

FURTHER ON THE FILL / KILL CORRECTION TO LIBER LEGIS

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

We herewith release additional evidential archival material that relates to the correct reading of the Stèle Paraphrase in *Liber Legis* III:37.

“Ritual CXX, called of Passing through the Tuat,” or “Liber Cadaveris,” appears as the first of several papers in a MS. notebook, Yorke Collection OS26. It is immediately followed by the MS. of an O.T.O. degree paper, Crowley’s second version of *Liber C, Agape Azoth*, which is dated internally to December 1912. “Ritual CXX” is therefore earlier, but probably not by much. It is important to bear in mind that Crowley sometimes worked in multiple notebooks at once, and the contents are not always strictly chronological, i.e., they do not necessarily appear in the order they were written. In other words, he sometimes wrote on a paper-available basis. But these two papers appear with no intervening blank pages. I therefore believe that “Ritual CXX” was written in 1912, around the time that Crowley made the correction from “fill” to “kill” in III:37 in his copy of *Thelema*, i.e., concurrently with his publication of the MS. of *Liber Legis* and the Stèle Paraphrase in *The Equinox* I(7) (spring 1912) or soon thereafter.

I reproduce three pages from MS. of “Ritual CXX.” The first shows, at bottom, Crowley’s use of the four public adorations of “Liber Resh.” His first thought, as he composed the ritual, was to follow these with that part of the Stèle Paraphrase indicated by “Unity &c.” He crossed out the latter, but this is the earliest linkage of the two texts, even if they were not used in sequence in the final ritual. Crowley instead used this Stèle Paraphrase two pages later, on the third page reproduced here. He indicates its insertion in an abbreviated form that has striking similarities to the pencil note for III:37 in the MS. of *Liber Legis*, as a comparison will show. It clearly ends with “kill me!” Though I have not studied the question in any exhaustive way — and must emphasize that this is educated speculation — it does not strike me as a typical Crowleyan cursive “k.” To my eye, it looks as if Crowley started to write “fill” and changed to “kill” in mid-character. It does not, however, appear to be overwritten, so I believe the “kill” reading to be original to “Ritual CXX.”

the fire of my sword!

[In the North, the home of the
Sylphs.

Let the Winds draw back at the
waving of my Spear!

[In the W, among the Gnomes

I have impressed the inhabitants
of earth. Let them keep silence before
me!

[Returns to center
I am armed! I am strong!

Let them bow, admiring the
splendor of Re-Hor-Khuit

[Next, he performs the H
adorations as taught unto
the outer world. "Unity" &c

~~"Horse made my secret done" &c~~

Followeth the Mystical Dance
as taught in secret: or,
let the Magas trace 11
circles around the room,
travelling against the
course of the Sun, for that
it is in effect He that is Still,
the Earth revolving.

Let the hymn be sung, or the
Mantra recited. But ere he
end, let him sing:

"Above the Luminous Space is

————— &c

—————

Then he cometh to the
 E. of the Throne of Ra &
 crieth:
 Unity uttermost shewed

 ----- kill me!
 prostrating himself to the W.
 Then he resumes his Throne,
 assuming the Might of the
 God & saith:
 The Light is mine &c
 -- I have made a secret door
 &c &c. Silence: then:—
ABRAHADABRA ||| ||||| |||
 [He knocketh.

A provenance note is appropriate here. The notebook now known as Yorke OS26 was in a box or trunk containing Crowley's most important MSS. These were misplaced by a Detroit storage warehouse, and only rediscovered after Achad's death (as first recounted by Martin P. Starr in his *The Unknown God* (2003)). These important MSS. passed with Achad's other papers to his successor, Dr. Jan P. Kowal of Detroit. Many MS. notebooks and MSS. were later sold to the New York book and MS. dealer Philip Kaplan. Decherd H. Turner, Jr., the founding Director of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin — who was very knowledgeable about Crowley and magick and took a personal interest in the subject — bought

many of the best MSS. for the Ransom Center, where they augment the separate J.F.C. Fuller collection. However, several MS. notebooks of primary religious importance, or relevance to O.T.O. and A.'.A.'. , were purchased by the O.T.O. In the late 1950s, Karl Germer sent what is now Yorke OS26 and other notebooks (including the Cairo Working notebooks OS23 and OS27) to Gerald Yorke in England for safekeeping, and in time they became part of the Yorke Collection, although Yorke very properly preserved their "on loan for safekeeping" slips. O.T.O. formally deeded these notebooks to the Warburg Institute in 2002, in gratitude for their preservation. Because of Frater Saturnus' prescient action, they survived the unfortunate history of betrayals and archival thefts in California that followed his death, and that of his widow Sascha.

