

## PART ONE

### CHAPTER ADVISOR

#### Properties and setting

- Five Altotus Robes Supplied by National
- Five Candidate Robes Supplied by National
- Five Hoodwinks/Blindfolds Supplied by Chapter
  
- For each candidate: One thin strip of paper upon which is typed the name "Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus 'Paracelsus' Bombastus von Hohenheim."
  
- A table, which might appropriately be covered by a blue cloth with chrome yellow border, upon which could be several alchemical symbols in chrome yellow.
- A large hard bound book or several chemical books and candle holders with tapered candles.
- Two or more comfortable chairs.
- Fire extinguisher (for emergency precautions)

The member taking this station should be one of the older and more dignified members of the Fraternity, preferably the chapter advisor. He/She should not be on intimate terms with the candidate as a friend and should be someone who will command the respect and admiration of the candidate.

As the candidate is brought into the room, the advisor is in deep study over the books but greets the candidate warmly and enters into informal conversation leading up to the following:

Advisor: "As you know, the membership of this Fraternity is drawn from those who expect to make some branch of pure or applied \_\_\_\_\_ their life work. These individuals are banded together for the common cause of helping each other to advance the greatest and most important of the sciences. The lifelong obligations which you are about to assume must be considered seriously and thoughtfully, and you are charged to answer the following questions truthfully and upon your honor:

Do you willingly, with a full realization of what you are about to do, seek to become a member of \_\_\_\_\_?"

"This being so, are you prepared to assume the obligations of so living and working with our brethren that your name may never be a reproach to our Fraternity?"

"Are you further prepared to assume these obligations throughout your life and to perform your services as a member of \_\_\_\_\_ even when other tasks are many and when your initiation shall remain but a memory?"

"This, then, is your solemn pledge to the Fraternity. You will now place this gown over your regular clothes."

(Gives candidate proper loose-fitting gray gown and makes certain that the sash is tied so that the candidate will not trip on the gown hem or sash.)

"Tis well -- in the course of this ceremony you will take a symbolic journey in search of the Philosopher's Stone, the goal of the ancient alchemists, who sought to turn base metals into pure gold. Observe well the things which will be presented to you in the course of this journey, as therein lies the true significance of your initiation.

During the ceremony through which you are about to pass, you will be required to assume the name of a renowned alchemist of the sixteenth century,

**Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus "Paracelsus"  
Bombastus von Hohenheim**

and it will be necessary for you to give this name whenever called upon to do so."

(At this point, the chapter advisor hands the candidate a slip of paper on which is typed the assumed name. Then permits him/her to read it three or four times, then takes it back and lights it by one of the candles, allowing the charred paper to fall into a crucible or other container, and warning the candidate that: "Failure to give the assumed name when required will cause much difficulty".)

(As this warning is being given, Altotus enters the room.)

Advisor: "Altotus, you will properly hoodwink the candidate and conduct him/her to the Vice Master Alchemist."

PART TWO

VICE MASTER ALCHEMIST

Properties and setting

- Scroll with initiation obligation                      Supplied by Chapter
- Table or desk
- One or more chairs
- Candle holders and candles
- Fire extinguisher (for emergency precautions)

This part is taken by the Vice Master Alchemist. Since the room is to represent the office of a ruler of the chapter, the setting should be made accordingly. In addition to the Vice Master Alchemist, this part requires another member to act as Doorkeeper.

Altotus conducts the candidate to a closed door and gives the Fraternity Knock, which is answered by the Fraternity Knock from within. The door is opened by the Doorkeeper, who asks:

Doorkeeper: **"Who knocks?"**

Altotus: **"Altotus, conducting \_\_\_\_\_ (gives real name of candidate) who is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."**

Doorkeeper: **"Has he/she been duly examined and found to possess the proper knowledge of our Fraternity?"**

Altotus: **"He/She has."**

Doorkeeper: **"Is he/she invested with the proper robes for such a journey?"**

Altotus: **"He/She is."**

Doorkeeper: (To candidate) **"What name do you bear as token of such recognition?"** (Candidate endeavors to give the assumed name.) **"Tis well, I shall inform the Vice Master Alchemist of your presence."**

(Doorkeeper enters room and addresses the Vice Master Alchemist.)

Doorkeeper: **"O, Vice Master Alchemist, there awaits without, Altotus, and with him is \_\_\_\_\_ (gives candidate's real name), who is prepared to begin his/her journey in search for the Philosopher's Stone. He/She has been examined and found to be qualified in his/her knowledge of our Fraternity."**

Vice Master Alchemist: "Conduct the candidate before me that he/she may receive my instructions before beginning his/her journey."

Doorkeeper: (After returning to door) "The Vice Master Alchemist has ordered that \_\_\_\_\_ (gives real name of the candidate) should be conducted before him/her."

(Altotus conducts candidate before the Vice Master Alchemist and removes hoodwink.)

Vice Master Alchemist: "Mr./Miss/Ms., etc, \_\_\_\_\_ (gives candidate's real name) you have been well recommended to us for membership. Since you have expressed the desire to assume for life the obligations which the ideals of our Fraternity impose upon its members, you will be permitted to journey in search for the Philosopher's Stone. During this journey no permanent injury will be inflicted upon your body, nothing will be demanded of you contrary to your moral or religious principles, and no encroachments will be made upon your freedom of speech except insofar as it may pertain to the secrets of the organization and the welfare of those whose brother you expect to become. You will travel a path which has been traveled by every member of our Fraternity. If, therefore, you are willing to proceed, you may raise your right hand, say 'I', pronounce your real full name, and repeat after me the following obligation:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, / solemnly promise and swear / that I will comply without resistance / to the requirements of this ceremony / and will strive faithfully / to overcome the obstacles / which I may meet on my journey; / that in case I am found unworthy / I will go my way in peace / bearing no ill-will toward \_\_\_\_\_; / nor will I reveal / by word or action / anything that may transpire / in this ceremony."

Vice Master Alchemist: "Altotus, conduct the candidate to the beginning of his/her journey and accompany him/her on it. I charge you to aid this man/woman by every honorable means in the attainment of his/her ambition as an alchemist."

(Altotus hoodwinks the candidate, and then conducts the candidate to the station of Saturn. From this point on, the candidate is representing Paracelsus, a man, and thus masculine gender is to be used throughout the points.)

## PART THREE

### FIRST POINT OF THE HEXAGON

Planet:	SATURN
Metal:	LEAD
Personification:	SATURN

#### Properties and setting

- Saturn robe Supplied by National
- Saturn mantle Supplied by National
- Saturn white wig Supplied by National
- Saturn white beard Supplied by National
- Five lead tokens (must be <8cm, <750g) Supplied by Chapter
- Table
- Chair
- Folding background screen
- Large book with worn binding
- Large candle
- Small candles in holders
- One globe, telescope or other astrological decorations
- Unscented baby powder
- Fire extinguisher (for emergency precautions)

Saturn is a sleepy individual, worn by the struggle, but he livens up when he learns who the visitor is. However, he is very much disgusted when he finds the visitor is an imposter. The part should be given in such manner as to impress upon the candidate that his knowledge of chemistry is not very great.

The chair is placed back of the table and the screen is used for background. The wig has long hair and gives Saturn the appearance of being partly bald. The telescope may in reality be an old condenser of glass with a metal jacket, mounted on an iron ring stand with an old-fashioned tripod base. The large candle sits beside the book and is lighted by Saturn when he goes to peer into the face of the candidate. The small candles are set at each end of the table to give light for the part -- other light should be eliminated as much as possible.

Altotus, leading the candidate to the door, gives the Fraternity Knock, when he receives no reply, he gives the knock a second time. When there is no answer to the second knock, Altotus shows, by some appropriate remark, his concern over failing to get some response from Saturn, and enters the set. They find Saturn asleep in his chair with the large book open before him. Altotus positions the candidate in the proper place and removes the hoodwink.

Altotus: "Awake, O Saturn, God of Lead, we wish to speak with thee."

Saturn: (But partly aroused) "Speak to me, and why? I am not a wise man; my brain is too tired and I much prefer to sleep."

Altotus: "There is a stranger here to see thee."

Saturn: "A stranger? To see me? Who is he? Why does he bother me?"

Altotus: "He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."

Saturn: "Then he is but a fool! Doth he not know that great knowledge is necessary? Fool, what is thy name?"

(Candidate attempts to give assumed name.)

Saturn: (Very much awed and impressed) "Ah! So! Indeed! Forgive old Saturn for his hasty words! Oft have I heard of thee, and of all men, methinks thou art best suited to embark on the perilous journey. I, too, once set forth upon the great quest, but I was stupid and ill-prepared, and the goal hath ever eluded me. Now I am old and weary, and despair of success. Perhaps thou wilt help me, O wise man of the world. Lately there has come to hand this good book, which methinks doth tell of transmutations. It is writ clearly and in simple words, but the meaning of them I cannot learn. But now, indeed, is old Saturn come upon good fortune, for surely thou wilt not refuse the aid which thou canst so easily give."

