



**LESSER
BANISHING
RITUAL OF THE
PENTAGRAM**

STUDY GUIDE

By Czadihe

**Originally Published for
Kaleidoscope 2000**

A Pan-Traditional Esoteric Festival



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STUDY GUIDE

The Pansophia Study Guide Series, Volume 1, Issue 1, 3rd Revised Version, Special Kaleidoscope Edition



INSTALLMENTS OF THE PANSOPHIA STUDY GUIDE SERIES ARE THE PRODUCTS of essays and treatises, each by a different student of the Mysteries, and published by Psychopomp. In keeping with our mission and philosophy, we intend on publishing the esoteric works of students from the vast and various traditions, religions, lineages, Orders, and callings, whatever they may be, without prejudice. In the same way, the Psychopomp group does not necessarily agree with the opinions or positions that our authors may express, but we whole-heartedly support the *expression* of these opinions unanimously. We accept submissions from anyone who has a similar interest in sharing illumination, in an original and open-minded composition.

The author of our first Pansophia instalment, Czadihe, is an initiate of several Mystery Schools. He is a Ceremonial Magician, although he maintains that he "believes in nothing," is quite eclectic in his studies, as will be apparent in the following study.

By no means is this study guide intended to *teach* the Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram. Those of us involved in the authoring, critiquing and editing of this study "KNOW NOTHING". The author concedes that it is "too short and incomplete." It is simply intended to introduce the ritual, and stimulate the reader's desire to research for themselves why it is that Czadihe and many others suspect the ritual to be "absolutely essential for all serious Magickal Work."

THE LESSER BANISHING RITUAL OF THE PENTAGRAM



i. Touching the forehead say

ATEH

ii. Touching the breast say

—

iii. Touching the genitals say

MALKUTH

iv. Touching the right shoulder say

VE-GEBURAH

v. Touching the left shoulder say

VE-GEDULAH

vi. Place the two palms of the hands together and say

LE-OLAHM

AMEN

vii. Turning to the East make a pentagram with the proper weapon. Say

YHVH

viii. Turning to the South, the same, but say

ADNI

ix. Turning to the West, the same, but say

AHIH

x. Turning to the North, the same, but say

AGLA

xi. Extending the arms in the form of a Cross say:

xii. Before me RAPHAEL

xiii. Behind me GABRIEL

xiv. On my right hand MICHAEL

xv. On my left hand AURIEL

xvi. For about me flames the Pentagram

xvii. And in the Column stands the six-rayed Star.

xviii. to xxiii. Repeat i. to vi., the Qabalistic Cross.

0. A NOTE ON CEREMONIAL MAGICK



any Pagan groups and covens will refuse aspiring students who have studied Ceremonial Magick admittance into their fold. Such groups will forbid their members to study Magickal work in lieu of their own curriculum. This is unfortunate, considering the fact that Ceremonial Magick is not, in any way, contradictory or harmful to such curricula. Every ritual, celebration, Circle, Sabbath, spell, *etc.*, learned and performed by such groups, are Ceremonies, any way you look at it.

The implication is not that all Pagan groups are actually Ceremonialists in denial, but that the *Ceremony* is the common ground between *all* esoteric cultures. The only difference (subjectively speaking) is the individual group's focus and perspective, which verbally identifies them: A witch will identify with wisdom, a priest or priestess with parenthood, and a Ceremonialist with the *ceremony* proper.

As for Magick (with a "k"), it is the only version of the word that sports a specific and established definition (as opposed to *magic* – or the word *love* for that matter). Magick is "*the art and science of causing change in conformity with the will.*" This is precisely what is implied whenever the word Magick is used from here on in.

1. WHAT IS A BANISHING?



It is the primary and most essential ritual to **prelude** and **conclude** all other ritual, Magickal Work, or Operation. All Mystery Schools understand and teach (or should understand and teach) a Banishing of some sort.*

There are four main types of Ceremonial Magickal Operations, just as there are four divisions or quarters of the universe, the Banishing being the principal one:

Ceremonial Magickal Operations	Mundane Example (as in writing or other artistic composition)
Banishing is traditionally performed by Air . This suggests some sort of blade and yellow vestment, but is quite unnecessary.†	Clearing the mind and schedule of all thoughts and tasks for the work ahead;
Purification is traditionally performed by Water (or wine, when the Graal is used).	Conceiving of the subject matter, and concentrating on it exclusively;
Consecration is traditionally performed by Fire (usually symbolized by the Holy Oil).	Dedicating the implements to be used for the task at hand;
Solidification , Manifestation, or Transubstantiation is traditionally performed by Earth (the Disk, Pentacle, or Paten, and sometimes Salt).	Composing , and turning insubstantial thought into a solid work;
Banishing	Taking a break (making a sandwich)

There is an intriguing debate concerning the ordering of Ceremonial Operations, which should be noted here: Banishing before Purification, or *vice versa*? In *Book 4, Part 2, Chapter XIII, "Of The Banishings And Of The Purifications,"* it is written that, "*the cleansed and consecrated magician takes his cleansed and consecrated instruments into that cleansed and consecrated place, and there proceeds to repeat the double ceremony*"

* See note on the *Besom* in the *Scalae Iacobae II Purification*, part of our Pansophia Series.

† See section 3 below for an elaboration of this comment.

[cleansing and consecrating] *in the ceremony itself.*" Then it goes on to say, "*The first part of every ceremony is the Banishing.*"

The reader must research him or herself for clarity and resolve on this matter. All that can be suggested on the subject, here in this limited space, by an author that believes in nothing, is the natural order of the Elements of the Qabalistic Cross (shown in the chart above). Also, there is the fact that a Purification and a Consecration, on their own, are Ceremonies themselves (please review the end of the previous paragraph).

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A BANISHING?



Banishing sterilizes the environment, preventing a thing from being used for any other purpose until it is purified and Consecrated.

A **Purification** is the passive* cleansing of a thing (which can be an object, archetypal symbol or idea, or the Self) of all previous purposes.

