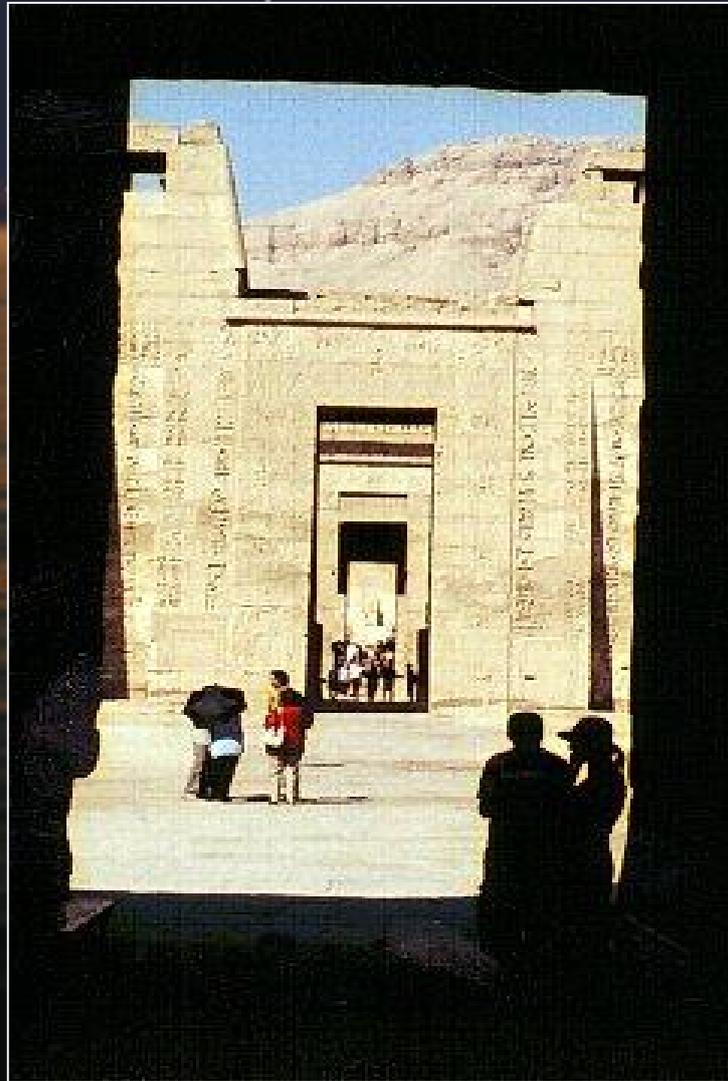


GOOD HEAVENS TODAY



THE GOLDEN DAWN

Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

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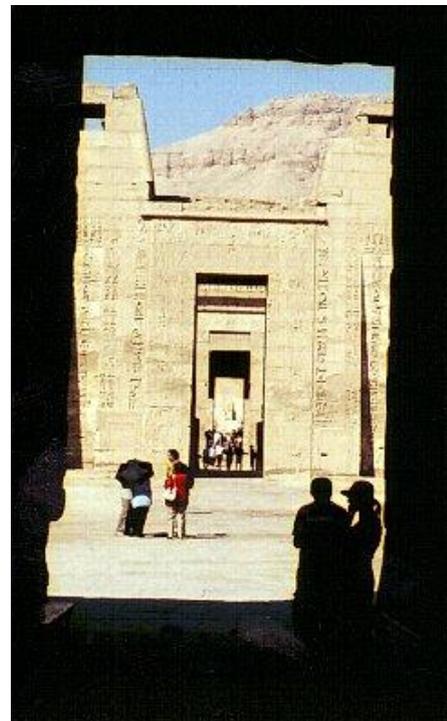
This free E-magazine is offered to you by the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®. We are a Western Mystery School with a direct lineage to the Order of the Golden Dawn. We learn you how all the disciplines of the Sacred Sciences are parts of one general teaching. We offer an in depth training in Spiritual Ceremonial Magic. Learn more about our order and the training we offer and visit www.templeofstarlight.eu

GOLDEN DAWN

Initiation in the Western Mystery Tradition

Nowadays, the term initiation is bandied about for all kinds of purposes. Initiations are for sale, or on offer rather like cheap holidays.