(Takes up book, turns pages hurriedly and finds marked page, then asking very earnestly.)

"What is this thing called 'relativity'? O learned Bombastus!"

(As candidate attempts explanation, Saturn listens intently for a short time in an amazed way, then shaking his head says:)

"Alas! Thy words mean less to me than do those of the book."

Altotus: "Awake, O Saturn, God of Lead, we wish to speak with thee."

Saturn: (But partly aroused) "Speak to me, and why? I am not a wise man; my brain is too tired and I much prefer to sleep."

Altotus: "There is a stranger here to see thee."

Saturn: "A stranger? To see me? Who is he? Why does he bother me?"

Altotus: "He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."

Saturn: "Then he is but a fool! Doth he not know that great knowledge is necessary? Fool, what is thy name?"

(Candidate attempts to give assumed name.)

Saturn: (Very much awed and impressed) "Ah! So! Indeed! Forgive old Saturn for his hasty words! Oft have I heard of thee, and of all men, methinks thou art best suited to embark on the perilous journey. I, too, once set forth upon the great quest, but I was stupid and ill-prepared, and the goal hath ever eluded me. Now I am old and weary, and despair of success. Perhaps thou wilt help me, O wise man of the world. Lately there has come to hand this good book, which methinks doth tell of transmutations. It is writ clearly and in simple words, but the meaning of them I cannot learn. But now, indeed, is old Saturn come upon good fortune, for surely thou wilt not refuse the aid which thou canst so easily give."

(Takes up book, turns pages hurriedly and finds marked page, then asking very earnestly.)

"What is this thing called 'relativity'? O learned Bombastus!"

(As candidate attempts explanation, Saturn listens intently for a short time in an amazed way, then shaking his head says:)

"Alas! Thy words mean less to me than do those of the book."

(In the event that the candidate remains silent, substitute:  
"Thou dost not know? Alas, I understand so little,  
perhaps I failed to read the words aright.")

(Slowly turning pages to another section of the book.)

"Here, again -- what is entropy, and what is  
thermodynamic probability?"

(As the candidate replies, Saturn again listens in a puzzled  
manner, then takes the lighted candle and peers into his face  
and breaks out into a violent tirade of abuse.)

"Ha! Yes! Now I perceive that thou art but a youth  
masquerading under the name of Bombastus. A fool,  
too! Methinks old Saturn is a sage compared with  
thee. Wisdom, ha! Thou hast much need of it. Here,  
take this symbol of heavy dullness that men may know  
thee for what thou art."

(Hands candidate lead token.)

"Be off -- and trouble me no more."

(Saturn turns toward his books muttering:)

"Fool! Wisdom! Bombastus, indeed!"

(Altotus conducts candidate away slowly, after replacing  
hoodwink as if in doubt what course to pursue. He conducts  
candidate toward station for Part Four, telling him that he  
has failed miserably and must show more intelligence during  
the remainder of the journey.)



## PART FOUR

### SECOND POINT OF THE HEXAGON

Planet: JUPITER  
Metal: TIN  
Personification: COUNT CAGLIOSTRO

#### Properties and setting

- Cagliostro robe Supplied by National
- Pair of wire rimmed dark glasses Supplied by Chapter
- Five tin spangles (must be <16cm, <112g) Supplied by Chapter
- Table
- Background screen
- Two candles with holders
- Large iron mortar with pestle
- Pair of brass cymbals or other noise-making device
- 500mL metal beaker (empty)
- 500mL metal beaker containing cold water
- Small bottle containing a colored solution
- Several reagent bottles with various colored solutions
- Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers for sound effects
- Fire extinguisher (for emergency precautions)

All the old-fashioned glassware and other chemical equipment possible, together with several metal crucibles, are scattered over the table. In the crucibles are placed salts of Ba, Ca, Cu, K, Li, Na, etc. With lamps of Sterno canned heat -- these to give flames of various colors when lighted. Alcohol sand baths can also be used to burn the salts for the various colors.

**WARNING:** Use extreme caution when using sand baths. Allow the bath to cool before adding more alcohol. Adding alcohol to a hot sand bath often results in a flash fire!

In history Cagliostro was a scamp and a charlatan. He is avaricious and crafty, seeking his own ends with no regard for others. Therefore, he is extremely upset when his procedure for creating the Philosopher's Stone fails. Though he probably had no intentions of sharing the gold if successful.

As the part begins, Cagliostro is found bending over the equipment, working, as the candidate enters. He's wearing dark glasses, as well as the knee-length robe.

Altotus conducts hoodwinked candidate into the room without making the usual knock. Altotus positions the candidate and removes the hoodwink. After allowing a few moments for the

candidate to take in the scene, Altotus shuffles his feet or otherwise makes a noise which causes Cagliostro to look up in a startled manner, peer very nervously into the semi-darkness and ask sharply:

Cagliostro: "Who's there?"

(Candidate is prompted to give assumed name.)

Altotus: "He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone"

Cagliostro: (Immediately showing pleasure in having such a visitor.) "O, welcome, most learned of men! 'Tis well! A kind fate hath sent thee to see old Cagliostro at this hour. I have spent years in fruitful toil, endeavoring to fashion gold -- and at last I have succeeded. But one more operation is necessary. It is dangerous, and I have searched in vain for many days to find a man who will help me with it. When this operation has been complete, we shall have all the gold we could ever want, and the Philosopher's Stone, for which all men have searched in vain, will be revealed to us at last. Come! Take this beaker while I pour therein the marvelous liquid which will make the gold."

(He gives the candidate the empty metal beaker, pours water into it, then gloatingly holding up a small bottle exclaims:)

Cagliostro: "When I tell thee, (gives bottle to candidate) thou shalt pour the liquid from this vial upon the mysterious elixir in the beaker. There is great danger, but thou art not afraid. See how steady is thy hand! But wait; protect thine eyes." (Hoodwink is placed to cover eyes)

Cagliostro: "Now -- pour."

(As soon as the candidate starts to pour liquid from the vial, Altotus bumps him violently, Cagliostro dashes a small quantity of cold water into his face and the cymbals are clashed loudly -- as simultaneously as possible. There should be a din in the background during the rest of Cagliostro's tantrum. The noise should not be so loud as to make it difficult to hear Cagliostro, but noticeable enough to sound like the laboratory is falling apart. During the confusion which results, Altotus fastens a tin spangle upon the back of the candidate's gown. The candidate must not know about the spangle.)

Cagliostro: (Angrily jerking the beaker and vial quickly from the hands of the candidate.) "Thou base and cringing coward. Thy weak and trembling hands have ruined it. Did I not say 'Hold it steady'? What manner of knave art thou? Wouldst steal my secret and take my gold? Ungrateful wretch, here was I, the famous Cagliostro, worn by years of toil, of search and experimenting, and had all but discovered the secret for which the world has sought in vain. Then thou comest, under the pretext of an honest traveler in search of the Philosopher's Stone -- The Elixir of Life -- and by clever and ingratiating manners wormed thy way into my confidence and led me to offer thee half my gold as payment. But thy foul heart had planned to steal my very secret from me. Thou wretch! Thou ingrate! Thou thief! Be gone!"

(Altotus hurriedly leads candidate away and on to Mars.)

## PART FIVE

### THIRD POINT OF THE HEXAGON

Planet: MARS  
Metal : IRON  
Personification: MARS

#### Properties and setting

- Mars pants Supplied by National
- Mars leather apron Supplied by National
- Mars helmet Supplied by National
- Iron tokens (must be <1m, <500g) Supplied by Chapter
- One heavy iron piece (for hammering) Supplied by Chapter
- Blacksmith's anvil and base Supplied by Chapter
- Blacksmith's heavy hammer Supplied by Chapter
- Blacksmith's forge Supplied by Chapter
- Blacksmith's tongs Supplied by Chapter
- Five gallon bucket of water Supplied by Chapter
  
- Background screen
- Candles in candle holders
- Khaki shirt -- not required
- Charcoal
- Bottle of baby oil
- Fire extinguisher (in case of emergency)

Mars is a noisy, blustering individual, who bangs away on his anvil. Unlike Cagliostro, Mars is at least honest. He is aware of Cagliostro's reputation and very contemptuous of any individual who has visited the Count. Mars has little use for mortals in search of the Philosopher's Stone, but it's not until he discovers the Tin Spangle that his disdain turns to anger, and Mars gives a lecture on the proper use of strength.