A **Consecration** is the active dedication of a thing to a single purpose.

A Banishing is therefore the most appropriate preliminary operation before any other ritual or Magickal work. In essence, at the conclusion of a Banishing, a Magickal vacuum or void is created, from which all rituals can then proceed unimpeded by negative or superfluous influences.

A Banishing should also be performed at the end of certain types of ritual in order to, in essence, put everything away, just as one would dismantle Temple Furniture, implements, and clothing at the conclusion of a ceremony. Of course, there are certain types of ritual that one may desire its elements to linger. When in doubt, however, Banish.

3. DAGGERS OR DIGITS? ROBES OR RAW?



Whenever a weapon is used in a Banishing, a Sword, Dagger, or Athame is the traditional implement. The formula of the Blade is criticism, destruction, and dispersion when used within a Banishing.

A blade, however, is not absolutely necessary in order to perform the ritual properly. In fact, it is most common to perform it using the fingers of the right hand. Whatever is symbolically resonant with the individual should be employed.†

The general rule of thumb is: be comfortable, sensible, and use common sense. This is not meant to be a public ritual. It is extremely individual, so pomp and circumstance may spoil its purpose, which is to remove all extraneous debris that may weigh the individual down within their own universe.

For some, however, standing in the centre of a Temple Space, wearing full yellow regalia, and wielding a razor-sharp double-handed broadsword will feel most appropriate for success. But these are unnecessary vanities.

One eventually discovers, however, that sitting naked, in the Lotus Asana, on the carpet of one's living-room, that within one's glorious Astral Temple your vestments are as flamboyant as they need to be without being distracting, and your weapon can be finer, broader and sharper than any blade this civilisation can yet design.

* "Passive" as in the state of removal of debris.

† Always keep in mind what the Banishing is the prologue to. For example, if it is the personal Banishing for the beginning of the day, then a dishevelled and stiff naked body and finger is perfect. If it is the prelude to a consecration of some sort, the use of the Wand is perfectly acceptable. There are no rules. Only guidelines and common sense. The goal is not to make any Work you do too complicated or awkward, as this becomes counter-productive. Concentrated force of Will and unshakeable confidence, will assure a certain level of success within the Working, no matter what petty inconsistencies are present. Realising *in-ritus*, that you have forgotten to procure wine, and have to feign the libation, with properly applied conviction, the goddess *will* be present, as if you were holding the Holy Graal itself. There are "dog-faced demons" jeering at you from outside your circle. Preoccupations that have no place in ritual allow cracks in the circle wherein the Qliphoth flood-in and wreak havoc, *assuring* failure.

4. UNIVERSE BANISHED



n more elaborate ceremonies, it is usual to banish everything by name: planets, elements, signs, and even Sephiroth. It is neither advisable nor practical to do this regularly, due to the length of this type of Ritual. In a Lesser Banishing, once the Cardinal Elements are banished, we rely upon and trust the Archangels and all they rule and represent, to guard the Quarters.

Here are some examples and sites of such rituals, which may help out in the LBRP:

Greater Ritual of the Pentagram

http://www.rahoorkhuit.net/library/ceremonial/banishing/greater_ritual_of_the_pentagram_e.html

Greater Ritual of the Hexagram

http://www.rahoorkhuit.net/library/ceremonial/banishing/greater_ritual_of_the_hex_b_moon.html

Liber YOD sub figura DCCCXXXI (VESTA)

http://93.nu/site/thelema/libers/lib_0831.html

Literature:

THE EQUINOX VOLUME III, NUMBER FOUR; **EIGHT LECTURES ON YOGA**
BY MAHATMA GURU SRI PARAMAHANSA SHIVAJI (aka. **"YOGA FOR YAHOO'S"**)
<http://www.luckymojo.com/esoteric/occultism/magic/ceremonial/crowley/000elyoga.txt>

Liber TVRRIS vel Domvs Dei sub figura XVI

http://93.nu/site/thelema/libers/lib_0016.html

Liber E vel Exercitiorum sub figura IX

http://www.rahoorkhuit.net/library/libers/lib_0009.html

5. ORIENTAL & OCCIDENTAL PARALLELS



n the West, the practical intent of a Banishing is considered the same as the Oriental practice of Yoga, but has more of an astral (Raja) nature than a physical (Hatha) one. Also, to perform this ritual correctly, all sense of time and space dissolve.

Yoga is, by far, preferable to Western Occultism. Banishings, or other Workings which involve a dissolution or centring of being, should be considered under the following fact: that Yoga is 5000 years older, and like all other successful systems and states, has evolved and improved under the pressure and adversity of a constantly undulating environment.*

The only reason that Western Occult practices are so widely embraced here, instead of an obviously superior Oriental system, is because Western Occult addresses Occidental sensibilities directly. The Western mind seems to have a difficult time grasping the subtle concepts of Oriental esotericism.

Examples of common perplexities are:

What is the purpose of Yoga? If it's not competitive or challenging, then what's the point?

For many, relaxation, meditation, and annihilation of self are redundant when we do it nightly through sleep.

*If certain stretches, positions and asanas should not be painful when doing them, and the extent of our flexibility is barely to touch our knees, then how can we possibly reach **results** in our short lifetimes?*

Conversely: what practical purpose is there in getting to a point of gross contortion? Surely, the great secret behind Yoga cannot be Onanism!

* However, this is certainly not true for all systems. One Brother of O.T.O. suggests: "The Christian Church, in its various manifestations, is 2000 old: far older than the Banishing I made up last week, so do their rituals mean more? 5000 years is a lot of time for Broken Telephone: look at the Bible! Crowley himself says that one's crude rituals will do more good than the polished ones from the book. 'Success is your only proof'."

The truth of the matter is that Western Occult and Eastern Esotericism are not opposed at all. "*For pure will, unassuaged of purpose, delivered from the lust of result, is every way perfect,*"* is an apt sentiment of advanced Western Occult philosophy, which is almost commonplace in the East. Many students of the Western Mysteries are introduced to the subtle concepts of the Orient through practices of Western Occultism.

