



THE ELEMENTS OF ORDEALS

MACHINERY OF THE SOUL

PART 8

THE GUARDIAN OF THE THRESHOLD

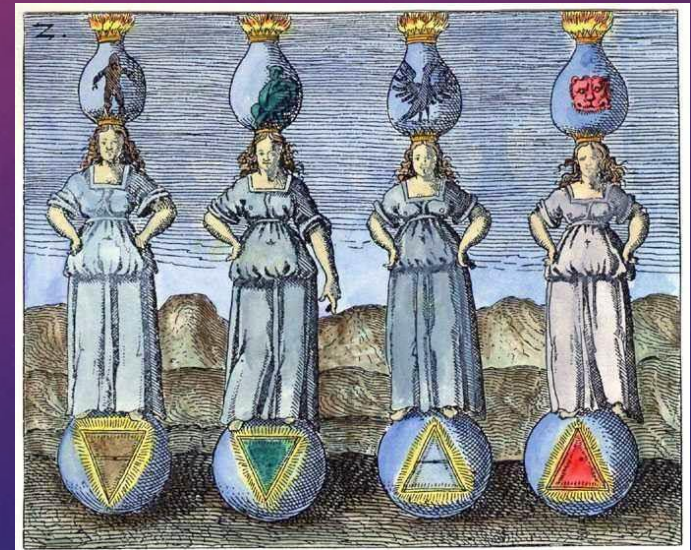
The Being is pure, yet the human "I" is a horrible larva. The Being is transparent like crystal, yet the human "I" is monstrous like Satan. The Being is never offended by anything, yet the human "I" is offended by everything. The Being is indifferent before pleasure and suffering, before praise and insult, before victory and defeat, yet the human "I" is offended by everything; it suffers and cries, enjoys and seeks pleasures.

The human "I" always seeks for security, yet the Being is never afraid, and this is why he never seeks for securities. The human "I" is afraid of life, afraid of death, afraid of hunger, afraid of misery, etc. The "I" of humans exploit each other because of fear. They go to war because of fear. They steal and accumulate because of fear. They kill because of fear. They arm themselves because of fear. The Being is beyond desire, beyond attachment, beyond yearning and fears, beyond death and the intellect, beyond human will, beyond intelligence. The Being is the Tree of Life.

Samael Aun Weor, *The Major Mysteries*

THE FOUR ORDEALS

In the solitude of these mysterious sanctuaries, the neophytes were submitted to the four Initiatic ordeals. The ordeals of fire, air, water and earth always defined the diverse purifications of the neophytes. The neophytes are submitted to the four Initiatic ordeals which are verified in the Internal Worlds. The human being still is not a king or queen of nature, but the human being is called to be a king in accordance to Melchizedeck. Disciples must be tested by the four elements in order to examine them. They are submitted to ordeals in the forty-nine regions of thought. These ordeals are for everyone, man and woman. One can help oneself by having pure thoughts, but this is not enough; Meditation is necessary.



- Samael Aun Weor, Tarot and Kabbalah

ORDEAL OF FIRE

Fire is the temperature of the soul; the degree of force, power, or clarity.

“The candidate is exposed to this ordeal in order to examine his serenity and sweetness. The wrathful and choleric inevitably fail this ordeal. The candidate experiences being persecuted, insulted, wronged etc. Many are they who react violently and return to the physical body having failed completely. However, the victorious ones are received in the Children’s Chamber and are welcomed with delightful music, the music of the spheres. The flames horrify the weak.”

– The Perfect Matrimony





THE ORDEAL OF AIR

Air is the mobility of the soul.
Attachments are tested.
Temptation to catastrophize.

“Those who despair because they lose something or someone, those who fear poverty, those who are not willing to lose what they love the most, fail in the ordeal of air. The candidate is thrown into the depths of a precipice. The weak ones cry out and return terrified to the physical body. However, the victorious ones are received in the Children’s Chamber with festivities and greetings.”

- The Perfect Matrimony



THE ORDEAL OF WATER

Water is the adaptability of the soul. Works against the rigidity of the earth and mobility of the air. We must shape the mind to fit the circumstances. Tests our altruism and philanthropy.

"The great ordeal of water is really terrible. The candidate is thrown into the ocean and believes himself to be drowning. Those who do not know how to adapt themselves to the various social conditions of life, those who do not know how to live among the poor, those who after being shipwrecked in the ocean of life reject the struggle and prefer to die, they, the weak ones, inevitably fail in the ordeal of water. However, the victorious ones are received in the Children's Chamber with cosmic festivities."

– The Perfect Matrimony



THE ORDEAL OF EARTH

Earth is the solidity and grounding of the soul. The air and the water leave us. We have to work where we are at, and become as hard as diamonds.

"We must learn how to take advantage of the worst adversities. The worst adversities bring us the best opportunities. We must learn to smile before all adversities. This is the Law.

Those who succumb to pain before the adversities of existence cannot victoriously pass the ordeal of Earth.

In the Superior Worlds the candidate finds himself between two enormous mountains that menacingly close in upon him. If the candidate screams with horror, he then returns as a failure into his physical body. However, if he is serene, he becomes victorious and is received in the Children's Chamber with great festivity and immense happiness."

– The Perfect Matrimony

BALANCING THE ELEMENTS OF THE SOUL

Element	Internalizing	Balance	Externalizing
Space	Cosmic Night	Illuminating Void; Paramartha; Tality	Cosmic Day
Air	Nihilism; choice is meaningless; all action lacks any agency.	Useful concepts for the Path of Liberation; Objective Reasoning	Eternalism / Fatalism; choice is meaningless; action is the unfoldment of a predetermined, immutable result.
Fire	Dullness in external affairs, with a clarity of the hatred-attachment of self.	Clarity; love though psychological death; Universal Compassion.	Dullness in internal affairs; with clarity of the hatred-attachment of others.
Water	Mechanical repression of desires, rigidity, ethics as a final goal; fanaticism.	Transmutation; adaptability without loss of ethics; ethics as a means for the birth of a new state of mind.	Mechanical expression of desires; lack of ethical discernment; hedonism as ethically good; lack of mental energy
Earth	Defeatist attitude, wasteful effort, laziness & hyperactivity.	Consistency, Humility	Accumulation of wealth, success, respect, prestige as a final goal; mythomania.