The anvil and base are such as usually were found in a blacksmith's shop. The candles are placed on the floor by the anvil to give an added effect of height to Mars. The person taking the part should, naturally be a husky individual with grime (charcoal mixed with baby oil or other) smeared on his face and hands. A black screen should be used as background.

As Altotus leads the candidate toward Mars' station the sound of hammering is heard. The hammering is soft at first but with increasing volume, to give the candidate the impression he is approaching the noise from a distance. Finally when the din is the loudest, they reach the door and Altotus knocks loudly.

Mars: (Roars) "What? Who knocks so weakly? Enter, and be ye not afraid."

(Altotus and candidate enter, and the hoodwink is removed. Mars is busy hammering a piece of hot iron on the anvil and, when speaking, he roars rather loudly, pounding on the iron to punctuate his remarks.)

Altotus: "I bring a wanderer in search of the Philosopher's Stone. He needs your shield and buckler to strengthen him on his journey."

Mars: (Fairly snorts) "Philosopher's Stone! Yea, and gold too, no doubt. Gold ye seek and fight for. Ye mortals are a greedy lot. All of my virtues have been prostituted in thy search for gold. And now ye come to me."

(Mars strides from his position in front of the candidate to one side of him, looking him over, and in so doing discovers the tin spangle on the candidate's back. He then angrily detaches the spangle and shows it to the candidate.)

Mars: "Aha, and from old Cagliostro too."

(Mars throws the spangle to the floor in disgust. The spangle is not to be recovered by the candidate. Mars then steps back to the anvil and strikes it viciously several times.)

Mars: "Ye come to me and beg for armor. Ye want to fight and to squander my giant powers in thy selfish schemes.

But hearken ye! In far better ways do I serve mankind than by providing shields and bucklers. My ferrous nature hath sought to serve the world, to till thy soils, to build thy cities, and to gird thy globe with railways -- in a word, I have created present civilization. And how have ye repaid me? By using my power to belch forth death and destruction in the thunderous maelstrom of war. What fault is it of mine that bellicose mortals reap this hell so richly deserved?

Thy puny hands are little used to giants' tools, ... but here, take this rod of iron, symbolic of my strength."

(Using the tongs, Mars plunges a hot iron rod into a pail of water, but quickly changes to a cold piece. Mars then hands the cold rod to the candidate, giving him the impression; however, that he is being handed the hot iron.)

Mars: **"May it develop thy endurance, and most of all may it cause thee to realize that iron is, of all metals, man's best servant in a thousand peaceful arts. Now be gone!"**

(Altotus replaces the hoodwink and leads the candidate to the next station: Geber.)

Mercury was the alchemist's most essential element. The character here is Geber, the famous Arabian alchemist of the eighth century A.D. Geber is a dignified Arab and typical surroundings are appropriate. The monologue is characteristically alchemical in its use of symbolism and allegory. At this station, the travelers witness the preparation of the Philosopher's Stone, but it is unlikely the candidate fully understands the steps. This uncertainty sets up the need to visit the remaining stations after the Philosopher's Stone has been found.

The recipe for the Philosopher's Stone was taken directly from Geber's writings. The part should be well in mind, and should be given slowly and with great dignity, with no little enthusiasm being shown as Mercury describes the preparation of the Philosopher's Stone. Geber only appears to read the formula from the scroll. During the preparation of the Philosopher's Stone the pace will be too quick and it will be far too dark to attempt reading the formula. MEMORIZE THE ENTIRE PART.

Geber and Altotus salaam at the mention of Allah, but do not induce the candidate to salaam. Let the candidate take a cue from the circumstances. He/She may or may not salaam at his/her own choice. A salaam is a low bow, placing the right palm on the forehead.

Altotus leads the hoodwinked candidate to the door of the room and gives the Fraternity Knock.

Geber: (Speaking with great dignity) **"Enter."**

(After entrance, Altotus removes the hoodwink.)

Altotus: **"O, venerable sage, I come with one who craves your condescension and your words of wisdom. He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."**

Geber: **"Presents he credentials? (Candidate shows lead token received from Saturn and rod of iron from Mars.) 'Tis well, praise be to Allah (salaam) for an ambitious youth. Thou may'st call me Geber but in my time, the second century after the great Hegira, men called me rightly Abu Musa Jabir ibn Hayyan, and they came from many lands to my modest Arabian hut, for I knew, as no other man, of the virtues of the Great Elixir, the Mercury of the Philosophers. Learned men there were, and princes too, who sought my words as thou dost now. Listen then, and learn of the most perfect Magistray, the tincture of sacred alchemy, the marvelous science of the secret philosophy."**

Mercury, generated in the bowels of the earth, is the common substance of all metals since into all metals it may be resolved. By its fixation is attained the Great Elixir, the Stone of the Philosophers, which in minutest part doth transmute unlimited quantities of imperfect metal into good and constant gold. The secret origin of this intangible essence I now disclose, if Allah (salaam) be willing, and should thou not perceive what is so clearly set forth, lament thine own incompetence."

(Carry out chemical reactions as instructions are given.)

"When the sun is in Aries and the season good and equable

Have one gram  $\text{FeCl}_3$ , previously ground, in a mortar.

Take calcined salts, pure in color, and thin plants from the mountain

Add two grams of hydrated sodium acetate ( $\text{NaC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and some fern (no significance to fern).

Add sal ammoniac which has no equal; choose the white for thy work. Three parts make complete with true measure without deviation.

Add Three grams lead nitrate ( $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ).

Then powder them well so they may become like clay when it is kneaded

Grind the mixture until the water of crystallization from the sodium acetate trihydrate is released and the mixture assumes a clay-like consistency. Show the candidate.

And dissolve them if thou wouldst reach to the perfected knowledge of the philosophers.

Add 20 mL of a solution prepared from 12.6 g ammonium thiocyanate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{SCN}$ ) and 25 mL concentrated  $\text{HCl}$  (37%) in enough distilled water to make 250 mL total volume. Add  $\text{HCl}$  last.

They will give you a liquid beautiful in appearance and as red as blood when it flows.

Show candidate. Pour off the red iron thiocyanate solution (into a clean beaker).



**With the liquid, moisten pure gold and carefully chosen cinnabar.**

**And melt them to a wax with a light fire - thou wilt attain thy desires and hopes.**

**Do this three times and be wise; the way to perfection is clear.**

**To the product add pure quicksilver if thou desire success, and pour out the measure.**

**Then plunge it repeatedly into the blaze, and be not ignorant in so doing.**

**Thou will see it now, a saffron-yellow earth, delighting souls by the beauty of its excellence.**

**With it, thou canst tincture other metals into pure gold.**

**Therefore, be grateful to Allah, (salaam) who supports the Heavens."**

(Geber then bows as if in silent prayer, and Altotus replaces the hoodwink and quietly leads the candidate away.)

Place five grams of yellow sodium chromate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CrO}_4$ ) in a large evaporating dish; add a pinch of red mercuric oxide ( $\text{HgO}$ ) (the mercuric oxide has no significance). Add enough of the iron thiocyanate solution so it can be poured off at a later step.

Heat over a candle for effect only. Conceal contents from candidate.

Give the appearance of pouring mercury into the dish. Then pour off the liquid into a beaker, and set it out of sight. This liquid contains chromates which must be properly disposed of. There is to be no open Hg in the set.

Plunge repeatedly into flame, for effect.

Show candidate saffron-yellow  $\text{PbCrO}_4$ .

Luna, arrayed in a gray gown and long beard, is seated behind a table draped in black upon which are retorts, bottles, flasks, chemicals for red fire and sodium-burning flames. The room is dark save for the fitful glare thrown by the sodium flames as made by alcohol-soaked sand on which has been sprinkled sodium chloride or other sodium salt.

WARNING: Use extreme caution when using sand baths. Allow the bath to cool before adding more alcohol. Adding alcohol to a hot sand bath often results in a flash fire!

Altotus, with hoodwinked candidate outside door, gives the Fraternity Knock.

Luna: **"Who knocks at the portal? Who so rudely disturbs my reveries?"**

Altotus: **"Altotus and a wanderer who seeks wisdom to aid him in his search for the Philosopher's Stone."**

Luna: **"Enter, Altotus (Altotus leads the candidate before Luna, and raises the hoodwink as Luna is saying) -- who is this stranger? Why does he come to me?"** (Then, directed to the candidate) **"Who art thou? Where art thy credentials?"**

(Candidate answers with assumed name, and exhibits the lead token and rod of iron.)

(Luna looks carefully at the candidate, seems relieved, and lapses into reverie for a few moments. Then, as if remembering the presence of the visitor, he stirs himself and begins slowly and thoughtfully to speak.)