Even though the Banishing seems packed with symbolism, and reverberating repercussions, the actual intent of the ritual is the expulsion of all Qliphothic or counter-productive aspects of your personal universe.†

Western Occult Mystery Schools compare Eastern and Western esoteric practices thus:

Yoga	Equiv. or Related	Path of Union	Magick
Karmayoga	Yama & Niyama	Union through Work and Action	The Acts of Service to Humanity
Mantrayoga	Pranayama	Union through Speech and Vibration	Invocations & Evocations
Jñānayoga	The Vedas, Bhagavad-Gita, Kama Sutra, Tao Te Ching, etc.	Union by Knowledge	The Holy Qabalah or Oral Tradition
Hathayoga	Asana	Union by Courage	The Ordeals and Initiations
Bhaktiyoga	Tantrayoga	Union by Love	The Acts of Worship and Sex Magick
Rajayoga	Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana & Samadhi (or Samyama)	Union by Will	The Sacred Magick

6. Senses, Symbols & the Astral Plane



peculiar subclass of "real" sensual phenomena, of the "Operations of Ceremonial Magick" consist of:

Sight Circle, square, triangle, vessels, lamps, robes, implements, etc. (all symbols represented physically).

Sound The Invocations & Evocations & Vibrations.

Smell The Perfumes and Incenses.

Taste The Sacraments & Libations.

Touch Circle, square, triangle, vessels, lamps, robes, implements, etc. (all symbols represented physically).

Mind The perfect combination of all these within the forum of perception.

* Liber AL, I:44

† As divinity, one literally destroys the universe in order to rebuild it from scratch, perfectly. A mundane example of the connotations of this practice is "Severe Spring Cleaning": Every item of furniture, art, appliance, book, and scrap, is thrown out, leaving bare walls, floors and ceilings. These are then scrubbed down, sanded free of paint, swept, vacuumed, sterilised, and aired out. This is the Banishing. The ritual or activity that follows is the painting, procuring of new furniture and desired literature, interior decorating, etc. to your specific requirements. The environment is now fresh and desirable, whereas previously it had been stuffy and bogged down by superfluous baggage and debris.

It is popularly understood that "real" senses are not necessary to achieve enlightenment or Samadhi. All senses and a different form of "mind" are present, if worked-toward, on the Astral Plane. Therefore, nothing but the individual is necessary for advanced Magickal Work.

For individuals who have not (or are not sure if they have) worked on Astral levels, perhaps the best way to approach it, is to learn the symbolically-pregnant yet brief LBRP; and once learned, to perform it on a regular basis using nothing but visualisation and imagination. Eventually, visualisation will improve with tenacity, and "breaks" (of concentration) will trickle down to negligible levels, and perhaps then the doors of perception will be open...

7. RECOVERING CATHOLICS



The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram is the most common Banishing Ritual of Western Occultism. It is a Qabalistic ritual, which resonates widely within most Mystery Schools. However, students of the Mysteries who have actively rejected the Judeo-Christo-Moslem tradition in their lives, sometimes have a negative spasmodic aversion to the ritual, and wonder how such a ritual could have possibly survived in the hands of pagans and magicians for so long.

Avoiding a history lesson here, your own research will perhaps reveal that the answer lies in the history of European theology. The following is a selection of eloquent excerpts on the topic, by Dion Fortune:

"Very few students of occultism know anything at all about the fountain-head whence their tradition springs. Many of them do not even know there is a Western Tradition ...

"It may be asked why it is that the Western nations should go to the Hebrew culture for their mystical tradition? ... Everything must have a source. Cultures do not spring out of nothing. The seed-bearers of each new phase of culture must of necessity arise within a preceding culture ... The Christian races owe their religion to the Jewish culture as surely as the Buddhist races of the East owe theirs to the Hindu culture ...

"The mysticism of Israel supplies the foundation of modern Western occultism. It forms the theoretical basis upon which all ceremonial is developed...

"The original stream of Hebraic mysticism has received many tributaries. We see its rise among the nomad star-worshippers of Chaldea, where Abraham in his tent among his flocks hears the voice of God...

"Generation by generation we trace the intercourse of the princes of Israel with the priest-kings of Egypt. Abraham and Jacob went thither; Joseph and Moses were intimately associated with the court of the royal adepts ... [By Solomon and Hiram,] we know that the famous Tyrian Mysteries must have profoundly influenced the Hebrew esotericism ... [By Daniel,] we know that the wisdom of the Magi must have been accessible to Hebrew Illuminati ...

"Esoteric tradition avers that the boy Jesus ben Joseph ... was sent to the Essenian community near the Dead Sea to be trained in the mystical tradition of Israel ... The closing of the Lord's Prayer is pure Qabalism ...*

"The exoteric, state-organized section of the [Dark-Age Roman Catholic] Christian Church persecuted and stamped-out the esoteric section, destroying every trace of its literature upon which it could lay hands in striving to eradicate the very memory of a gnosis from human history. It is recorded that the baths and bake houses of Alexandria were fired for six months with the manuscripts from the great library. Very little remains to us of our spiritual heritage in the ancient wisdom. Everything that was above ground was swept away, and it is only with the excavation of ancient monuments the sands have swallowed that we are beginning to rediscover its fragments ...

"The organized temporal force of the Church availed to drive all rivals from the field and destroy their traces. We little know what seeds of mystical tradition sprang up only to be cut down during the Dark Ages; but mysticism is inherent in the human race, and although the Church had destroyed all roots of tradition in her group-soul, nevertheless devout spirits ... rediscovered ... a characteristic Yoga of their own, closely akin to Bhakti Yoga of the East ...

"In consequence of this deplorable limitation on the part of our theology many Western aspirants take up Eastern methods ...

"I would recommend to the white races the traditional Western system, which is admirably adapted to their psychic constitution."

