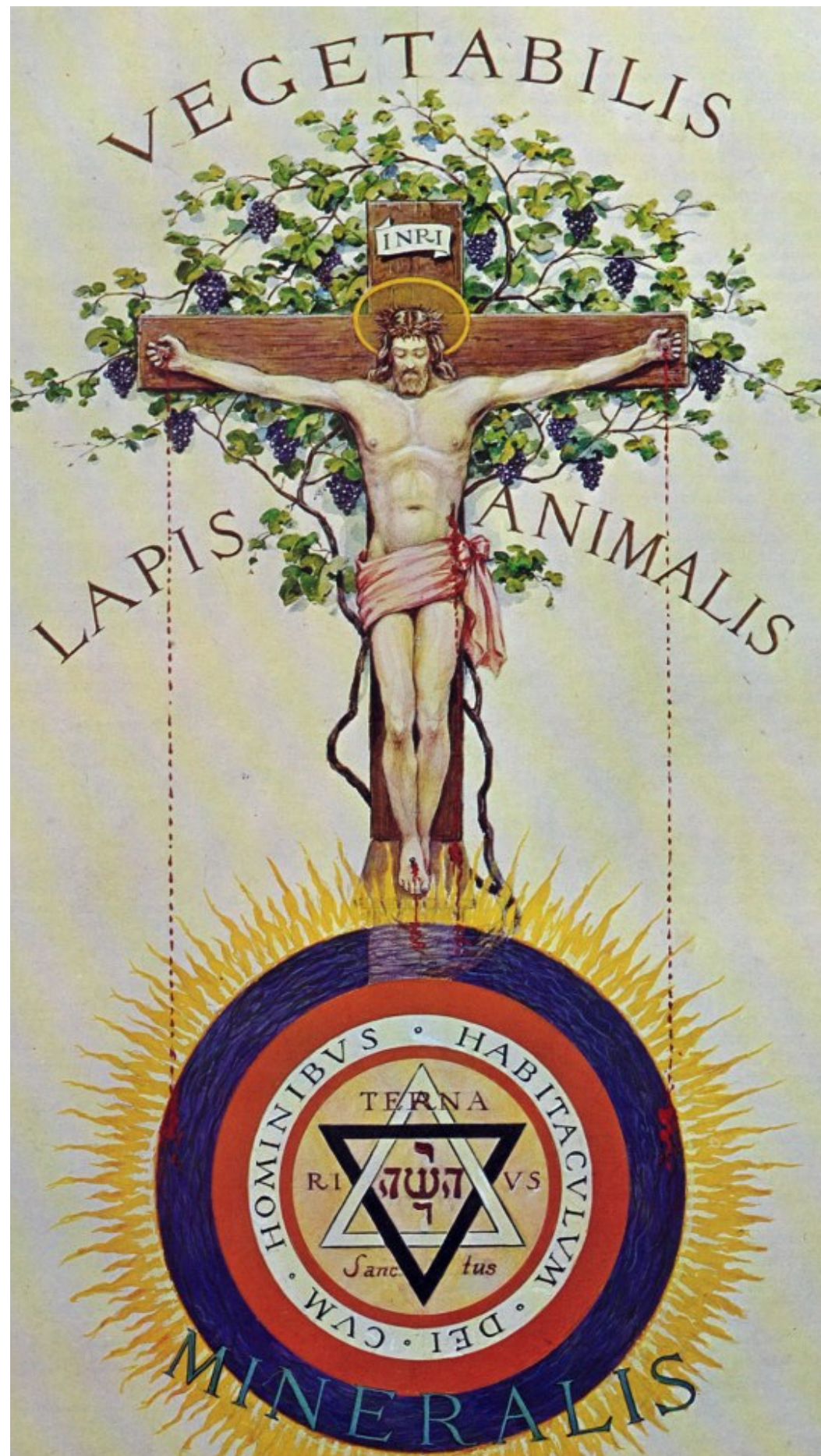


Zelator Degree by Ronald Naumowicz, Grade IV, Fall 2019.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the First Grade in the S.R.I.C.F. For the purpose of explaining what the Degree covered and to provide additional Light to the Fraters who received it. It is my hope this information provides the building blocks necessary to understanding this Grade, while providing the Fratres the spiritual tools necessary to support their growth and understanding in this amazing Order.