Luna: **"Behold me, clad not in the garb of the vulgar, but in the Philosopher's mantle. I was not always as ye behold me now -- old, withered and gray. I was once as strong, young and earnest in my search for the Philosopher's Stone as thou. I can speak from bitter experience, for I toiled many years and endeavored to reach the coveted goal by sublimation, distillation, calcinations, circulation, precipitation, and decrepitation, and have tried to fashion the metal out of substances such as urine, salt, vinegar, and alum." "I have striven to evolve it out of hairs, wine, eggs, bones, and all manner of herbs; out of arsenic, mercury, sulphur, and all minerals and metals."**

**"I have spent nights and days in dissolving, coagulating, amalgamating and separating, yet from all these things I derived neither profit nor joy. Yet all my labors were not in vain, for I discovered the Elixir of Life, of which whosoever drank should have eternal youth. But in my eagerness for complete control over my discovery, I attempted to make it obey my every wish; my eagerness changed this blessing into a curse. I suddenly became old and feeble and was doomed to live on forever. Behold this vial of liquid, which I alone have tasted.**

(Use vial of phosphorescent oil which will glow when opened, or use luminol-glowing vial.)

(Luna is overcome by his feelings and lapses into a soliloquy.)

**"O, mystery of mysteries; most sacred of all sacred things, last best gift of patriarchs and sages. O, desirable knowledge, lovely above all things beneath the circle of the moon; the fountain of existence by which all nature is strengthened, and by whose efforts abundance pours forth to meet the needs of men. To thee, O Power of Knowledge are my efforts given; to thee I consecrate again this life now worn and frail. If I shall live on forever, let my service be forever thine." (Turns and addresses candidate again.)**

**"And thou, O weak and degenerate mortal, dost seek the Philosopher's Stone? Depart thee hence. Go thy way. If thou wouldst avoid a fate like mine, seek not the Elixir of Life. Seek instead the Fount of Knowledge and there wilt thou find the Philosopher's Stone. Take this my token; thou wilt need it on thy further journey.**

(Luna gives candidate one of the "silver" tokens -- be careful that tokens or iron rod are not dropped by candidate.)

**"And now, wherever thy path may lead, let this token be a talisman and may it keep thee constantly reminded that knowledge is the goal desirable above all others. Toward knowledge thy face should always turn. Away! Away!"**

(Lights red fire as Altotus hoodwinks candidate and leads him to the station of Venus.)

PART EIGHT

SIXTH POINT OF THE HEXAGON

Planet: VENUS  
Metal: COPPER  
Personification: VENUS

Properties and setting

- Venus robe
- Copper box with raised 'CP' on lid
- Table and chair
- Background screen
- Two candles in candle holders
- Copper-plated or bronze-plated ball about 3" in diameter
- Several pieces of copper laboratory equipment such as condensers, retorts and beakers
- Fire extinguisher (in case of emergency)

Supplied by National  
Supplied by National

Venus is seated at the table, apparently in study, and on the table are various pieces of chemical equipment made of copper.

Altotus conducts the hoodwinked candidate to the door of the room where he gives the Fraternity Knock and enters the room.  
THE HOODWINK IS NOT REMOVED.

Venus: "Altotus, who hast thou there?"

Altotus: "I conduct a stranger who seeks wisdom."

Venus: "Under what name dost thou travel, O wanderer?"

(Candidate gives assumed name.)

Venus: "What evidence do ye present of thy acquaintance with Saturn, Mars, Mercury, and Luna?"

(Venus takes the lead and silver tokens as well as the rod of iron. The candidate should not have a tin spangle. The tokens can now be returned to their proper station for use by other candidates.)

Venus: "And where is thy token from Mercury?"

(After allowing the candidate time to make reply,)

Venus: "Altotus, explain this deficiency. After such negligence, dost thou still consider the candidate worthy to proceed?"

Altotus: "His standing now does not flatter, but I will vouch for his visit to Mercury, and I pray that his fraternal instruction be continued while I intercede in his behalf with Hermes Trismegistus."

Venus: "So be it." (Altotus leaves the room, and Venus then addresses the candidate.) "Bombastus, take now this box of metal which thou wilt find symbolic of much that we would have ye realize and carefully consider."

(Candidate takes the metal box on which are the raised letters 'CP'.)

Venus: "Upon the cover of this box thou wilt find two symbols whose meaning I alone can give thee. Feel thereon and tell me what thou findest." (Candidate feels of the raised letters and reports his findings.)

"These two letters, C P, have to all chemists a common meaning; but they have to us an added significance. They stand for those two characteristics by which we judged thy qualifications for membership with us -- thy chemistry and thy personality. Thou findest the two letters of equal size and side-by-side upon the box; even so are these two qualifications of equal weight with us -- thy ability in chemistry and the high character of thy personality. And, my friend, as we have tested thee, even so have all of us been tested. Thou wilt find in each and every one with whom ye are thus united, a worthy brother alchemist. Thou may'st now open this symbolic box and feel within it."

(Candidate feels within the empty box but is not asked any questions or allowed to remark upon its contents. As soon as he opens it, Venus continues speaking. If, however, the candidate answers, omit the following first sentence and proceed.)

Venus: "If I asked what was within, thou doubtless would call it empty; yet, we know well it is filled and not a vacant space is really to be found in it. So it is with our Fraternity; a stranger would see nothing, could perhaps find nothing which he could touch or feel, and would say that it is empty and useless. And yet, in joining us, thou wilt find a spirit which we trust will be to thy fraternal life as essential and present as is the air which surrounds and fills this symbolic box."

(During the speaking of this last paragraph, Altotus returns to the room.)

**"One thing more -- thou must know the nature of the metal of this box." (Altotus removes hoodwink.) "It is copper, held by the ancients sacred to Venus, Goddess of Love. Even as this copper makes the box, so wilt thou find that fraternal friendship and affection, for which it stands, make up the Fraternity. Think well upon what I have told thee, but most of all remember this last, for if thou lovest it, then thou hast lost the essence of our union and the basis of our order, fraternal friendship and affection."**

**"With the aid of copper vessels, alchemy was built and with them much of our modern chemistry and science was born. We no longer use vessels of copper for they are not resistant to acids nor do they stand the strain of hard wear and usage. Finer metals have come to take the place of copper. So it is with your badge of pledging; it is of copper. It has served you well, and now it returns to us as mere base metal. To replace it, you will receive a higher, finer symbol -- evidence of your full association with us in \_\_\_\_\_ ."**

**"Altotus, what is thy report?"**

Altotus: **"Hermes Trismegistus rules that (gives assumed name) may proceed, not again forgetting that which is required of him."**

(Altotus removes gown from candidate and Venus removes pledge pin.)

Venus: **"Now thou shalt proceed to the high station of Sol, where thou shalt be given that which will make thee resistant to the acid criticism of all peoples, and thy interest in \_\_\_\_\_ shall stand the inroads of time and the caustic weathering of indifference."**

(Candidate is taken to "waiting room" to await the completion of all candidates through Part Eight, after which all candidates are conducted en masse to Part Nine.)

The part of Sol is taken by the Master Alchemist, the station being in the center of a Hexagon formed by the seating of the members who have taken the various parts. The Master Alchemist is dressed in a robe of deep blue and yellow. He/She also wears a blue and gold academic hood and a crown supporting on its front an upright Hexagon. If using two tables, the Master Alchemist stands between the tables. Displayed on one table is the Coat-of-Arms plaque, on the other table is the Badge plaque. On one table is the vase of red carnations; on the other the badges and the footed cylinders for showing the colors of the Fraternity. A great deal of the effectiveness of this part will be created by the elaborateness of the setting and the arrangement of the room. The room must be large enough for those who have taken their respective parts -- and who are still clothed in their appropriate costumes -- to be seated in the form of a Hexagon, and for seating the other members along the sides of the Hexagon. All candidates are brought into the room in single file, headed by Altotus. They enter the Hexagon and proceed around the inside perimeter, with slight pauses at each point (Starting with Lead and ending with Copper) for the candidate to recognize the character as one he met on his journey. After passing the station of Venus, the candidates are presented before Sol. Altotus stands inside the Hexagon and off to the side of the candidates.

Just before the entrance of the candidates, it is suggested that the assembled brothers start singing the Fraternity Toast, and after the candidates have reached the station of Sol and singing has ceased, all (except candidates and Altotus) will be seated upon a signal from Sol.

Hermes: **"Friends, you have now reached the goal of your journey -- Sol -- and you find me here to greet you. This is fitting, for I too, as have all the brothers, made this journey."**

**"In your search for the Philosopher's Stone, your companion and guide was the alchemist, Altotus."**

**"He led you first to Saturn (points to Saturn) or Lead, who taught you humility insofar as your own knowledge is concerned."**

**"Jupiter (points to Cagliostro) or Tin, in the person of Cagliostro, representing moral weakness, taught you the danger which lies in false friends, bad associates, and low ideals."**

"Thence your journey led you to Mars (points to Mars), representing Iron, who taught you of the misuse of physical strength, but of its great value when properly directed. He also admonished you to be wise in choosing the uses to which your talents and abilities are put."

