

The importance of diligent work

By H. Fr. P.D.S. 4°=7°

The importance of daily work is a point that was raised from the very outset of our magical careers in this order. The battery of our most basic rituals are to be performed on a daily basis, with no exceptions. This is also accentuated in the pre-Neophyte period, where one is expected to perform the LBRP twice daily. This may be an easy task to accomplish in the Isis phase of work, when everything is new and exciting. But as the weeks go by and no magical fireworks show up, losing the mojo is close at hand. Why this diligence, one might wonder. *“Can’t I just banish when the forces of the world penetrate my sphere of sensation to the point where I can’t stay focused any more? That way I’ll be able to do the work only when needed, thus saving time and energy for the challenges of life.”*

Well, this is a good question and it deserves an answer. The model of work we perform has many layers, as one gets increasingly aware of throughout the grades.

To begin with, if a strong magical discipline isn’t developed immediately, it’s easy to skip the rituals every now and then. The problem with skipping a day here and there is that the process in itself is by no means an easy downhill ride, but works a lot like climbing a rope. As most of us aren’t physical Tarzans (but surely should aspire to become exactly that, as our bodies are temples of the Rose Cross) we can probably quite easily recall the pains of climbing ropes from the PE-lessons back in school. We would drag our sorry asses a good 50 cm up the rope, get tired, hang there for a humbling and humiliating second and then slide back down again, only to find our hands sore and burned. And then, in envy, we’d look at some other kids climbing the rope quite effortlessly and with great speed and joy.

I myself always wondered how they could do that, when it seemed so impossible for me.

I now believe I have the answer.

The secret trick would be something along the lines of not stopping, because no matter what you do your hands will get tired after a set amount of time. Stopping to “rest” whilst hanging from a rope is not the most clever or constructive thing one can do, thus to keep climbing is the better choice in that situation.

To use an alchemical analogy, think of a fire burning an object. Unless the fire is allowed to heat the object for a prolonged time, no combustible vapors will emit, thus the object won’t burn, but only get repeatedly and mildly heated. Now assume this is your fingers. It’s quite easy to keep a finger in the flame of a lit candle for a second. It might sting ever so slightly, but no permanent damage is made.

What I’m trying to say here is that diligent work will take one further up the rope, allowing to find God-knows-what up there. This in turn creates a positive feedback that enables one to find

an inner drive to keep working, based on the joy of discovery rather than the shame of being lazy.

And this is the key point. Unless you climb that rope fast, you won’t get as high up and won’t reap as great a reward, if any at all. Without any positive feedback, what would be the driving force to keep doing rituals, or anything else for that matter?

You tell me.



What does this positive feedback consist of, then? To keep it short: The Lesser Mysteries. These are the mysteries that are unveiled by turning every stone within and without. Even though called Lesser, they are by no means unimpressive, only separated from that One Great Mystery we all strive to unveil. What these mysteries are is up for each to discover and their rate and magnitude of revelation (R) are directly proportional to the amount of work put in (W) plus the unknown x-factor that we can call grace (G). More simply put, it follows this absurdly simple formula:

$$R = W + G$$

The revelation of these mysteries can and will have a transformative effect on the whole being, it is what fuels the alchemical pro-

cess that needs to take place. This process will have pleasant psychological side effects, which we must remember, from the larger perspective, are just side effects on the way to Liberation. Many mistake these side effects for the prime goal. However, were we looking to become nice people, we'd be better off with an occasional bitch slap and learning to grow a pair (the tutor may or may not assist here). The point remains, though; polishing the persona can be quite rewarding and serves as encouragement on the journey.

Another interesting effect is the occasional and passing occurrence of what our eastern brethren call siddhis. One may from time to time discover that one's worldview is temporarily turned upside down by some manifestation, controlled or not, of principles not applicable to the ordered laws of nature. This, as well as the sometimes unexpected fulfillment of some magical intention, normally results in the crying out aloud of the increasingly common phrase: "*Holy cow, magic works!*"

The more one gets to exclaim the above, the closer one gets to living the truth of the Emerald Tablet.

So then, what does it mean to climb the rope quickly? What kind of work is expected from a ritual magician in the SRC? Well, of course it depends to some extent on the level of personal insights manifested, theoretical foundation, understanding and so on. But to take it down to earth, making it very concrete, one should do daily rituals every day, including the basics: LBRP, LBRH or Rose Cross Ritual, Highest Divine Force and Middle Pillar. From the Juniorus grade and onwards, one should perform about three major invocations a week. Less than three, re-read the text about waste of time above. More than three and one does not actually have the time to discover, manifest and research the forces in the oh so merciless greater laboratory, which is ordinary life.

Next in line is the issue of keeping a magical journal. This is part of the daily work. Every day, notes are to be made about what kind of rituals were made, the results and insights, as well as other things that may be of interest when later trying to find common themes over time. Dreams of a certain magnitude could be one example of this.

This journal is then to be sent to ones tutor regularly. It is of utter importance that the tutor and student find a solution that works for them, the burning point being regularity.

Being both a tutor and a student, I personally find that once a week or perhaps every second week is a good interval of report-

ing. Make an agreement and stick to it.

The report is then to be followed up by the tutor within the next few days, giving feedback and tips on how to improve the ritual work, or just generally talking about the process that is taking place. Also, the aspect of friendship and brotherhood is not to be neglected, as the beasts we awaken can be quite upsetting and confusing from time to time. Other times, they might just be beautiful and incredible. In both cases there may be the need of a shoulder to lean against. The aim would in my opinion be a dynamic relation where the student never feels left alone in confusion or despair.

So in conclusion, the idea is to make your magical practices as natural a part of your life as eating and going to work/school/other activity. Unless your understandings are manifested (as soon as possible after being unveiled) in your life, they are worth nothing, thus rendering the ritual a mere act of magic for the sake of magic. This is of course the subject of a whole article in itself, but the message comes across quite clearly; don't waste your time and energy, but use it well!

Your paradigm must gradually change into one where magic is real and the process is acknowledged as taking place just as much without as it does within (well hello there, Emerald Tablet!). A force works in two directions, as do we as theurgist and thaumaturgists, and once you have recieved enough information regarding its properties, it is wise to use it accordingly, meaning you may invoke a specific force in order to accomplish a specific task in your mundane or magical (no difference!) life. The more this is done, the more the symbols penetrate and structure your being, allowing for a deeper understanding based on experience, generating the so sought for wisdom.