While one group might use the term initiation to describe its ritual for admitting members to the group, another will use the same term to describe their final exam. On the internet so called astral initiations are now readily available: these self initiations take place in front of a mirror and are explained in some detail. Channelled initiations can be bought and combinations of all these options can be found. So, what is the difference between these and the initiations offered by traditional Order or Mystery school?



***The Temple Gate of
Medinet Habu***

Article and illustrations: Ina Cüsters-van Bergen

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It takes three lives to become an Initiate...

What is initiation? Dictionaries speak of 'Rites of Passage' and of becoming part of secret Orders. Dion Fortune describes initiation as a 'karmic process taking place on a cosmic scale'. Everyone is on their way to the next stage of their evolution: human beings, angels, Gods, even the Source of the All itself. It takes three lives to become an Initiate. How does all this reflect and become visible in the spiritual development of somebody in *this* life?

It is possible to detect a pattern in the karmic history of an Initiate that involves past lives where rigorous training was undertaken. As a result they develop into extraordinary powerful people, with well developed personalities and a high degree of self knowledge. This training prepares them for a life in which the first Initiation can take place on a physical level. In this life interest in the Mysteries is tested through playful confrontations, for example through movies, esoteric novels or spiritual games.

In the second preparing incarnation, one is born into a family with either an open minded attitude, or a very rigid one, which causes the soul to wish for nothing more than to break free. These people may decide to join a Mystery School or a spiritual Fraternity. The tradition has now become a central theme in their lives.

In the third incarnation one is born into circumstances, which trains and tests the soul in its ordinary, day to day life. The soul is immersed in the tradition and is quick to seek out a school or fraternity that can offer the training that will enable it to attain an Initiation of the First Degree. This Initiation is necessary to prepare the body and spirit for the energy that brings about mental and hormonal changes.

The Initiation in the Sarcophagus

Many of the important principles of the Mysteries are explained through myths. Myths can be accessed for information on different levels. The tradition tells us about the Egyptian Initiation, that was brought about by locking the candidate for three days and nights in an underground stone sarcophagus. This initiation is described in the myths about the Death of the God Osiris.

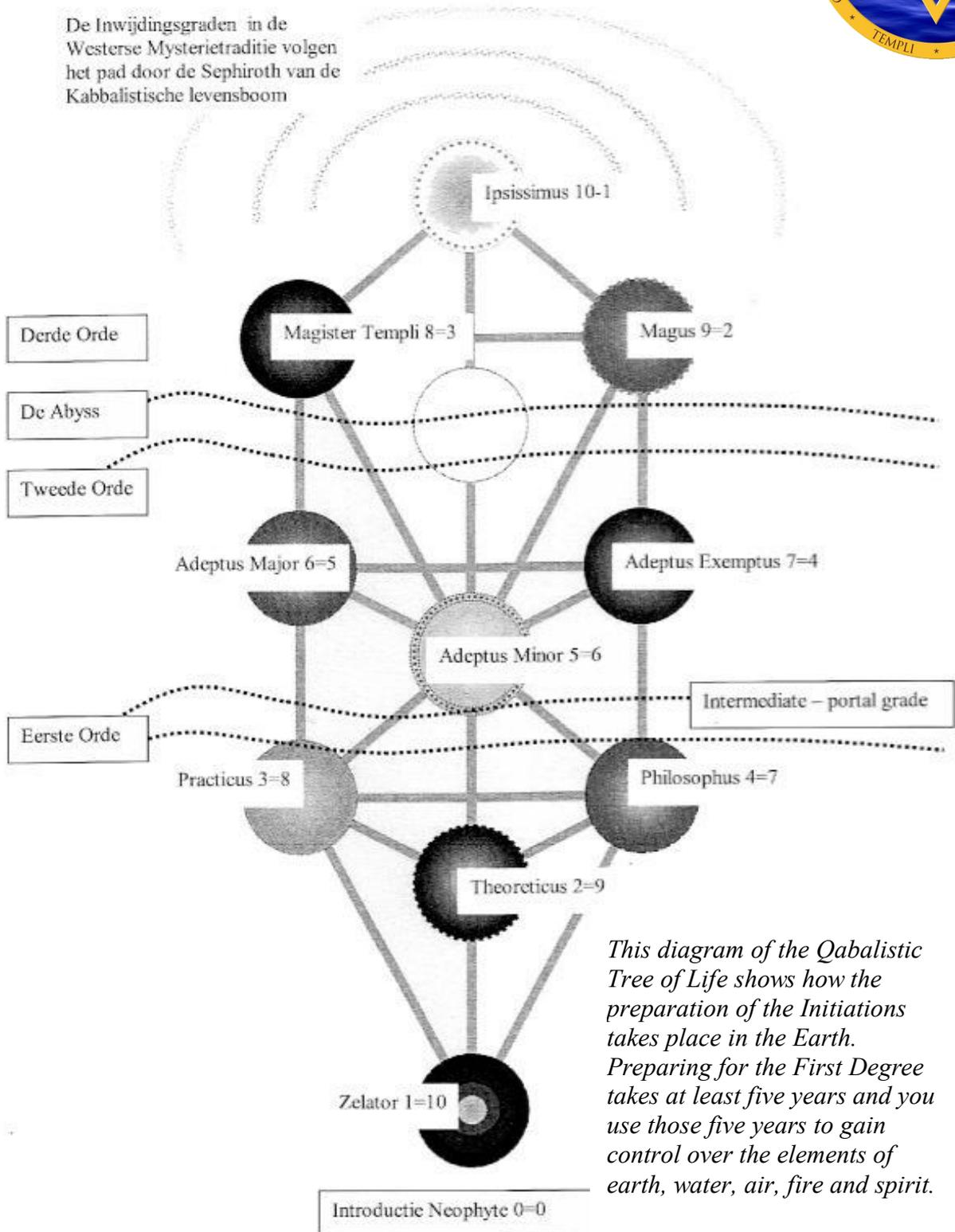
The first phase tells us how the initiation takes place IN the earth and THROUGH earthly events. Osiris is captured in a sarcophagus and locked up by his brother Seth.

