opened Fountains in the midst of the Valleys. (*He turns Westward.*) I have been through the inmost distance and through the great deep. In peace; in that I have slept and I have rested.

He returns to the Altar and there extinguishes his light, saying:—

Adeptus Major.—Thou shalt deliver our souls and our life shall see Thy light. Do Thou enlighten us with the light of the living.

He replaces his extinguished light on the Altar and goes direct to his seat, where he lays down his official vestments and insignia. He stands now at his seat, facing West.

Adeptus Major.—Thy priests are clothed with salvation; Thy saints rejoice in goodness. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments. When the Lord unclothes him, the same shall give true account of his stewardship. Clothe me, O Master, in Thy good time with the perfect body of resurrection.

He moves round the Altar with the Sun and takes his place in the Temple among unoffical Adepti Majores. The sole light in the Temple is that which is attributed to the Office of Celebrant-in-Chief, who now rises in his place and his seat is removed.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Fratres et Sorores of the Fellow-

ship of the Rosy Cross, in the covenant of everlasting priesthood, I leave my spirit with you in those who come after me.

He turns Eastward. The Usher of the Grade gives a Battery of one knock——and all rise.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Thou hast given us many deliverers and many precursors of salvation, and Thou hast permitted even me to testify in the symbolism of this Thy Holy Temple concerning Thine Advent. My task is done. I came in Thy Name, O Lord. Do Thou come in Thine own with power, or send him whom Thou willest to maintain the faithful witness. I am called to go inward. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace. In the opening of the Path of YOD, I return whence I came. (*He now faces West.*) The peace of GOD be with you, O Brethren of the Rosy Cross; and be He realised within you Who is all days with us, even to the consummation of the world.

The Celebrant-in-Chief removes his official vestments and insignia, which are received by the Usher of the Grade, who comes up for this purpose, and having laid them on the seat of the Celebrant he returns to his place.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Thou hast compassed me with holy garments. I lay down those which I have worn in the Temple of Thy service. I would put off all mortal clothing and receive that which is immortal, confessing Thy Name, O GOD, in the unity of Supernal Knowledge. Cover me with Thy light, as with a garment.

The Celebrant-in-Chief draws near to the Altar on its Eastern side. He lifts up the light attributed to his

Office in the Altar symbolism and, turning Eastward, passes to the Door of the Sanctuary, which he sets open and pauses upon the threshold.

The Sanctuary is in utter darkness. The Cross of Obligation is in the centre thereof, and the Celebrant-in-Chief Elect is on his knees before it, his head bowed deeply.

The High Priest stands at the Eastern end, with extended arms.

The High Priest.—I will raise me up a faithful priest, who shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind : and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

The outgoing Celebrant enters the Sanctuary and stands at the Northern side of the Cross, bearing his light. The High Priest comes round to the Southern side and bends over the Celebrant Elect.

The High Priest.—The Son of Man cometh not to receive ministry but to minister, wearing in humility the likeness of the Lord of Glory.

He raises the Celebrant-Elect, saying :—

The High Priest.—It is written : He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

He places him against the Cross and comes forward to the Door of the Sanctuary.

The High Priest.—He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he that is Chief as he that doth serve.

He turns to the Celebrant-Elect.

The High Priest.—That the world may be crucified unto thee, do thou crucify thyself unto the world.

The Celebrant-Elect extends his arms upon the Cross.

The Celebrant-Elect.—I am made and vowed as you are, and the burden of your dedication is upon me, that I shall not leave you in the heat of the day or in the hour of trial, but that I may give an account of my stewardship. I testify concerning myself, that you may bear witness in turn. On behalf of you who are my Brethren, I set myself upon the Cross of Obligation, to renew my pledges and your own in the presence of the whole Order.

The High Priest binds the Celebrant-Elect to the Cross.

The High Priest.—May that which we do in thy person, collectively and individually, on this sacred day of our renewal, be ratified in GEBURAH, wherein is the victory of death ; be it recorded in CHESED, wherein is the life of resurrection ; and the Power of the Supernals attest it for ever and ever.

He administers the Obligation of the Grade of Adeptus Minor to the Celebrant-Elect, by whom it is repeated audibly. Thereafter, the Brethren having resumed their seats and the Celebrant-Elect being still bound upon the Cross :—

The Celebrant-Elect.—May the Brethren of this Holy Order be confirmed and strengthened in me. May they die to themselves with me in the lower part of their nature. May they descend with me from the Glorious Cross of TIPHERETH and pass to the ineffable experience of the Greater Mysteries. As I give expression for testimony in the whole personality of Adepti

Minores under the obedience of this Sacred Rite, so may its high end be realised in them and so also in me. May I thus—who am uplifted on the Cross—draw all who are mine unto me. Into Thy hands, O Lord, for this Thy work in the Order, I commend the will of my spirit in the uttermost conformity.

