

Initiation and amnesia

Or: Rebirth?

Having just watched a documentary entitled "unknown white male" I started thinking about the process of initiation and the rebirth aspect of the same.

Initiation brings us closer to who we truly are and to our true natures. It removes so many of the unnecessary aspects of a personality. By the end of an initiatory journey the person who comes out is not the same person that went in.

Yet, the expectations of family and friends might make this transition difficult. How can I stop acting a specific way if everyone I know expects me to act like that? If I had amnesia I could just say: I'm sorry mate, but I am a different person now. It is not as easy turning around and saying: I am sorry mate but I just underwent initiation and I have realised that I no longer like fish...

Initiation in our tradition is an initiation into the mysteries of Osiris. The underworld. Life and death. Death and rebirth. We start in the neophyte ceremony by entering the hall of judgement. In essence, we start by dying. The "persona" that we were before we undergo initiation is dead. The subsequent initiations are our journey into the light, our journey into

being reborn consciously. The road is not an easy one; Initiation, no matter how skillful the initiating officers may be, can only do so much. The higher aspirations need to be present. In many systems initiation can be conferred without any actual initiation having happened. True Initiation is the synthesis of a ritual and its effect upon an individual, and also what the candidate gives into it.

Initiation and the path we all traverse requires the strength to unite that ideal we are aiming for with the actual that is here. If we find disturbing memories and disturbing tendencies, we very often realise that certain things need to be outgrown, certain things need to be overcome and certain things need to be dealt with in order for us to continue on our journey.

Many of these things can be painful and difficult to overcome. Your friends might think that suddenly wearing different clothes, or radically changing your group of acquaintances is weird.

The documentary I saw showed this 37 year old man who had total amnesia. He started his life anew from the moment he woke up aware of himself on a New York subway train. He could reinvent himself. All the cynicism and armour that he had built up were gone

and he could again meet the world as a child, but as a grown child.

It reminded me very much of the the Sun Atu of the taro. The child running away from his toys. The man in the documentary is doing his Will.- he has to be. If the psyche is wiped clean, there is basically no ego to speak of, he was doing what he wanted. He has unlimited income which is why he hasn't needed to work since he was 30. He did what he wanted, made the friends and dropped the old ones because he not only wasn't afraid of the obstacles, he was unaware of them.

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law, do that and no one shall say nay" -A. C.

There is a slight envy. Who would not want a clean slate in life? His version came with a slight drawback: memories.

Our version comes with an advantage: memories. If we take responsibility of our actions (malkuth) thoughts (yesod) emotions (hod) and will (netzach) then we can truly reach the light of tiphareth and truly be Golden, removed from the clutches of the black dragon.

If one is holding on to the old self, the old values, then one is not ready and does not accept the changes.

"I know I should find a job that pays more and I am more happy about.

I know I should break up with my significant other because the relationship is damaging."

-recognize those?

If we know a thing, if we feel the thing and as adepts, or, adepts to be, we understand that it is our true Will, that it is ADNI that is urging us onwards, then whatever it is that remains, that which fights against these changes is just the animal soul.

The "I".

If we truly want to see the Golden Dawn of the sun we need to allow ourselves to be re-born in the image of the adept. We need to accept that who we "are" cannot be carried over into our new self. Initiation cannot leave us unchanged and unaffected. Going in as X before the neophyte initiation and coming out as the same X after the Portal ceremony would mean that we haven't changed and the initiations have been ineffectual.

Without death there is no life, without letting go we can not achieve.

Fraternally in LVX

OMNI