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De Inwijdingsgraden in de Westerse Mysterietraditie volgen het pad door de Sephiroth van de Kabbalistische levensboom



This diagram of the Qabalistic Tree of Life shows how the preparation of the Initiations takes place in the Earth. Preparing for the First Degree takes at least five years and you use those five years to gain control over the elements of earth, water, air, fire and spirit.

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This “mystery language” is telling us that the Initiation takes place during an incarnation, *in* a physical body. The most important is life itself. The Western Mysteries do not know ascetism. The maxim ‘Know Thyself’, indicates that it is the spiritual mission of students of the Mysteries to be *in* the world. This is brought about through the practice of meditation, ritual and prayer, and applying what is learned in worldly life.)In this way, the inner and outer life develops simultaneously. Israel Regardie wrote about this: 'Whatever you do, whether you eat, drink or work, at all times these actions must be dedicated to the Great Work and be enclosed in your heart like a treasure'.

Our tradition trains you to communicate with spiritual energies by means of mystery plays: the rituals and magical acts. You learn how to use the language of symbols in rituals and meditations. This greatly affects all the areas of your life.

The content of meditations and rituals is not to serve as some form of therapy, neither should they be seen as hocus pocus. They are instruments to 'bring about changes in consciousness through the use of 'will power': this is how Dion Fortune defines High Magic.. When the Mystery Student is able to steer through and remain stable in life with the help of these techniques, then the Student is ready for Initiation in the First Order. The initiation schedule shows this by the lowest curved line, the schematic depiction of the initiation in the 'First Order'.

Fundamental changes

Three initiations intensify your connection to the spiritual contact behind the Tradition. By means of initiation rituals, the candidate is connected to a higher spiritual world but this can only be done successfully if he has prepared himself through meditations and rituals.

It usually takes a year or longer for the Initiate to absorb the changes of a First Degree Initiation. After the rush of adrenaline into the nerve system, the entire psychological and biological system needs to adapt to the new circumstances. The initiation sharpens the senses and the sensitivity to psychic wavelengths. Experiences of synchronicity increase and the Initiate has now become part of the Temple. After this, people start to develop quickly and want to do something for the tradition. When these changes have stabilized, the Road towards the Second Degree opens for some students.

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The Initiation in Water

The second phase of the Egyptian Initiation Myths begins, when the God Seth throws the sarcophagus containing Osiris' body into the river Nile. This means that the candidate is going to be confronted with astral and cosmic energies. He travels downstream to the mound, the place where the holy river flows into the Cosmic Ocean, the place where the Gods dwell. This is the initiation in water, comparable to the Baptism in the river Jordan in the Bible.