[Excerpts from *The Mystical Qabalah*, by Dion Fortune; First published in England, 1935; Samuel Weiser, Inc. York Beach, Maine, 1984.]

* Matthew 6: 9 - 15, "Our Father ... For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, for ever. Amen." Literally, "Ateh Malkuth, ve-Geburah, ve-Gedulah, le-Olahm. Amen."

In the Orient, unbroken lines of Mystery Traditions continued to flourish during the Dark ages of the West. Theirs and ours come from a common prehistoric origin.

From the East, those traditions were passed on, ultimately to the great crossroads of the Middle East. Much of Western Occult DNA has been filled in with elements of this Sister tradition. *Never* does it disagree with what fragments we have been able to keep of our own arcane traditions.

8. HOLY QABALAH



he study of Qabalah is a life-long pursuit. Within the Judaic communities, the study is forbidden to women, and only available to Rabbis who have already reached a certain autumnal age, have grown a long beard, have been married, and perhaps have had children. In essence, men who have already trodden the steps of life well.

Those who study Qabalah are aware of the vast and complex natural curriculum that seems to span lifetimes to fully grasp. One wonders how even an old Rabbi is able to command the fractal-like qualities of this rich mystical tradition.

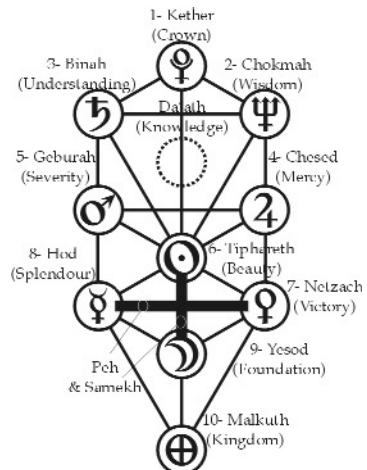
Perhaps a clue to the answer lies in the very name of the tradition itself: Qoph, Beth, and Lamed are the Hebrew characters that spell out the word Qabalah, which loosely translates as "passed on by word of mouth" or "oral tradition." This explains the old suggestion that it is more efficient to be *trained* in Qabalah, rather than simply learn it.* This is certainly true for disciplines such as Martial Arts or learning a Language.

9. THE TREE OF LIFE



he foremost glyph used in Qabalah is the enigmatic Tree of Life. Each line connecting the circles together are called Paths or Atu (keys), and each circle is called a Sephira or a sphere. Da'ath, however, is not a Sephira, but a veil, or an abyss, separating the Archetypal (1, 2, 3) triad above, from the Creative (4, 5, 6), Formative (7, 8, 9), and Material (10) worlds.

Each Path (22 of them) represents the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and in Western Esotericism, the 22 Major Arcana Cards of the Tarot.



10. STARTING THE BANISHING



he LBRP is a Qabalistic Banishing; it is traditional that one stands erect, facing East, *within* the Tree of life itself. The Tree of Life is a glyph of the universe; so do not imagine that it merely spans the length and breadth of your Temple Space.

The specific location where you stand within the Tree is on the intersection of the Paths of Peh (Roman "P, Ph, or F", XVI The Tower) and Samekh (Roman "S", XIV Temperance / Art), as indicated by the thick cross on the illustration above.

One important thing you must keep in mind is that you are going to impose a microcosmic Tree, using your own body. Looking at the illustration below, imagine yourself superimposed onto it. Imagine that the top of your head is just below Kether. Chokmah and Binah float just above your shoulders, but Chesed and Geburah are upon them. Da'ath circles your throat. Tiphareth is your heart, Yesod is at your navel, Netzach and Hod represent your forearms to your hands, as the Sephiroth rest on your elbows, and Malkuth rests at the base of your genitals. Not exactly the best anthropomorphic scaling, but the corresponding Cakras of your body will serve as conduits in empowering the three Pillars of your microcosmic Tree.

* It is documented that Pythagoras himself travelled to Egypt and to the Middle East as a young man, where he learned from the Priests and Rabbis, before returning to his home as a celebrated adept of the Mysteries. Perhaps his most famous Theorem for Right Triangle was a Qabalistically-inspired formula, considering Qabalah's rich and complex mathematical and numerological aspects.



Feel the Pillar of Equilibrium, named after Tiphareth, course through your centre points deep within your core. But notice that your right side, as you face yourself from the illustration, follows along the Pillar of Severity, named after Geburah. Feel the heat and the power of this Pillar along your right arm and side. In the same way, feel the cool energy of the Pillar of Mercy, named after Chesed, along your left arm and side. One Pillar cannot exist without the other.



Now here's the twister: You, as the Microcosmic Tree of Life, can only affirm your identity within the macrocosmic Tree if they are both in accordance with each other. This would mean that the illustration, to more accurately represent the universe, should be flipped-over onto its front. Hod is on your right, and Netzach is on your left.

Feel the Rising Sun of Tiphareth on your face.

Feel the cool, damp glow of the Moon in Yesod on your back.

On your right, feel the mystical warmth of Mercurial Hod.

On your left, the cool earthy musk of Venus in Netzach.

11. THE GREAT CROSSROAD



If you're not comfortable with the Tree of Life yet, it is recommended that you stick to what you *are* familiar with. The centring at the beginning of the Banishing is so important. One is literally placing one's self at the epicentre of the universe. If it is easier for you to visualise being surrounded by the four Elements, then so be it. But be sure to be in the centre of a *three-dimensional* universe. This is to say, do not *stand* upon the Great crossroad, but become the crossroad: the intersection being at your heart. Perhaps instead of a crossroad, a cube may be appropriate. Whatever resonates and works for the individual.