He bows his head.

The Usher of the Grade comes forward and closes the Door of the Sanctuary. The body of the Temple is now in complete darkness. The High Priest unbinds the Celebrant-Elect.

The High Priest.—Descend, O Merciful Exempt Adept, from the Glorious Cross of TIPHERETH, for the deliverance of the Souls of the Just from earthly into spiritual life, from places of purification to the place of the Second Birth and from the life of Regeneration in GOD to the risen life which is in Him.

The outgoing Celebrant hands the light to his successor.

The Outgoing Celebrant.—May peace be with thee, Brother, and do thou carry the tidings of peace.

While this has taken place in the Sanctuary, the Usher of the Grade, standing at his place in the body of the Temple, repeats the versicles of the time.

Frater Custos Liminis.—(1) Let Thy messenger appear in his place. . . (2) He shall sit as a priest upon his Throne. . . (3) The counsel of his peace shall be upon us. . . (4) He shall be as the light of morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds. . . (5) Come quickly therefore, we pray thee: enter into our hearts and lives, the promised Deliverer.

While these versicles are recited slowly and clearly, the High Priest and the Outgoing Celebrant have issued from the Sanctuary by a secret door at the further end. The former takes up his place at the South-West angle of the Sanctuary on its outer side and the latter occupies any vacant seat in the body of the Temple. All this is done quietly, so that they may not be distinguished in the darkness.

A great light shines within the Sanctuary.

Frater Custos Liminis.—I have loved Thee, O Lord, my Priest and King of my Salvation. Great things are spoken of the Kingdom, because of Thy day.

The Battery of the 5-6 Grade is sounded within the Sanctuary— It is repeated by the Usher of the Grade as Spokesman of Adepti Minores. The Celebrant-in-Chief comes forth from the Sanctuary carrying the light of his Office. All lights in the body of the Temple are turned on at the same moment. All present rise up. The Celebrant-in-Chief deposits his light on the Altar. The High Priest comes forward and places the New Celebrant at a middle point between the Sanctuary and the Altar, still facing East. The vestments and insignia of the Celebrant are brought up by the Usher of the Grade, who hands them successively to the High Priest and assists generally at the clothing.

The High Priest (investing with the violet habit).—Wash thee in the heart and anoint thee in the spirit. (*Investing with the violet cloak.*) Put the raiment of thy redeemed body upon thee. (*Investing with the Rose-Cross.*) It is written: I will clothe my priests with salvation. (*Investing with the biretta.*) The saints shall

shout for joy. (*Placing the Wand of Office in the hands of the Celebrant, and then turning Westward.*) Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel, manifesting in the greatness of his strength?

The High Priest returns to his place and resumes his seat, as also the Usher of the Grade and the unofficial Brethren. The Celebrant draws near to the Altar on its Eastern side. He lifts up the light of his Office and, raising it to his forehead, circumambulates the Temple slowly, pausing at the four quarters.

Adeptus Exemptus (at the South).—Behold, there is no void, and I testify that there is no distance between GOD and the Soul of man, for the Soul that returns to GOD. (At the West.) The yoke of the Law is lifted, as an halter taken from the neck. (At the North.) The freedom of the Gospel is the liberation of the Soul therein. (At the East.) To Thy Glory, O GOD, and the keeping of Thy ways inviolate. (And then facing West.) To the Glory of the Rosy Cross, and the light of the Lord therein.

He replaces his light on the Altar and goes to his proper seat.

Adeptus Exemptus.—I call upon the Honourable Frater Experimentum Mirabile (vel nomen aliud), who has been chosen by the Headship of the Third Order to receive at my hands the benefit of installation in the Office of Adeptus Major.

The Brother thus cited is brought up by the Usher of the Grade, who assists also in the clothing.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Frater Experimentum Mirabile (vel nomen aliud), as one who is destined to fulfil the

34 THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE

sacred duties of Mighty Adeptus Major during the coming revolution of the Sun, you are held—symbolically speaking—to have been warranted from the Grade of GEBURAH; but GEBURAH is asleep in the Lord and its rest is not broken. By the power to me committed in the height of the Third Order, and as a Merciful Exempt Adept, I give you your titles from CHESED hereby and herein. Receive the vestments of your Office. (*He rises and clothes the Adeptus Major.*) I have put righteousness upon you, and it shall clothe you. Receive also your lamina. When you carry it in the great Rites, remember that the Death of the Cross is truly the Gate of Life. I present you with the Wand of your Office. The Cross returns into the Cube, the Word made flesh is hidden in the rock-hewn sepulchre, and our life is withdrawn in GOD.