The preparation of the Second Degree comes in seven steps, each connected to the planetary spheres. You work to intensify the connection to the divine. The training now opens to mystical visions and you learn to translate these to projects in your life and in the world. Slowly, the awareness of the divine within merges with the experience of the divine without.

Golden Dawn

At the beginning of the third phase Osiris' body is nowhere to be found, and the search for it leads straight through the desert. The sarcophagus with the body appears at the shore of the ocean and has grown into an incense tree. The King of Byblos constructed a pillar from this tree and uses it to support the roof of his palace. The raising of the body of Osiris was also known as "Raising the Djed Pillar". This was a very important ceremony for the Priest Kings of that time. It is a beautiful metaphor for what happens around the Third Degree.

Through spiritual exercises the Adept has now intensified the contact with the Inner Plane Teacher behind the Tradition. The training brings about the Golden Dawn. This happens when the Inner Light of the Higher Self radiates through the physical body and lightens the entire aura. This is a manifestation of the Holy Magic that Abramelin the Mage describes as "The Conversation with the Holy Guardian Angel."

During the initiation into the Third Order, the Inner Light becomes directly connected with the Contact. This creates the so called "Lineage": the highest Initiate of one generation initiates the Initiator of the next generation. This process can be compared with the apostolical succession. In reality it's not the Initiator who initiates, but he provides a channel for the Inner Plane Master.

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Initiation traditions have spiritual contacts. Miss Blavatsky referred to them as the Masters, Alice Bailey spoke of the Tibetan, MacGregor Mathers of the Secret Chiefs. Within our school the contact is an ancient Egyptian Contact.

Initiation is a training, not a faith

This article describes what an initiation in a mystery tradition can look like. Of course, there are more of these initiation traditions and each school has their own rules. In a mystery tradition the gradual movement from one phase to another, is the result of several years diligent training. The road to initiation will lead you in the footsteps of many famous predecessors.. However, what is most important to remember is that an initiation is the result of such a training, an initiation CANNOT be bought..

The purpose of initiation is to develop the higher consciousness in people and to teach them perception from a cosmic perspective. The Initiate contacts “something” higher than himself, that sees him as an instrument to bring spiritual forces into the material world. Slowly you grow as you benefit from the exercises. This shows in your aura, which will increase in radiation and glow, and tells the Initiator when you have acquired the level for initiation.

An Initiate of the First Order is responsible for his own spiritual development. An Initiate of the Second Order will supervise and coach people. The Initiate of the Third Order is responsible for the creation and development of the entire educational system, the development of the Orders, the initiations and transfer of the teachings of the Tradition to the next generation.

Lord of the Sacred Mountain – the Initiation of Fire

After having been raised as the Djed Pillar, Osiris ascends to heaven and becomes visible as the constellation Orion. This is the Initiation in Fire. Now we come across initiations that cannot take place during life. Osiris becomes Lord of the Sacred Mountain, Lord of the Universe. The Egyptians Books of the Dead indicates that there are two possible roads after death.

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One way is the way of reincarnation: this journey goes towards the South to repair the Eye which was damaged by Seth. The Ad can choose to return as a teacher for a new generation. He can also take the path towards the North, the Lands of Eternity, where the Five Offerings are located, and to unite with the Great White Lodge.

INA CÜSTERS-VAN BERGEN

Ina Cüsters-van Bergen is the Magister and the Director of Studies of the Hermetic Order Temple of Starlight®. She teaches the Western Mystery Tradition. Ina is a so called Cosmic Mediator and a Third Degree Initiate. She is a very experienced practicing ritual magician. Her lineage comes from the Golden Dawn via Dion Fortune, W.E. Butler and Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki.

Ina is a trained psychiatric therapist, psychotherapist, and healthcare manager. She is a certified NLP practitioner. She designs all her training modules in such a way that they integrate modern therapeutic systems and archaic magical systems such as Qabalah and Ceremonial Magic into one system. In this way your spiritual practice increases emotional, mental and spiritual health and growth.

Ina is the author of the Solo Magical Training of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight, called 'The Order of the Exalted Land' and the author of the book 'The Temple of High Magic', ISBN-13: 978-1-59477-308-2

Ina teaches spiritual Ceremonial Magic through intensive training weekends all over Europe.

MORE INFORMATION

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- *if you want to book Ina to organize an event in your hometown*
- *if you want to start the Solo Magical Training*
- *if you want to become a member of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight*

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