Also, as was stated previously, standing is not absolutely necessary (although strongly advised at the beginning, until the ritual is well practised). A Lotus or other suitable Asana is acceptable. Just don't expect to be able to turn physically to face the quarters without some problems. The only necessity is that the spine is perfectly straight, or as close to it as possible, for good alignment and flow of energy.*

* "With every one of the five centres active and throwing power into the mind and body, and there is a clear awareness of an actual column extending interiorly from the crown of the head to the soles of the feet ... It requires, above all, to be attempted in the spirit of honest investigation and tried again and again until the current of energy responds to the firm command of the will, thus following the course directed. Once clearly commanded, the current flows in that direction quite automatically and on its own momentum. The mind, naturally, must be calm and concentrated, not prone to wander off into pleasant excursions on the day's events." [Israel Regardie, the Middle Pillar]

12. NOTES ON THE LBRP

(The Roman numerals to the left of the notes indicate which section of the LBRP is being described.)

i. The Qabalistic Cross: The Pillar of Equilibrium



After the initial centring and visualisation in silence, impose* a microcosmic Middle Pillar upon the "natural" universe. Feel an enormous acceleration of energy from a straight column at your core, connected through the heels of your feet (if standing), the base of your genitals, heart, throat, and just above the crown of your head.

Starting from the heart, which radiates like a golden sun, describe a path upwards. With the touch on the forehead and the vibration† of "ATEH"‡, the Ajna Chakra is activated, and a blinding white light explodes from the top of your head into infinity above.

ii. Come back to the heart. At this point, some Magicians vibrate the name of their "Holy Guardian Angel" or their "true" name, if they are aware of it. Most have no knowledge of this ineffable name, so the identity is merely acknowledged here silently. It is traditional for Thelemic Magicians to vibrate the name AIWASS, as this is the "Holy Guardian Angel" of Thelema.

iii. Continue the movement down to the base of the pelvis, vibrating "MALKUTH,"§ where a prismatic or rainbow** light shoots eternally downwards. In this way, you have affirmed your microcosmic Middle Pillar within the universe.

iv. The Qabalistic Cross: The Pillar of Severity

Come back to the heart, and trace a straight channel to the right shoulder, vibrating "VE-GEBURAH,"†† where a hot attractive Ruby light explodes vertically, parallel to the Middle Pillar, into eternity above and below you. Feel the heat along your right side.

v. The Qabalistic Cross: The Pillar of Mercy

Again to the heart, and tracing a channel to the left shoulder, vibrating "VE-GEDULAH,"‡‡ a Sapphire light shoots vertically, parallel to the Middle Pillar, into eternity above and below you. Feel the comforting coolness along your left side.

vi. Affirmation of the Qabalistic Cross

Come back to the heart to complete the description of the Cross.

It is usual to fling out one's arms at this point, in the "Sign of Osiris Slain" or "Crucified Christ," vibrating "LE-OLAHM,"§§ and then clasping both hands*** onto one's sunny, golden heart, feeling its warmth and revolution, vibrating "AMEN"†††.††††

* The "imposition" of a beam of self-generated light should not be violent in nature, but in complete harmony and balance with this universe, considering that you are in the process of describing a Zen-like Middle Pillar of Equilibrium.

† The word "vibration" is traditionally used in this ritual, as compared to any other vocal mechanism, because it most appropriately describes what is being done. Sometimes, the ritual is performed physically silent, whereas the "vibration" may be unbearably resonant on Astral levels.

‡ "Ateh" means "Unto You." The terms "You" or "Thee" do not necessarily refer to any deity in particular, unless it is unto AHIH (Eheieh), the name that the god of Moses identified Himself with, which literally means "I am!" The position of the crown Chakra is attributed to AHIH. So, whatever or Whomever the individual understands as AHIH, is correct.

§ Malkuth means "Kingdom."

** It is not totally incorrect to use the traditional genital Chakra colour of Wine or Puce at this point, if in a sitting position, or if the ritual to follow involves sexuality. But the reason we strongly recommend the Malkuthian prismatic colours is because we are affirming the Middle Pillar with the length of the whole body. And so, in the same way as we touch the forehead to trigger the crown emanation, which is actually above our heads, we touch the base of our torso to trigger the Malkuthian emanation, which is below our feet.

†† Ve-Geburah means "and the Power."

‡‡ Ve-Gedulah means "and the Glory."

§§ Le-Olahm means "Unto the Ages" or "For Ever and Ever."

*** Among those who understand Alchemical and Rosicrucian doctrine, it is not unusual, at the point of vibrating "Amen," to slowly unravel one's hands from the clasped position, like a rose blooming at the centre of the Cross.

††† Amen meaningfully translates to "So Mote it Be" or "So Be It."

†††† One translation of what has just been affirmed is "Within the Universe, I AM the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever! So Mote it Be!"

vii. Banishing Air

Facing the East, place the forward-pointing right foot in the hollow of the left foot, creating a Tau. Describe a Banishing Earth Pentagram*, visualising it clearly before you. Whatever you choose as the colour and nature of your Pentagram, it should appear imposing and real.†

"Breathe deeply through the nostrils, imagining the name of the god desired [in this case, YHVH] entering through the breath.

"Let that name descend slowly from the lungs to the heart, the solar plexus, the navel, the generative organs, and so to the feet.

"The moment that it appears to touch the feet, quickly advance the left foot about 12 inches, throw forward the body, and let the hands (drawn back to the side of the eyes) shoot out, so that you are standing in the typical position of the god Horus, and at the same time imagine the name as rushing up and through the body, while you breathe it out through the nostrils with the air which has been till then retained in the lungs. All this must be done with all the force of which you are capable.

"Then withdraw the left foot and place the right forefinger upon the lips, so that you are in the characteristic position of the god Harpocrates."

[A Few Principal Instructions Authorized by the A.'.A.'. Liber O vel Manus et Sagittae, Sub Figura VI (6)]

YHVH, the forbidden name of the Hebrew god, is popularly pronounced Jehovah or Yahweh, but it is common practice for Magicians to vibrate the Hebrew letters individually: "Yod Heh Vau Heh," considering that the name is supposed to be unpronounceable, and that the letters themselves represent the four Elements, and hence, the physical universe. Others vibrate the name as they appear (e.g. "Yeveh"). There is no standard.