The Adeptus Major passes to the Altar and lights his symbolical candle from that of the Celebrant-in-Chief, who then leads him to his proper seat, and resumes his own.

Adeptus Exemptus.—I call upon the Honourable Frater Lux semper in Cœlis (*vel nomen aliud*), who has been chosen by the Headship of the Third Order to receive at my hands the benefit of installation in the Office of Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.

The Brother thus cited is brought up by the Usher of the Grade, who assists also in his clothing.

Adeptus Exemptus.—Frater Lux semper in Cœlis (*vel nomen aliud*), your warrant is delivered in TIPHERETH, but it derives from the source of authority which rules and teaches in CHESED. Hereby and herein I pro-

claim your lawful titles. Receive the vestments of your Office. (*He rises and clothes the Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.*) May your raiment be as light about you and as gold shining in the Sun. May you spread your vestments in the way when the Lord of Hosts comes. Receive also your lamina, and when you carry it in the Great Rite of TIPHERETH, remember that the life of the Cross is the Way of the Mystery of GOD. I present you with the Wand of your Office. It proclaims that the Word is made flesh and manifested in human life.

The Auxiliary Frater Adeptus passes to the Altar, where he lights his symbolical candle from that of the Celebrant-in-Chief, who then leads him to his proper seat and resumes his own. The Usher of the Grade closes the Sanctuary. The Temple is Opened in full in the Grade of Adeptus Minor. Thereafter the three Celebrants remain standing in their proper places.

The High Priest.—Raise up, we beseech Thee, O Master of all our ways, the spiritual life of this Order: lift it into the life which is eternal. . . May the power and the grace and the glory of Thy Most Holy Spirit remain in this House of the Spirit. May all profanation of evil and the hands of the unconsecrated keep far from our Sanctuary and its precincts. May those who enter herein be those who are born for the light, and may the high light abide within them—a witness in the soul and the heart. So shall we dwell in Thy presence, in the sanctity of regenerated life, in the liberation of our sleep in Thee, and in the peace of the World to Come, which is the World of the Holy One, the World of Resurrection in Thee and of union with Christ the Spirit.

The Celebrant-in-Chief passes to the Eastern side of the Altar and uncovers the Sacred Vessels. He lifts up the Paten and says :—

Adeptus Exemptus.—Give unto us Divine Substance—communicated to the Soul of man.

He lifts up the Chalice and says :—

Adeptus Exemptus.—Give unto us Divine Life for the maintenance of the Soul in Thee.

Under the Guidance of the Usher of the Grade, acting as Director of Ceremonies, the Fratres et Sorores come forward, beginning with the Official Adepti, the High Priest excepted. The Paten is passed round and they partake of the Hosts, each repeating the Sacred Formula. The Paten is replaced on the Altar. The Chalice is also passed round, and the Brethren drink thereof, repeating the Sacred Formula. The Chalice is replaced on the Altar and the Elements are revealed. The Usher of the Grade is the last to partake of each. The Celebrants return to their Thrones. All present having resumed their seats, the High Priest rises in his place.

The High Priest.—The Life of life is Thy love. It is written : Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world. . . . I have descended to TIPHERETH, bringing the glad tidings. . . . (He lifts up his arms.) The peace of GOD and the knowledge of life everlasting, and the consciousness of the self-knowing part in the Eternal Spirit, be with you, world without end.

The Altar is replaced in the Vault.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 87

Adeptus Exemptus.—Honourable Fratres et Sorores, by the power to me committed, I proclaim that the Sun has entered Capricorn, the sign of the Winter Solstice. Light from the Eternal and Glory of Everlasting Worship be with us for ever and ever.

*The Closing is then taken in the Grade of
Adeptus Minor.*

*Here ends the Mystery of TIPHEREETH
and*

*Here ends the Solemn Ceremony of celebrating
The Festival of the Winter Solstice.*

THE CEREMONY OF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN
THE GRADE OF TIPHERETH.

The Temple is opened in the light according to the Ritual of the 5-6 Grade. The Frater Custos Liminis proclaims the Solstice, and the Celebrant-in-Chief proceeds as follows:—

Adeptus Exemptus.—The House of the Holy Spirit is opened in the Grade of TIPHERETH for the commemoration of the event and the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries attached thereto. The Sun at its greatest elevation is an external type or fore-shadowing of the Christ-Life in the Soul at the highest realisation of spiritual consciousness. It is the day of our attainment, Thy day, O Lord and Master, wherein all things are renewed. It is the noonday splendour of the Sun of Righteousness, the kingdom, the power and the glory. The counsel is, Stand therefore in the fulness of the light, as the Sun stands at the zenith.