A Frater shared this picture with me when I discussed what this paper would cover. I must admit that it fits the First Degree quite well.

Looking at the picture, several items should be quite apparent. First and foremost is our Savior on a cross, reminding us that through his death and resurrection, we were all saved.



Surrounding the graphic, we have in Latin the four classes heavily used by the Hermeticists, Alchemists, and Roscrucians to save and cure life as we know it. They are Plants, Animals, Minerals, and Metals.

Behind the cross are found grape vines. Which, once fermented, becomes the sacred liquid used to extract the vital properties used in healing and transformation.

The latin phrase in the white circle, "Habitacvlvm Dei Cvm Hominibvs", translates to, "The dwelling place of God is with men". This can be expressed as when God created the universe out of nothing, he poured forth his energy and everything that was created contains a part of him.

In the center is the familiar Tetragrammatron, "Yod Heh Shin Vav Heh". It refers to the Holy Trinity, as does the latin phrase, "Terna Sanctus", which translates into "Three Holy", or the Holy Three.



# Gaining Admission

Similar to your initiation into a Lodge, you were properly prepared for entry through a specific set of steps.

Here you turned in your motto, then read and signed your Pledge of Fidelity. You were then hoodwinked prior to entry.

This was to signify the darkness surrounding you when seeking initiation.

You were then caused to give the requisite number of



knocks to request entry, and provided a Conductor who spoke for you during this portion of the initiation.

One such statement regarded your desire to come out of the darkness, into the light of understanding, to understand the doctrines of Nature and to discover the wondrous principals by which the Universe is governed.

The Celebrant then directed your Conductor to the Gate of Life, where representatives of the Four Ancients, placed in a straight line unfolded to you the Elemental Proofs of the primary secrets of Nature and Truth.

The first Ancient shrouded in black placed Earth in your hand and explained, “Death is the gate of life, fear not to enter therein, for in dust are sown the seeds of Immortality”. You were given your first secret word.

The second Ancient shrouded in yellow provided Air to your face and explained, “The very air we breathe is full of mysteries, but the love of God surpasses all things visible and invisible; and Hope is the inheritance of man on earth.”



You were provided your second secret word.

The third Ancient shrouded in blue made the sign of the cross on your forehead in water. He explained to you, “Let us approach with joy the House of Sanctification with clean hands and purified heart, for our strength is in the Most High God”. You were provided your third secret word.

The fourth Ancient shrouded in red applied flame to your left hand. He explained to you, “Let us therefore enter the Temple of Perfection, and shrink not from the ordeal of Fire, for the wrath of God consumeth only the impious and impenitent man”. You were provided the fourth, and last, secret word. These four words creates the phrase for this Degree.

You then received light and beheld the altar, with a rose, star and 33 lit candles, shaped in an equilateral triangle.

You were informed each light represents a year of our Lords life on earth. The rose represents the beauty and grandeur of his resurrection and represents the eternal glory of the Rose of Sharon.



The five pointed star represents the five points of felicity; to walk with, intercede for, love, assist, and pray for our Fraters. The incense, rising towards the luminous Star, is a symbol of prayer that proceeds directly towards the throne of God.

You were then presented a spotless white robe and requested to carry it without stain before the tribunal of the world, and placed in the Mystic Circle.

Following this, you were then conducted to the Outer Chamber for reflection upon the solemn ceremonies of this Degree and handed a Mystic Token which had the Mystic Word you recently learned imprinted upon it. Prior to reentry, you were requested to place the initials of your motto upon the Mystic Token. This was inspected upon your request to enter.



# Second Section

Upon entering, the aspirant should notice the seats and Pillars of the Four Ancients are in a different setting. They are now placed in the four cardinal points. The Black Pillar is in the North, the Yellow Pillar is to the East, the Blue Pillar to the West, and the Yellow Pillar to the East.