"You next passed to Mercury (points to Geber), representing Alchemy, who, in the person of Geber, taught you of the struggles of the early alchemists who founded our science and our common brotherhood. In him you found the spirit of research, and that cardinal of all virtues -- thoroughness. Let the lesson taught you by the formula of Geber always guide you and help you to think clearly, lest you fall into the same error that characterized the vague directions."

"Luna, or Silver (points in Luna's direction), whose life was dedicated to the quest for knowledge, taught you to take all disappointments philosophically and to be ever alert to encourage your despairing brother."

"Venus (points toward Venus), representing Copper, then taught you the significance of those two letters 'C P' and also the significance of fraternal life."

"Now having traveled around the Hexagon, you come finally to the center, where you find me representing Sol, or Gold, and to your great surprise you find that even I do not possess the Philosopher's Stone. Thus your search has ended. This is to teach you that your ideal was false, and your ambition unworthy. Your true ideal is represented by the three objects of the Fraternity, which are: (Stated by all members)

'To bind its members with a tie of true and lasting friendship.

To strive for the advancement of chemistry, both as a science and as a profession.

To aid its members by every honorable means in the attainment of their ambitions as chemists throughout their mortal lives.'



"You have thus far successfully measured up to the standards which we have placed before you, but the real test comes in the future -- in how far you serve this, the fraternity of your choice, and through it your fellow man and your chosen profession and science. It is not yet too late to turn back. Think well, therefore, before proceeding, (pause for a few seconds) but if it is still your wish to so do, you may raise your right hand, and repeat after me, giving your own real full name, this your solemn obligation as a member of \_\_\_\_\_"

(Hermes gives Fraternity Knock and all members rise)

"I, \_\_\_\_\_ / before this, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter / of the \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, / do hereby solemnly and sincerely / promise and swear / that I will guard and keep its secrets / and those of my brother in \_\_\_\_\_ / which are entrusted to me; / that I will obey / the Constitution and Bylaws of this Fraternity, / and all that they imply; / that I will at all time / do my utmost to promote / the welfare of the profession, / to encourage its development, / to foster a spirit of good fellowship / and intimate relationship, / and that I will strive in so doing / to cultivate the virtues of honesty, / humility, / charity, / tolerance, / and unselfishness / particularly toward my brothers / in \_\_\_\_\_ / I further promise and swear / to aid my worthy brethren / in every way consistent with honor and morality, / and I will do all in my power / to further the objects of this Fraternity. / To all of this / I do solemnly and sincerely / promise and swear / without equivocation or mental reservation, / upon my most sacred word and oath / before this the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter / of the \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity."

(Oath can be administered to all candidates at the same time. After obligation, candidates will lower their hands.)

"This badge, the emblem of our order, is given to you as a veritable Philosopher's Stone, a token of your life-long obligations, and is always to be worn near your heart."

(Sol presents badge to each candidate. Altotus helps present badges if needed. Sol and Altotus should pin badge on the candidate in proper position for wearing. Actually pinning the badges takes a great deal of time, especially when it's dark. If time is short and there are a number of candidates, it is acceptable to simply hand the badge to the candidate. Note: the wearing of the badge on jacket, collar, or lapel is not considered proper since the badge is to worn near the heart.)

**"The shape of the badge is symbolic of your journey around the Hexagon; the skull and crossed bones, of your lifelong obligations; the two stars, of our fraternal ideals, one signifying that our aims, our purpose and our order will endure as long as the stars, the other reminding us of the high and noble purposes which should be ever uppermost in our minds; and the clasped hands are symbolic of our brotherhood, the name of which you are given in the center of the Hexagon. The letters \_ \_ \_ stand for the Greek words 'Adelphoi Chemeean Sopheea' and mean 'Brothers in Chemical Sciences'."**

**"The Coat-of-Arms of our Fraternity also has its special significance. In outline, it is the sacred Hexagon; at the base of the shield is the wyvern, representing ignorance. Across the center, reading upward in numerological order, are the alchemical symbols representing the seven metals known to the ancients, and it is through these points that the pilgrim must pass in order to reach the three stars, the objects of the Fraternity. The crest of the arms is the ancient symbol for the Elixir of Life, for which the true alchemist sought. The colors of the Fraternity are (pours together the appropriate solutions to show the deep blue color) Prussian blue and (pours together the appropriate solutions to show the chrome yellow color) chrome yellow. The official flower of the Fraternity is the red carnation." (Presents each candidate with a flower.)**

**"Throughout your journey you were admitted when Altotus gave this knock. (Gives Fraternity Knock) Thus be ever ready to answer such a knock, for it comes from a brother."**

**"A brother in doubt as to the claims of another as a member of \_\_\_\_\_ may accost him thus: (gives pass-phrase). A true brother will answer: (gives proper answer).**

(Hermes then approaches each candidate and whispers the proper question, and has the candidate give the correct answer.)

**"The brotherhood call is represented by the following whistle (given by Hermes) and the answer is (given by the Master of Ceremonies, or some other member of the audience as previously arranged.)**

**"The complimentary close for a letter from one brother to another is 'Yours in the double bond'."**

**"Last of all, and by no means least important, is the brotherhood greeting which it is now my pleasure and privilege to reveal to you." (Gives and explains the Fraternity Grip.)**

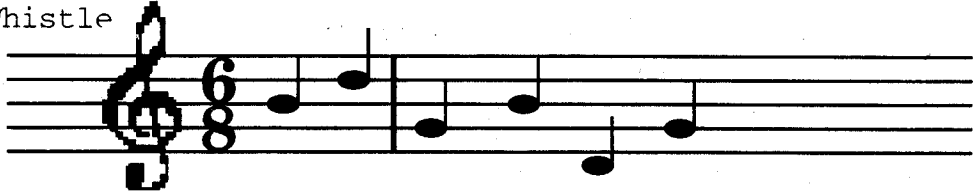
**"You will now sign the chapter register as a record that you have herein been made a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of \_\_\_\_\_"**

**"Brother(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (give the candidate(s) real last name\*), you are now (a) member(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. I welcome you into our Fraternity and charge you ever to further the ideals thereof, and I now invite you to leave the Hexagon and meet your brothers in \_\_\_\_\_."**

\* In the event of a large number of candidates the names may be omitted.

## Fraternity Call

Whistle



Answer



## OFFICAL FRATERNITY TOAST

\_\_\_\_\_ Toast  
All Hail, all Hail our Fraternity!  
All Hail the chrome and blue  
a sacred tie that holds and binds,  
The emblem of the tried and true.  
And brothers we to all eternity.  
And may we ever be as now,  
United all in a common cause,  
In \_\_\_\_\_ .

We swore to thee, our Fraternity,  
Our calling to keep true.  
To give our brother alchemist,  
Our craft its honest due.

Ah, help each one of us with honest toil  
Earn praise for us and thee,  
And make our craft a greater craft,  
A nobler alchemy.

## INTERPRETATION/ORIGINS OF PART NINE

Of all the Ritual parts, this last station has undergone the most evolution, to its present form. The purpose of the final station is three-fold; to explain the symbolic journey, to administer the obligation, and to reveal the Fraternity's secrets. These purposes have endured, yet the method of fulfilling them has undergone dramatic change.

In the first written Ritual (1906), the candidate visited stations corresponding to the various metals known to the ancients in numerological order, that is, the order the ancient Greeks viewed the arrangement of the planets in their geocentric system. Saturn, appearing farthest from the center of the "universe" (Earth), was given the number, one. Jupiter, the second most distant planet was assigned the number, two, and so on, through Mars, the sun, Venus, Mercury and, finally, the moon. With this sequence the Master Alchemist (or "Father Alchemy") portrayed the role of Luna, which wore a robe in that initiation, and this fact explains the opening line of Luna's part: "Behold me, clad not in the garb of the vulgar, but in the philosopher's mantle."

The 1906 Ritual was split into two degrees. The Master Alchemist portrayed Luna, in the center of the Hexagon, in the first degree, and then explained the journey and administered the obligation in the second degree. Later in the second degree the Master of Ceremonies revealed the secrets.

In 1909, the Ritual was changed so that the entire second degree was given by the Master of Ceremonies. It wasn't until 1924 that the center of the Hexagon assumed the identity of Gold and all three phases of the final station were done by the Master Alchemist.