Hoor-Pa-Kraat (Harpocrates) is commonly seen with the index finger upon the lips. Children in general, in ancient Egyptian illustrations, were shown thus, sucking on their fingers. Children today are typically illustrated sucking on their thumbs. For greater resonance with this New Aeon, it is not uncommon to place the thumb on the lips as the Sign Of Silence for the reason stated above, and also because traditionally, the Index is the digit of Water, while the thumb is that of Spirit - the most silent of the elements.

Point towards the centre of the Banished Quarter, and bring it around to the South, maintaining a centre at your feet from which to Work:

"It is a sign that the student is performing this correctly when a single 'vibration' entirely exhausts his physical strength. It should cause him to grow hot all over, or to perspire violently, and it should so weaken him that he will find it difficult to remain standing.

"It is a sign of success, though only by the student himself is it perceived, when he hears the name of the god vehemently roared forth, as if by the concourse of ten-thousand thunders; and it should appear to him as if that Great Voice proceeded from the Universe, and not from himself.

"In both the above practices all consciousness of anything but the god-form and name should be absolutely blotted out; and the longer it takes for normal perception to return, the better."

[A Few Principal Instructions Authorized by the A.'.A.'. Liber O vel Manus et Sagittae, Sub Figura VI (6)]

viii. Banishing Fire

Same as above, but facing South, and vibrating ADNI (pronounced Adonai, meaning "Lord").

* For a full description of all the pentagrams, please see our Pansophia Study Guide Series Supplement on the Pentagrams.

† *"These rituals should be practised until the figures drawn appear in flame, in flame so near to physical flame that it would perhaps be visible to the eyes of a bystander, were one present. It is alleged that some persons have attained the power of actually kindling fire by these means. Whether this be so or not, the power is not one to be aimed at."* [A Few Principal Instructions Authorized by the A.'.A.'. Liber O vel Manus et Sagittae, Sub Figura VI (6)]

ix. Banishing Water

Same as above, but facing West, and vibrating AHHH (pronounced Eheieh, meaning "I am").

x. Banishing Earth

Same as above, but facing North, and vibrating AGLA. A.G.L.A. is a Notariqon, which stands for "Ateh Gibor le-Olahm Adonai." It means "*Thou art Mighty Forever, O Lord!*" It is not uncommon for Magicians to actually vibrate the entire phrase, but if AGLA is understood to mean this very thing, then it is no different than calling self-contained underwater breathing apparatus equipment, SCUBA gear. More than this may be superfluous.

At this point a three-quarter circle has been described. To complete the Elemental Banishing, bring the description back around to the East.

xi. Angelic Sentinels of the Quarters*

Fling out your arms in the Sign of Osiris Slain, or Crucified Christ.†

xii. Guardian of the East, the Just Solar Swordsman

The Archangels are not merely the guardians against the Banished Elements at the Quarters. They must be called upon to guard the very ends of eternity from the Elements, as well as all aspects that they rule: in their Quarters *and* Sephiroth. The very names of the Archangels contain keys to their dominions.

For example, RAPHAEL, called upon to guard the East, is called at Tiphareth, which is Beauty, Balance, and the Sun. The very letters of his Hebrew name, RPAL, indicates him as having a "head of solar glory" (**Resh head**, Ra "sun"), is a fierce (**Peh**, attributed to Mars) warrior wielding the Sword Excalibur (**Aleph**, attributed to Air) and the scales (**Lamed**, attributed to Libra). He stands in the East, so he is seen with **the morning wind in his golden hair glowing with the cool yellow sun of daybreak.**

(Mind you, the images and symbolism given here for all the Archangels are merely traditional suggestions. There are those who visualise them not as anthropomorphic beings at all, but as some form of the Elements or Sephiroth themselves, super-dimensional geometrical figures, blasts of fire, or smoke, effervescent apparitions, or even monstrous creatures!)

"Before me, [vibrate:] RAPHAEL!"

* "As you vibrate the Divine Name the angels, as given in the ritual, appear (note well that they should appear and if the ritual is properly performed do appear)." [Aleister Crowley, from unpublished Notes on the Ritual of the Pentagram]

† "These archangels are at points on the Tree of Life which cause them to surround as described one who is 'crucified' thereon." [Aleister Crowley, from comments to *The Temple of the Holy Ghost*]

xiii. Guardian of the West, the Great Mother Goddess

It is the practice of many Magicians to insist on equilibrium throughout all aspects of ritual. If the Angels are not entities of gender, many people interpret sexes within the Angels. Certain Magicians, in order to best visualise them, identify them as familiar and traditional figures:

Gabriel

GABRIEL guards the West, which is attributed to Water, whose weapon is the Holy Graal,

and the colour of the Element is Blue.

But GABRIEL also stands in Yesod, the "Foundation" that is attributed to the Moon, where the Cherubim dwell. In the Hebrew letters **GBRIAL**, **Gimel** represents the Moon.

Beth betrays the Angel's inner identity as the Psychopomp, who easily travels between Paradise, the Kingdom, and the Underworld, delivering the Divine Word and Seed (**Resh**) to us, and delivering us into the Lunar plane of the Subconscious.

The Yod in GBRIAL is attributed to Virgo, the Virgin, although Elemental Water is the amniotic fluid of all life. Nevertheless, the Ancient Roman word, *Virgo*, actually means *young woman*, derived from the root *Vir*, meaning *youth* (usually attributed to a young man). When the Romans meant to say "young woman who has never had sex," they would say, "*Virgo Intacta*," **intact** young woman.

And again, the **Aleph** and **Lamed** in the name, exists in all the Archangel's names. In the case of GBRIAL, **Aleph** is attributed to Nut or Nuit of the Egyptian Pantheon,

and **Lamed** is attributed to Maat.

The Great Goddess

Mary Magdalene, wife of Jeheshuah, according to legend, collected some of the blood that flowed from him when the Romans crucified him.

Maria, the Roman Goddess of the Ocean, was blue, and Mary of Nazareth is traditionally swathed in blue.