Adeptus Major.—The Festival of the Winter Solstice commemorates the advent of the Christ of Palestine, but especially the beginning of the three years of ministry. It commemorates the coming also of the Cosmic Christ into the heart of the Rosy Cross. This is the opening of the Mysteries, and the light shineth in darkness.

THE SOLEMN FESTIVAL OF THE SOLSTICE 89

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—The Festival of the Summer Solstice commemorates the fulness of manifestation in Palestine, when the Risen Christ sent His Apostles into the world, that they might teach all nations. It signifies also the coming of the Paraclete into the heart of the Rosy Cross. This is the apex of the Mysteries, and there is light in the place of light.

The Ceremony proceeds as in the Winter Solstice, beginning with the speech of the Adeptus Exemptus: Below is the darkness of material things, etc., and followed by that of the Auxiliary Frater Adeptus, who describes the circle of the place and recites the proper versicles, replacing his light on the Altar without extinguishing it and then taking his seat without unclothing. The same procedure is observed by the Second Celebrant; and thereafter the Celebrant-in-Chief rises, with uplifted Wand.

Adeptus Exemptus.—The peace of GOD be with you, O Brethren of the Rosy Cross; and be He realised within you, Who is all days with us, even to the consummation of the world.

He proceeds to the Eastern side of the Altar, lifts up the light of his Office and describes the circle of the place, reciting the proper versicles. Thereafter he replaces his light on the Altar and goes to his invariable seat.

There is the pause of a few moments, and thereafter the Auxiliary Frater Adeptus rises in his place.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—The Light of the Lord leadeth us: the Lord is an Everlasting Light: in Thy Light let us see light, shining from the Palace at the Centre, shining from the inmost heart, O King of the

Greater Mysteries. Thy commandment is a Lamp ;

Secret Law is Light : herein is the light of the eyes. That light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not. But as for us we will walk with Thee in the light of the living, the light upon the Israel of the elect, the Glory of the Rosy Cross.

The Celebrant-in-Chief and the Second Celebrant have arisen and set open the Door of the Sanctuary. The Cross of Obligation in the Centre is under the full light of the Rose.

The High Priest.—*Frater Lux semper in Cœlis (vel nomen aliud)*, on the Cross in this Sanctuary of the Lord there must be a pledge between us and you, and GOD shall watch upon the Covenant for ever.

The Auxiliary Frater Adeptus proceeds to the Door of the Sanctuary, where he lays aside his Wand. He is taken in charge by the High Priest, who leads him within the Sanctuary. They turn Westward at the Cross which is now immediately behind the Auxiliary Frater Adeptus, who extends his arms thereon.

Auxiliary Frater Adeptus.—On behalf of you who are my Brethren and on my own part, I set myself upon the Cross of Obligation, to renew my pledges and your own in the presence of the whole Order.

The High Priest binds him to the Cross.

The High Priest.—May that which we do in your person, collectively and individually, be ratified in **EBURAH**, wherein is the victory of death ; be it recorded in **CHESED**, wherein is the life of resurrection ; and the Power of the Supernals attest it for ever and ever.

*The Usher of the Grade gives a Battery of one knock—
and all rise. The High Priest imposes the
Obligation of the Grade. A short pause follows
and thereafter :—*

*Auxiliary Frater Adeptus (while still bound upon the
Cross).—May the Brethren of this Holy Order be con-
firmed and strengthened in me ; and as I give expression
for testimony in the whole personality of Adepti Minores
under the obedience of this Sacred Rite, so may its high
end be realised in them and so also in me.*

*The High Priest.—Descend, Auxiliary Frater Adeptus,
from the Cross of Glory in TIPHERETH, and the
majesty of its light be with you from henceforth and
for ever.*

*He unbinds the Third Celebrant and leads him to the
Door of the Sanctuary. As they pause on the thresh-
hold :—*

*The High Priest.—Fratres et Sorores, in this House
of the Holy Spirit, remember that the life of the Cross
is the Way of the Mystery of GOD.*

*They return to their places, closing but not securing the
Door of the Sanctuary. All the Brethren are seated,
and there is the pause of a few moments. The High
Priest rises and says : Raise up, we beseech Thee,
etc. The Ceremony proceeds to its conclusion as in
the Festival of the Winter Solstice.*