A frequently asked question of why the candidate now visits the points of the Hexagon in the order, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Luna, Venus and Sol. This sequence presents, in a logical procession, the search for the Philosopher's Stone. The first point is Saturn, who hasn't the slightest idea of how to go about the search. At the second point, Cagliostro has a more defined perception of what he wants, but is far from the goal and is not suited to its attainment. Since this second step was a step in the wrong direction, the next station, that of Mars, is retribution for attempting to use the Great Work for greedy purposes. After the candidate leaves Iron, no further mention is made of the visit to Tin until Sol recounts the journey. When Mars throws the tin spangle away, there is no longer a reminder of the wrong path. At the fourth point Geber demonstrates the preparation of the Philosopher's Stone, but the candidate leaves the station confused, uncertain he can duplicate the preparation. At the fifth point, Luna has taken the search even further and has

discovered the Elixir of Life, only to discover that the search for knowledge was more important than the search for the Philosopher's Stone. The sixth point, Venus, is the link between past and present. Venus gives insight into true brotherhood and alludes to the symbolic transmutation the candidate has just undergone. The candidate then is brought to the center of the Hexagon to confront the most noble metal, Gold. Sol discounts the search for the Philosopher's Stone as an unworthy ambition, and states that the true ideals of our order lie in the Three Objects.

It should be noted that any time the Objects are recited, all members should stand and recite them in unison. This makes a tremendous impression on the candidates. Those who portray the points should remain seated.

In the second phase of Sol's oration, he administers the obligation. All members should stand during the obligation (except those who portray the points), to add gravity to its administration. Since this part must be given verbatim, it is recommended that the obligation should be written on a scroll and read. This scroll must have a fitting appearance; Sol should not read the obligation from a sheet of notebook paper!

The third phase of Sol's oration is the explanation of our insignia and secrets. At this time a distinction should be made between a badge and pin. Sol presents each member with a badge. A badge is to be worn on the shirt, dress or vest over the heart. To wear the badge in the lapel or collar is incorrect.

Our coat of arms was developed during the 1908 Conclave and adheres strictly to the rules of heraldry. While the Ritual describes fully the arms, some questions have arisen concerning the supports. Below the coat of arms is our motto, abbreviated to the letters \_\_, \_\_ and \_\_. The words and meaning of the motto are clear from the Ritual. The tattered fabric which frames the coat of arms is the lambrequin. During the Crusades, when a Knight went into battle, the lambrequin was drawn across the shield to help deaden sword blows and protect the arms. The more slashed the lambrequin, the more glory associated with the arms. The six knots above the arms are the torse, which connects the arms and crest. Above the arms is the special crest, the alchemical symbol for the Elixir of Life.

For our fraternal colors, a set of alternate reactions were added to the Ritual in the 1998 revision due to the problems encountered in the disposal of the resulting waste in the original reactions. The alternate reactions were approved in 1997 as suitable alternatives for the original reactions if chromate disposal is a problem at your chapter. The disposal advantage of

the alternate reactions is that when added together, they neutralize each other, and the resulting waste is comprised of water (pH 7), salt, and a small amount of acid/base dyes.

--NOTE--

The original reactions should be used unless the disposal of the resulting waste is a problem. It is better to utilize the alternate reactions than to have none at all.

Our fraternal knock alludes to our double bond of chemistry and brotherhood.

The pass-phrase of our order comes from the second precept of the Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus. Since we are a secret organization, so must be our pass-phrase. As with all secret orders, the pass-phrase and its response must be given in a low whisper, so that outsiders cannot hear. For hailing brothers from a distance, we have the Fraternity whistle.

There has also been some confusion concerning the Fraternity's brotherhood greeting. If the Master Alchemist chooses to demonstrate the grip with the Master of Ceremonies, rather than show each candidate individually, he should see to it that each member is given the grip before he leaves the ceremony.

The grip is as follows: The brother initiating the grip grasps his fellow as in a regular hand-clasp. The initiator then turns his right hand to the palm-up position and places his left hand on top of his brother's right hand. The latter then places his left hand on top of the initiator's left. With the hands thus in the proper position, they are moved up and down in a motion simulating the Fraternity Knock.

This Ritual copy is the property of the National Office and is subject to recall at any time by a national officer of the Fraternity.

All ritual parts are under the control of the Master of Ceremonies. They should be kept under lock and key except when in use for ritualistic work. Chapters will be charged for mutilated or lost copies. Worn copies will be replaced free of charge when so approved by the District Counselor or GMC.

#### GLOSSARY OF PART NINE

Nothing detracts so much from an initiation as the improper pronunciation of names or words, the correct pronunciation of which may well be known to the initiate. It is therefore hoped that this glossary will enable the brothers who give the ritualistic work to properly pronounce the words.

Accost (ə kōst', ə kost') -- spoke first; addressed; greeted.

Altotus (al'tōt us) -- a mysterious Greek who had been the slave to a wealthy Aslant pirate and well versed in alchemy; an instructor; companion.

Badge (baj) -- an emblem; insignia.

Base (bās) -- corrupt, being of comparatively low value and having relatively inferior properties.

Cagliostro (kal yō'strō) -- charlatan who employed alchemy to his own ends. Lived in the late 1700's.

Chrome yellow (krōm yel'ō) -- a yellow pigment consisting essentially of neutral lead chromate  $PbCrO_4$ .

Coat-of-arms (kōt-ov-ärms) -- a tabard or surcoat embroidered with armorial (bearing heraldic arms) bearing often with accompanying adjuncts as a crest, motto, and supporters.

C.P. -- old mark use to identify Chemically Pure compounds.

Crest (krest) -- the plume or identifying emblem worn on a Knight's helmet; a heraldic device depicted above the escutcheon (or the defined area on which armorial bearings are displayed and which usually consists of a shield) but not upon a helmet; upper prominence, edge, or limit.



- Elixir (i lik'sər) -- a substance held capable of changing base metals into gold (Philosopher's Stone) and prolonging life indefinitely; the essential principle.
- Emblem (em'bləm) -- symbol; an object used symbolically as a distinctive badge or insignia. An emblem often illustrates a larger series of thoughts, whereas a symbol illustrates some single, special idea. All esoteric societies have made use of emblems and symbols. Many of these emblems are not proper to divulge to the general public, and a very minute difference may make the emblem or symbol differ widely in its meaning.
- Geber (gā'bər) -- An Arabian alchemist who lived in the eighth century. His most outstanding attribute was his insistence on thoroughness and experimentation.
- Haze (hāz) -- to persecute or harass with meaningless, difficult, or humiliating tasks.
- Hermes Trismegistus (hūr'mēz tris'mi jis'təs) -- Hermes the Thrice Greatest, who combined in himself the attributes of legislator, priest, and philosopher. To him was attributed the invention of hieroglyphics, and he has been since considered as the patron of all secret physical science.
- Lambrequin (lam'brə kin) -- scarf used to cover a Knight's helmet.
- Numerological (nōō'mər ə loj'i kəl, nyōō'-) -- the order the ancient Greeks viewed the arrangement of the planets in their geocentric system.
- Prussian Blue (prush'ən blōō) -- blue, denoting universal friendship, brotherhood, and benevolence. A pigment consisting mainly of Iron (III) ferrocyanide  $\text{Fe}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]_3$ .
- Transmutations (trans'myōō tā'shəns, tranz'-) -- the conversion of base metals into gold or silver.
- Venerable (ven'ər ə bəl) -- calling forth respect through age, character and attainments.
- Wyvern (wī'vərn) -- viper; a fabulous two-legged winged animal.

RITUAL COPY NUMBER. 166

PART NINE  
HERMES TRISMEGISTUS

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The ritual of initiation is a very serious ceremony. Under no circumstances should horseplay, paddling, hazing, etc. Be introduced at any point of the initiation. No stations should be avoided, or extra stations added. Candidates should not be drenched with buckets of water, forced to eat carnations, or placed in a position where there is a risk of injury. One of the fraternal ties that bind all members of the order is the initiation. For that reason, it is vital that every chapter perform the initiation ceremony exactly as described in the Ritual. No chapter has the authority to make changes to the ritualistic work.

Every person initiated into the Fraternity must pass actively through the entire Ritual unless excused by special dispensation of the Grand Master Alchemist.

All parts must be committed to memory and delivered verbatim. There is more to the performance of a part than the delivery of lines. The parts should be presented in a manner as to convey the intended mood and meaning of each part. The members of the ritualistic team should strive to put on the work to the best of their histrionic abilities. All members constituting an audience and witnessing the ceremony should stay quiet and out of sight so that the candidate will not be aware of their presence.