Additionally, the Altar which illustrated Further Light has now had that Light reduced to only the two base lights and the center elevated one being lit.



You were then led to the center of the room by the seven steps of Wisdom. There you symbolically stood at the center of the Earth, desiring to stand in the light of Perfection.

Here you were instructed on the Sign, Pass Word, Grand Word and proper means of gaining admission. You then received the Lecture, instructing you on the powers and properties of numbers.

Lastly, you were tasked to remember that the Source of all wisdom will sustain our feeble steps on the journey that leads to eternal life.

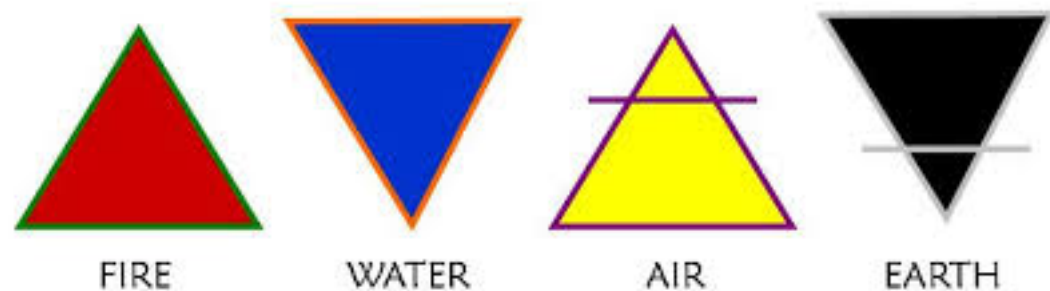


As you were recently led to the center of the room to symbolically stand at the center of the Earth, we will now explain to you why you were conducted there.



The black circle depicts where you stood, searching for Further Light. Surrounding you are four different colored triangles and one square. Let's start with the triangles first.

Our Earth was created from four Elements, namely Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Each having their own characteristics. For example Fire is hot and dry, Water is cold and wet, Air is hot and wet, and Earth is dry and cold.



Each Element also has an affinity with our Zodiac, where each one aligns with three of the Zodiac Signs. This creates the triangles, or triplicities that you see.

The black square is what we call a Tetragrammaton (The Tetragrammaton, יהוה in Hebrew, is the four-letter biblical name of the God of Israel). *Sourced from Wikipedia.*

(י YOD) is the letter for Fire  $\Delta$  and has three constellations, Leo, Aries, and Sagittarius. Fire is the red line.

(ה HEH) is the letter for Water  $\nabla$  and has three constellations, Cancer, Pisces, and Scorpio. Water is the blue line.

(ו VAV) is the letter for Air  $\triangle$  and has three constellations, Gemini, Aquarius, and Libra. Air is the Yellow line.

(ה HEH) is the letter for Earth  $\nabla$  and has three constellations, Taurus, Capricorn, and Virgo. Earth is the grey line.

External to the Zodiac, we see the planetary influences surrounding them.

Now close your eyes and imagine yourself standing in the center of our Earth. As you look up you see the Zodiac and Planets, and Light infuses you with the suggestion that all this is connected together and you are now a part of something far greater than you knew a few short hours ago.

Congratulations Frater on attaining the Zelator Grade. You should begin to see how everything around us is connected, and that you can have a far greater effect in it, should you choose. Will you take charge to study and follow this path



# Our Jewel

Here is a description of the Jewel we proudly wear to all our meetings:

The Jewel of the Society consists of a cross, the arms of equal length, on a curved shield having the form of a lozenge or rhombus.

The arms of the Cross exhibit four times eighteen, that is 72 lines, having reference to the 72 rounds of the ladder of Jacob.

In the center is a square, representing the Square of the Universe; and in the midst of the square is a Pentagram, that mysterious device which has always been considered by ancients and moderns as a potent emblem.



The Cross is overlaid with Red enamel, surrounded by a Golden line; while the shield is of White enamel with a girding line of Gold.

The Jewel is suspended by a Green ribbon from a Golden bar on which are inscribed the letters S.R.I.C.F.