The connection between the goddess Maria and the goddess Luna was inextricably linked, as shown by Maria's tides.

Mary of Nazareth was impregnated by a moonbeam in the form of a dove, in the subconscious realm of dream. It is traditional to attribute this visitation to Gabriel, god's messenger.

Mary of Nazareth gave a *virgin* birth to the demigod Jeheshuah according to mythology. In most languages, the root "Ma" means "Mother."

Nuit is another Great Mother Goddess, whose colour is the deep starry azure of the vault of the night sky.

Maat, again, is an Egyptian goddess whose name begins with the matronly MA.

Perhaps the visualisation of Gabriel is that of a **powerful woman in blue, holding a shining Graal, and standing at the shores of the Great Sea, with the musk of the sea-sprinkled sand in one's nostrils.**

"Behind me, GABRIEL!"

xiv. Guardian of the South, Vulcan Forger of Life

MIKAL guards the Banished quarter of Fire, which gives him curly red hair, like a mane, wears red armour, and has him wielding a great staff of Almond*, a great poker, or a Lance: The Spear of Destiny. He works a fire in a Great Forge, or stands at the lip of a sulphurous volcano, or keeps a Dragon at bay. Whatever visualisation best suits you along these lines is appropriate.

But Michael stands at Hod, "Splendour," which is Mercury, which gives him a watery nature, and associates him also to the Psychopomp Hermes and the Magus, Thoth. A dagger symbolizes the Alchemical principal of Mercury. Perhaps he should be wearing this dagger tucked into a yellow belt.

In the letters **MIKAL**, **Mem** is the letter of Water, and is attributed to Neptune and Poseidon. Perhaps this quality is that which keeps Fire at bay and quells the Dragon's breath. In this way, Michael should probably be seen drenched in the sweat of noble labour.

Yod is the Hermit, who, as revealed in the Tarot, holds the Staff of fire, as well as the Lamp of Lustration. The designation "Hermit" betrays the identity under the hood, which is Hermes himself. Yod is also associated to Adonis and Narcissus, so he must be truly comely to behold.

Kaph is attributed to the gods Jupiter, Zeus, Pluto, and Amon-Ra. Here, Michael's powers are revealed: Jupiter who is "Deus Pater," father of the gods. Zeus, lord of the Fiery Thunderbolt. Pluto, Lord and dweller of the sulphurous Underworld, hidden like the Hermit, as is Amon-Ra, whose name literally means "Hidden Sun."

Aleph and Lamed, again: Aleph is a reinforcement of Michael's Lordly and Fiery nature as Zeus and Jupiter, but also of his concealed and silent nature as Hoor-Pa-Kraat (Harpocrates), the god of silence, the babe in the egg, the lord of defence and protection.

Lamed, along with being the Balance, giving him and the other Angels a just disposition, Lamed is also attributed to Vulcan, Lord of Fire, whose forge was said to be a volcano.

"On my right hand, MICHAEL!"

xv. Guardian of the North, Princess of the Eternal Winter Flame

Again, for the sake of equilibrium, some Magicians attribute AURIEL with feminine principals, a Princess, as she rules Earth. But she is no pampered Princess. According to tradition, she can be terrifying. Uriel is said to be the angel who guards the entrance to the Garden of Eden, sporting hundreds of eyes and wielding a flaming sword.

Standing sentinel at the Banished Quarter of Earth, Auriel guards the vacant Round Table against desecration in the dead of Winter, for the return of the Graal Knights. A multi-coloured Shield with a Pentagram standard is held. Thick furs are worn, and full dark hair crowns the head. Stillness, sleep, and death are all around, and deep snow blankets the earth, and frosty icicles hang from the barren branches.

But Auriel is in Netzach (Victory), which is lovely Venus, who wears an amber girdle, studded with emeralds. Netzach is attributed to the Fire of Passion sparked by Yonic Prana. She keeps the Graal Castle vital and warm with this Fire, smelling of Red Sandalwood, decorating the palace with Roses and cool Emeralds.

The letters **AURIAL** have 2 **Alephs**, reinforcing her identity as the Ox or Cow of the Earth Goddess. She may also be Nuit, who bends over all of creation as the vault of the night sky. This shape is also reminiscent of the horns of the Cow, as well as Hathor, who is also represented by Netzach.

Vau is the letter of Taurus (of which the Moon is exalted) and Shiva as the Sacred Bull, again reinforcing the Earthy and Bovine identity. It is also the letter representing Hera; goddess of the Hearth, again displaying Auriel's hidden Fiery nature.

* According to Qabalistic Numerology (Gematria), Aaron's rod, in Exodus, which turned into a serpent and back again on command, was called a "rod of almond": Hebrew, "MTH HShQD" (*Meta Heshiqod*: M (40) + T (9) + H (5) + H (5) + Sh (300) + Q (100) + D (4) = **463**). Perhaps not surprisingly, we can see that the Path from Malkuth to Yesod, Tau, equals 400. From Yesod to Tiphareth, Samekh, is 60. From Tiphareth to Kether, Gimel, is 3. 400 + 60 + 3 = **463!**

Resh betrays the trigger of her Yonic Fire, which is through Solar or Phallic enticement. As the goddess of Winter, perhaps her consort is a ruler of the Underworld, linking her to Michael, as Raphael is linked to Gabriel.

Yod rules Venus and Luna, reinforcing the trend as before. It is also the letter of Isis, Ceres, and Floris, goddesses who rule the fertility of the Earth, as well as Vesta, again, a goddess of the Hearth and home, who keeps an eternal flame lit.

Lamed, again, is attributed to Venus, and the Scales of Justice. Also, it is the letter of the NOX sign of *Puella*, which is that of a young woman. A Princess.

"On my left hand, AURIEL!"

xvi. The Microcosmic-Elemental & Macrocosmic-Celestial Vacuum

Maintain arms outstretched for the final affirmation.*

"For about me flames the Pentagram!"

xvii. "And in the Column stands the six-rayed Star!"