The ceremony consists of two segments, the first of which prepares the candidate for the second. The initiation allegorically performs the transmutation of a "base metal" pledge to a "noble metal" brother. In as much as the ancient alchemists had seven basic metals represented by the seven known planets of their universe, the initiation ceremony employs seven steps to deliver its message. In the first segment the candidate is individually introduced to six of the seven metals by traveling around the perimeter of a Hexagon. In the second segment the candidates enter the interior of the Hexagon en masse and are introduced to the seventh metal. The complete ceremony must be given at one session and not on two separate occasions.

In Part 1, the candidate assumes the identity of the famous alchemist, Paracelsus. The candidate is sent in search of the Philosopher's Stone, accompanied by another alchemist, Altotus. In Part 2, the candidate is assured that no harm will come to him/her and assumes an oath of secrecy. Parts 3 through 8 introduce the candidate to Lead, Tin, Iron, mercury, Silver, and Copper; each with a special lesson. Part 9 explains the previous parts, reveals the Fraternity secrets and welcomes the candidates into the brotherhood.

## PART NINE

### CENTER OF THE HEXAGON

Planet: SOL  
Metal: GOLD  
Personification: HERMES

#### Properties and setting

- Sol robe Supplied by National
- Sol academic hood Supplied by National
- Sol crown with Hexagon on front Supplied by National
- Coat-of-Arms plaque Supplied by National
- Badge plaque Supplied by National
- Fraternity badge for each candidate Supplied by National
- Chapter roll book Supplied by Chapter
- Red carnations for each candidate Supplied by Chapter
- Scroll with member obligation Supplied by Chapter

- Four large footed glass cylinders for showing solutions in Fraternity colors

For Blue -- Mix a 0.5% solution of potassium ferrocyanide and a 0.5% solution of ferric chloride.

For Yellow -- Mix a 0.5% solution of potassium dichromate and a 0.5% solution of lead nitrate.

[Alternate non-chromate producing reactions]

For Blue -- Mix a 0.02M solution of NaOH and a 0.5mg/mL solution of Bromothymol Blue. (Dissolve the bromothymol blue in a small amount of ethanol, and then fill to volume with water.) (If the solution is blue before mixed with the NaOH solution, add a small amount of the acid solution from the Yellow reaction until the bromothymol blue solution is yellow or orange.)

For Yellow -- Mix a 0.02M solution of HCl and a 0.5mg/mL solution of Alizarin Red S. (Dissolve the alizarin red S in a small amount of ethanol, and fill to volume with water.) (If the solution is yellow before mixed with the HCl solution, add a small amount of the base solution from the Blue reaction until the alizarin red S solution is orange or red.)

- Table -- large (or two smaller tables can be used)
- Fire extinguisher (in case of emergency)

RITUAL COPY NUMBER 166-R

PART TEN

ALTOTUS

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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## PART TEN

### ALTOTUS

Altotus was the person who taught alchemy to Cagliostro and therefore has a similar responsibility in the ceremony. Altotus is given the charge to aid the candidate in his/her search for the Philosopher's Stone. Altotus is one of the more important parts of the ceremony since the candidate has the opportunity to engage Altotus in conversation. During the time between the stations, Altotus needs to be explaining the various parts of the ceremony as they go along.

Altotus wears a black robe (supplied by National) and first meets the candidate in Part One.

#### Part One -- Chapter Advisor

(As the candidate is being warned to remember well the name he/she is to assume during the ceremony, Altotus enters and is addressed by the fraternity member:)

Advisor: **"Altotus, you will properly hoodwink the candidate and conduct him/her to the Vice Master Alchemist"**

Altotus: (To candidate after leaving Part One.) **"I am known as Altotus and I am to be your guide throughout your journey. Dost thou feel comfortable with thy assumed name? Perhaps we should practice it some until thou art more familiar with it."** (Practice assumed name, Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Paracelsus Bombastus von Hohenheim, with candidate.)

#### Part Two -- Vice Master Alchemist

(Altotus advances with the hoodwinked candidate to the door of Part Two and gives the Fraternity Knock, which is answered in like manner from within by the doorkeeper.)

Doorkeeper: (with door ajar) **"Who knocks?"**

Altotus: **"Altotus, conducting (gives real name of candidate) who is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."**

Doorkeeper: **"Has he/she been duly examined and found to possess a proper knowledge of our Fraternity?"**

Altotus: **"He/She has."**

Doorkeeper: **"Is he/she invested with the proper robes for such a journey?"**

Altotus: **"He/she is."**

Doorkeeper (to candidate): **"What name do you bear as token of such recognition?"**

(Waits for candidate to give assumed name.)

**"Tis well, I will inform the Vice Master Alchemist of your presence."**

(Goes before the Vice Master Alchemist, leaving the door slightly ajar so that the candidate may hear the exchange between the Doorkeeper and Vice Master Alchemist.)

Doorkeeper: **"O, Vice Master Alchemist, there awaits without, Altotus, and with him is.."** (gives true name of candidate)..**"who is prepared to begin his/her journey in search of the Philosopher's Stone. He/She has been examined and found to be duly qualified in his/her knowledge of the Fraternity."**

VMA: **"Conduct the candidate before me that he/she may receive my instructions before beginning his/her journey."**

Doorkeeper: (Returns to the door and addresses Altotus and the Candidate.)

**"The Vice Master Alchemist has ordered that"** (gives candidate's real name) **"be conducted before him/her."**

(Altotus leads the candidate before the VMA and removes the hoodwink. Altotus stands near the candidate as the VMA speaks.)

VMA: **"Mr./Miss/Ms, etc.,.....you have been well..."**

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**...charge you to aid this man/woman by every honorable means in the attainment of his/her ambitions as an alchemist."**

(Altotus hoodwinks the candidate and leads him/her out of the room.)



Altotus: "How dost thou feel about thy assumed name now?"  
(Work on name if necessary) "Now, if thou art prepared,  
let us begin our search for the Philosopher's Stone"

-Note-

The candidate is representing Paracelsus, a man, and thus  
masculine gender is to be used throughout the points.

Part Three -- LEAD

(Arriving at the station, Altotus gives the Fraternity Knock.  
After a slight pause, Altotus expresses some concern over getting  
no response and gives the Fraternity Knock a second time. After a  
slight pause again, Altotus suggests they go on in. Altotus then  
positions the candidate before the sleeping Saturn and removes the  
hoodwink.)

Altotus: "Awake, O Saturn, God of Lead, we wish to speak  
with thee."

Saturn: (But partially aroused) "Speak to me...and why? I  
am not a wise man, my brain is too tired and I much  
prefer to sleep."

Altotus: "There is a stranger here to see thee."

Saturn: "A stranger? To see me? Who is he? Why does he  
bother me?"

Altotus: "He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."

Saturn: "Then he is but a fool! Doth he not know..."

(When Saturn asks about relativity and entropy, prompt the  
candidate to give some sort of answer.)

Bah! Thou hast much need of it. Here, take this  
symbol of heavy dullness that men may know thee for  
what thou art."

(Hands candidate lead token)

"Be off -- and trouble me no more."

(Saturn turns toward his books, muttering)

"Fool! Wisdom! Bombastus, indeed!"

(Altotus conducts candidate away slowly, after replacing hoodwink as if in doubt what course to pursue.)

Altotus: **"Alas, it looks as though finding the Philosopher's Stone may prove to be quite an arduous task indeed. Now what is the meaning of that token given to you by Saturn?"**

(Allow candidate to answer.)

(Explain that it represents that the candidate doesn't know as much as he thinks he does, and should be more humble.)

**"Ah, wait a moment, I know of someone who may be of assistance to us. He is an old friend and former student of mine and has a laboratory nearby."**

Part Four -- TIN

(Altotus conducts hoodwinked candidate into the room without making the usual knock. Altotus positions the candidate in the proper place and removes the hoodwink. After allowing a moment or two for the candidate to take in the scene, Altotus shuffles his feet or otherwise makes a noise which causes Cagliostro to look up in a startled manner, peer very nervously into the semi-darkness, and ask sharply:)

Cagliostro: **"Who's there?"**

(Candidate is prompted to give assumed name.)

Altotus: **"He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."**

Cagliostro: (Immediately showing pleasure in having such a visitor), **"O, welcome, most learned of men! 'Tis well! A kind fate...**

**...great danger, but thou art not afraid. See how steady is thy hand! But wait; protect thine eyes."**

(Hoodwink is placed to cover eyes)

Cagliostro: **"Now -- pour."**

(As soon as the candidate starts to pour liquid from the vial, Altotus bumps him in such a manner to make him think that the reaction of the two liquids exploded violently, Cagliostro dashes a small quantity of cold water into his face and the cymbals are clashed loudly -- as simultaneously as possible. There should be a din in the background during the rest of Cagliostro's tantrum. The noise should not be so loud as to make it difficult to hear Cagliostro, but noticeable enough to sound like the laboratory is falling apart. During the confusion that results, Altotus fastens a tin spangle on the back of the candidate's gown. The candidate must not know about the spangle.)