Kenneth Grant made a typed transcription of "Ritual CXX" from the MS. notebook for Yorke, probably ca. 1955, which is also reproduced here. It omits Crowley's deleted "Unity &c." from MS., as one would expect with a fair copy typescript. The Grant-Yorke TS. has nothing to add to the MS. excerpts, but it does serve as a confirmation the "kill me!" reading in the MS. from two authorities on Crowley and his MSS.

THE RITUALS OF A..A..

20

Obtained with original MS from
the papers of Walter Michael ...
... of ... 1414 X

X and now at Texas
University

RITUAL CXX.

AL adds to fly leaf of the book
called 'Obscuri ...
of Passing through ...
the Tuat. ...
---0---

copied for me
by Kenneth Grant
819

O P E N I N G.




(This book is scored through p. 9)

(Members assembled, clothed, throned.) **E N T E R** the Hierophant.
(All rise & salute him. The 'Ceremony of Recognition' followeth.
But all or one shall show on entering the Temple the Mark ⊗
of the Beast lest the Guardians of the Temple be hasty with them.)
All words & numbers affirmed, crieth the Hierophant or Magus:-

ABRAHADABRA.

Hail unto Thee, Heru-Ra-Ha, Ra-Hoor, Abrahadabra, Lord of the
Day! The Disk of the Sun is sunk in the Waters of Amentet. Let
there be a gathering of the Lords of Silence!

⏏ ⏏⏏ ⏏ (He knocketh.)

He riseth, & giveth the 3 signs of   and . Taking
the weapon with which he means to work throughout, or, if he
be assisted by a child, the appropriate weapon, he advanceth to
the centre & crieth: I am armed! I am armed! I am strong!
I am strong!

(Goes to the East where dwell the Undines.)

With my Wand I drive back the dwellers of Water.

(To S. where are Salamanders).

Let the dwellers of Fire cower before the Fire of my Sword!

(In the North, the home of the Sylphs.)

Let the Winds draw back at the waving of my Spear!

(In the West, among the Gnomes.)

I have imprisoned the inhabitants of earth. Let them keep silence
before me!

(Returns to centre): I am armed! I am strong! Let them bow,
adoring the splendour of Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

(Next, he performeth the 4 adorations as taught unto the outer
world.) (Liber Resh vel CC) — (not in original MS)

Followeth the Mystical Dance as taught in secret: or, let the
Magus trace 11 circles around the room, travelling against the
course of the Sun, for that it is in effect He that is still, the
earth revolving.

Let the hymn be sung, or the Mantra recited. But ere he end,
let him sing:

"Above the gemmed azure is &c"

Then he cometh to the E. of the Throne of Ra & crieth:

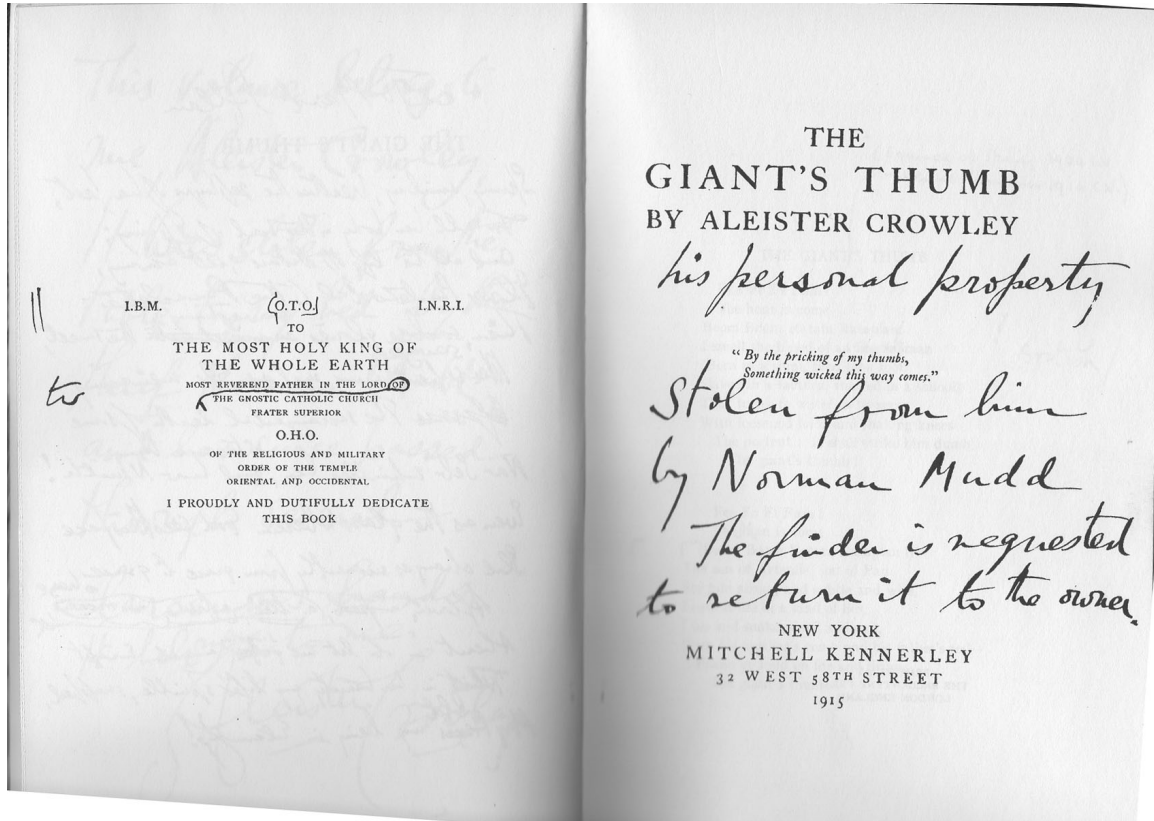
"Unity uttermost showedkill me!"