At this point, you are literally floating within NOTHING. Every elemental aspect of yourself has stepped forth to guard the quarters all about you (as well as other aspects of the universe). Your three Qabalistic pillars, and Rosy Cross have eclipsed the rest of the planets and zodiac on microcosmic and macrocosmic scales (as well as other aspects of the universe), leaving only the purest and truest Self in the Centre of a dimensionless point.

xviii. to xxiii. In the Beginning ...

Repeat the Qabalistic Cross at the beginning, to conclude the ritual (i to vi). Fashion the universe in your own image...

13. SUPPLEMENTAL

A) Personalize your Banishing

A Banishing is an extremely individual ritual. No two people perform it exactly alike. In order to personalize the Banishing to *your* own tastes and resonances, it is strongly advised that you perform this one to the limit of your understanding first. Once this has been reached, the aspects of the Holy Names and Symbols embraced, then it can, by all means, be fashioned after your particular tradition or calling.

We have seen such a thing done using Arthurian, Buddhist, Celtic, Egyptian, and Hindu reverberations, without changing one iota of symbolism depicted in this sublime ritual.

On a final note, mark well and discover the meaning behind the following note, written by Aleister Crowley, in *Temple of the Holy Ghost*:

"Those who regard this ritual as a mere device to invoke or banish spirits, are unworthy to possess it. Properly understood, it is the Medicine of the Metals and the Stone of the Wise."

* *"You are thus standing in a Column which is protected by your microcosmic invocation. The consequent result, being macrocosmic response, is that without any effort on your part the hexagram or sixfold star appears both above and below you ... In this way you are completely shut off from the outer and Qliphothic parts of the universe ... Get well into your mind the realisation of this Column with its surrounding pentagrams and its hexagrams above and below you." [Aleister Crowley, from unpublished Notes on the Ritual of the Pentagram]*

B) Some Designations for Vibratory Pitch, Frequencies, and Vowels

Freq. (Vibr./Sec.) and Pitch	Vowel & Consonant Sounds	AMORC Colour Harmonic	BOTA Colour Harmonic	Hebrew Alphabet (Roman Equiv.)
(2 to 32) Touch				
(32 to 144) Bass Sound				
Vocal Range:				
D (144)	um, om, aum	Green-Blue	Orange	Resh (R)
D#	C, Ch	Blue	Yellow-Orange	Cheth (C, Ch)
E	A, B	Blue-Violet	Yellow	Aleph (A), Beth (B)
F	Y, I, J	Violet	Yellow-Green	Yod (Y, I, J)
F#	D	Violet-Red	Emerald Green	Daleth (D)
G (192)	N	Deep Red	Blue-Green	Nun (N)
G# (202.5)	oh	Red	Blue	Gimel (G)
A (213)	O, T, Th	Red-Orange	Blue-Violet	Ayin (O), Tau (T, Th)
A# (226.5)	K	Orange	Violet	Kaph (K)
B (240)	Q, Qu, Kh	Yellow	Violet-Red	Qoph (Q, Kh)
Mid. C (256)	meh, heh, eh.	Yellow-Green	Scarlet Red	Heh (H, Eh, Ah)
C# (272)	U, V, W	Green	Red-Orange	Vau (U, V, W)
D (288)	mai	Green-Blue	Orange	Zain (Z)
D# (304)	C, Ch	Blue	Yellow-Orange, Amber	Cheth (C, Ch)
E (320)	khei	Blue-Violet	Yellow	Aleph (A), Beth (B)
F (341)	Y, I, J	Violet	Yellow-Green	Yod (Y, I, J)
F# (362.5)	tho	Violet-Red	Emerald Green	Lamed (L)
G (384)	Eye, ai	Deep Red	Blue-Green	Nun (N)
G# (405)	M, S	Red	Deep Blue	Mem (M), Samekh (S)
A (427)	ra, ma	Red-Orange	Blue-Violet, Indigo	Ayin (O), Tau (T, Th)
A# (453)	Tz, Cz, X	Orange	Violet	Tzaddi (Tz, Cz, X)
B (480)	ehm, em	Yellow	Violet-Red, Crimson	Qoph (Q, Kh)
C (512)	P, Ph, F, Sh	Yellow-Green	Glowing Orange Scarlet Red	Peh (P, Ph, F), Shin (Sh)
C# (544)	H, Eh, Ah	Green	Red-Orange	Heh (H, Eh, Ah)
D (576)	R	Green-Blue	Orange	Resh (R)
D# (608)	C, Ch	Blue	Yellow-Orange	Cheth (C, Ch)

E (640)	u, oo	Blue-Violet	Yellow	Aleph (A), Beth (B)
F (683)	Y, I, J	Violet	Yellow-Green	Yod (Y, I, J)
F# (725)	D	Violet-Red	Green	Daleth (D)
G (768)	N	Deep Red	Blue-Green	Nun (N)
G# (810)	G	Red	Blue	Gimel (G)
A (853)	O, T, Th	Red-Orange	Blue-Violet	Ayin (O), Tau (T, Th)
A# (906)	K	Orange	Violet	Kaph (K)
B (960)	Q, Qu, Kh	Yellow	Violet-Red	Qoph (Q, Kh)
C (1024)	er	Yellow-Green	Red	Peh (P, Ph, F), Shin (Sh)
(1024 to 16,384) Treble Sound				
(16384 to 400,000,000) Long Electromagnetic (Radio) Waves				
(400,000,000 to 274,877,906,944) Short Electromagnetic (Micro) Waves				
(274,877,906,944 to 281,474,976,710,656) Heat & Infrared				
(281,474,976,710,656 to 1,688,849,860,245,936) Visible Light (Colours)				
(1,688,849,860,245,936 to 72,057,594,037,927,936) Ultraviolet				
(72,057,594,037,927,936 to 4,611,686,018,427,387,904) X-Rays				
(4,611,686,018,427,387,904 ...) Gamma and Cosmic Radiation				