Cagliostro: (Angrily jerking the beaker and vial quickly from the hands of the candidate) **"Thou base and cringing coward. Thy weak and trembling hands..**

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**....from me. Thou wretch! Thou ingrate! Thou thief!  
Be gone!"**

Altotus: (To candidate after hurriedly leading him away from Cagliostro) **"Well it is plain that if thou art to survive this journey, it will be well for thee to be fortified with greater strength to fight your way. Come with me to Mars, the God of War, who may lend thee armor."**

Part Five -- IRON

(Altotus leads the candidate about the anteroom for a short time, and during this time hammering is heard, softly at first but with increasing volume, to give the candidate the impression he is approaching the noise from a distance. Finally, when the din is the loudest, they reach the door and Altotus knocks loudly.)

Mars: (Roars) **"What? Who knocks so weakly? Enter, and be ye not afraid."**

(Altotus and candidate enter, and the hoodwink is removed. Mars is busy hammering a piece of hot iron on the anvil and when speaking, he roars rather loudly, pounding on the iron to punctuate his remarks.)

Altotus: **"I bring a wanderer in search of the Philosopher's Stone. He needs your shield and buckler to strengthen him on his journey."**

Mars: (Fairly snorts) **"Philosopher's Stone! Yea, and gold too, no doubt. Gold ye seek..."**

...

...**"may it cause thee to realize that iron is, of all metals, man's best servant in a thousand peaceful arts. Now be gone!"**

(Altotus places hoodwink in proper position to blindfold candidate, and then leads him away.)

Altotus: **"Well, thou may not have received armor, but it seems that thou didst learn some valuable lessons. After listening to Mars, methinks that perhaps Count Cagliostro may not be such a good friend after all. Especially after Mars' reaction to that tin spangle. Now the other lesson to be learned is represented by the token given to you by the God of War, and what would that lesson be?"** (Allow candidate to answer.)

(That strength and power are good things to possess, but the test is in how they are used.)

#### Part Six -- MERCURY

Geber and Altotus salaam at the mention of Allah but do not induce the candidate to salaam. Let the candidate take a cue from the circumstances. He/She may or may not salaam at his/her own choice.

(Altotus leads the hoodwinked candidate to the door of the room and gives the Fraternity Knock.)

Mercury: (Speaking with great dignity) **"Enter."**

(After entrance, Altotus removes hoodwink.)

Altotus: **"O, venerable sage, I come with one who craves your condescension and your words of wisdom. He is in search of the Philosopher's Stone."**

Mercury: **"Presents he credentials?** (Candidate shows lead token received from Saturn, and rod of iron from Mars. 'Tis well, **praise be to Allah (salaam) for an ambitious...**

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The secret origin of this intangible essence I now disclose, if Allah (salaam) be willing...

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Therefore be grateful to Allah (salaam) who supports the Heavens"

(Geber then bows as if in silent prayer, and Altotus replaces the hoodwink and quietly leads the candidate away.)

Altotus: **"It would appear as if thou now possess the knowledge of transmutation. But, preparation is one thing, whereas the wisdom to make proper application of this knowledge is quite another."**

**"Let us now visit yet another alchemist who has spent many years in preparation."**

(Altotus leads candidate to Part Seven)

Part Seven -- SILVER

(Altotus, with hoodwinked candidate outside door, gives the Fraternity Knock.)

Luna: **"Who knocks at the portal? Who so rudely disturbs my reveries?"**

Altotus: **"Altotus and a wanderer who seeks wisdom to aid him in his search for the Philosopher's Stone"**

Luna: **"Enter, Altotus** (Altotus leads the candidate before Luna, and raises the hoodwink as Luna is saying)-- **who is this stranger? Why does he come to me?"** (Then, directed to the candidate) **"Who art thou? Where art thy credentials?"**

(Candidate answers with assumed name, and exhibits lead and iron tokens.)

(Luna looks carefully at the candidate, seems relieved, and lapses into reverie for a few moments. Then as if remembering the presence of the visitor, he stirs himself and begins slowly and thoughtfully to speak.)

Dana: **"Behold me,...."**

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**.....is the goal desirable above all others. Toward knowledge thy face should always turn. Away! Away!**

(Lights red fire as Altotus hoodwinks candidate and leads him away)

Altotus: **"Alas, it seems as if thou hast learned another valuable lesson. And that would be?"** (Allow candidate to answer.)

(Explain that knowledge is the most important quest. Also having possession of the Philosopher's Stone is not enough. There are additional responsibilities that go along with the ability to use it.)

(Lead candidate towards Part Eight)

Altotus: **"Thou hast seen much on this journey, and now we have come to yet another teacher who has a different perspective on what alchemy means to us."**

Part Eight -- COPPER

(Altotus conducts the hoodwinked candidate to the door of the room where he gives the Fraternity Knock and enters the room. THE HOODWINK IS NOT REMOVED.)

Venus: **"Altotus, who hast thou there?"**

Altotus: **"I conduct a stranger who seeks wisdom."**

Venus: **"Under what name dost thou travel, O wanderer?"**

(Candidate gives assumed name.)

Venus: **"What evidence do ye present of thy acquaintance with Saturn, Mars, Mercury, and Luna?"**

(Candidate shows her the tokens of lead and silver, and the rod of iron. They are taken with caution that they are not dropped.)

Venus: "And where is thy token from Mercury?"

(After allowing candidate time to make reply.)

"Altotus, explain this deficiency. After such negligence, dost thou still consider the candidate worthy to proceed?"

Altotus: "His standing now does not flatter, but I will vouch for his visit to Mercury, and I pray that his fraternal instruction be continued while I intercede in his behalf with Hermes Trismegistus."

Venus: "So be it. (Altotus leaves the room, and then Venus addresses the candidate.) "Bombastus, take now this box of metal which thou wilt find symbolic of much that we....

....and useless. And yet, in joining us, thou wilt find a spirit which we trust will be to thy fraternal life as essential and present as in the air which surrounds and fills this symbolic box."

(During the speaking of this last paragraph, Altotus returns to the room.)

"One thing more -- thou must know the nature of the metal of this box. (Altotus removes hoodwink) It is copper, held by the ancients...

...metal. To replace it, you will receive a higher, finer symbol -- evidence of your full association with us in \_\_\_\_\_."

"Altotus, what is thy report?"

Altotus: "Hermes Trismegistus rules that (gives assumed name) may proceed, not again forgetting that which is required of him."

(Altotus removes gown from candidate and Venus removes pledge pin.)

Venus: **"Now thou shalt proceed to the high station of Sol, where thou shalt be given that which will make thee resistant to the acid criticism of all peoples, and thy interest in \_\_\_\_\_ shall stand the inroads of time and the caustic weathering of indifference."**

(Hoodwink candidate and lead him away)

Altotus: **"Perchance, doth thou know the other meaning of 'CP', that Venus referred as having a common meaning for all chemists, not just those of our brotherhood?"**  
(Allow candidate to answer)

(Explain that C.P. once stood for Chemically Pure, and was a guarantee of high quality reagents)

(Candidate is taken to "waiting room" to await the completion of all candidates through Part Eight, after which all candidates are conducted to Part Nine.)

#### Part Nine -- GOLD

Of all the brothers playing Altotus, one is selected to lead all the candidates to the last station. Generally the candidates are lined up in alphabetical order to sign the chapter roll. All candidates are brought into the room in single file, headed by Altotus. They enter the Hexagon and proceed around the inside perimeter, with slight pauses at each point (Starting with Lead and ending with Copper) for the candidate to recognize the character as one he met on his journey. After passing the station of Venus, the candidates are presented before Sol. Altotus stands inside the Hexagon, and off to the side of the candidates.

Altotus does not have a speaking part in Part Nine.

Just before the entrance of the candidates, it is suggested that the assembled brothers start singing the Fraternity Toast, and after the candidates have reached the station of Sol and singing has ceased, all (except candidates and Altotus) will be seated upon a signal from Sol.



Hermes: "Friends, you have now reached....

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.....badge, the emblem of our order, is given to you as a veritable Philosopher's Stone, a token of your life-long obligations, is to always be worn near your heart."

(Sol presents badge to each candidate. Altotus helps present badges if needed. Sol and Altotus should pin badge on the candidate in proper position for wearing. Actually pinning the badges takes a great deal of time, especially when it's dark. If time is short and there are a number of candidates, it is acceptable to simply hand the badge to the candidate.)

-Note-

The wearing of the badge on the jacket, collar, or lapel is not considered proper since the badge is to be worn near the heart.

Hermes: "The shape.....

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....and I now invite you to leave the Hexagon and meet your brothers in \_\_\_\_\_."