I am grateful to the the Officers of the A.'A.'. for consenting to the release of part of
this ritual material. This was done in the public interest, so as to further our
understanding of Crowley's intention with *Liber Legis* III:37.

Postscript: Just as O.T.O. was posting this to the internet, an independent European
scholar who is a frequent contributor to the excellent website www.lashtal.com

under the name Lutz posted his discovery that Crowley had carefully proofread the Stèle Paraphrase for a book that reached proofs in London in 1914-15, *The Giant's Thumb* — the proofs are in the Yorke Collection.

I attach scans of the relevant pages, including the title page for dating purposes, below.



HIEROGLYPHS
Pers.

Margw

≡ A PARAPHRASE OF THE INSCRIPTIONS UPON
THE OBVERSE OF THE STÉLÉ OF REVELLING

A/

ABOVE, the gemmèd azure is
The naked splendour of Nuit ;
She bends in ecstasy to kiss
The secret ardours of Hadit.
The wingèd globe, the starry blue
Are mine, ☉ Ankh-f-n-Khonsu.

I am the Lord of Thebes, and I
The inspired forth-speaker of Mentu ;
For me unveils the veiled sky,
The self-slain Ankh-f-n-Khonsu
Whose words are truth. I invoke, I greet
Thy presence, ☉ Ra-Hoor-Khuit !

Unity uttermost showed !
I adore the might of Thy breath,
Supreme and terrible God,
Who makest the gods and death
To tremble before Thee :—
I, I adore thee !

Appear on the throne of Ra !
Open the ways of the Khu !
Lighten the ways of the Ka !

The ways of the Khabs run through
To stir me or still me!
Aum! let it kill me!

The Light is mine; its rays consume
Me: I have made a secret door
Into the House of Ra and Tum,
Of Khephra, and of Ahatheor.
I am thy Theban, O Mentu,
The prophet Ankh-f-n-Khonsu!

By Bes-na-Maut my breast I beat;
By wise Ta-Nech I weave my spell.
Show thy star-splendour, O Nuith!
Bid me within thine House to dwell,
O winged snake of light, Hadith!
Abide with me, Ra-Hoor-Khuit!

A PARAPHRASE OF THE HIEROGLYPHS OF THE
ELEVEN LINES UPON THE REVERSE OF THE
STÉLÉ

SAITH of Mentu the truth-telling brother
Who was master of Thebes from his birth:
O heart of me, heart of my mother!
O heart which I had upon earth!
Stand not thou up against me a witness!
Oppose me not, judge, in my quest!
Accuse me not now of unfitness
Before the Great God, the dread Lord of the West!
For I fastened the one to the other
With a spell for their mystical girth,
The earth and the wonderful West,
When I flourished, O earth, on thy breast!

The dead man Ankh-f-n-Khonsu
Saith with his voice of truth and calm:
O thou that hast a single arm!
O thou that glitterest in the moon!
I weave thee in the spinning charm;
I lure thee with the billowy tune.

The dead man Ankh-f-n-Khonsu
Hath parted from the darkling crowds.

Hath joined the dwellers of the light,
Opening Duant, the star-abodes,
Their keys receiving.
The dead man Ankh-f-n-Khonsu
Hath made his passage into night,
His pleasure on the earth to do
Among the living.

This is an important confirmation of the "kill me" reading, and it demonstrably shows Crowley proofreading the material as carefully as he probably ever did. It is

also important in that it dates from a period after the production of *The Equinox* I(10) in late 1913.

I often think that we are blessed with the current level of scholarship regarding Thelema, which — as I know better than most — knows no affiliation. I wish to thank Lutz for bringing this to my attention.

Love is the law, love under will.

Hymenaeus Beta
Frater Superior, O.T.O.

7 May 2013 e.v.