

The Question of Initiation

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Occult groups have, customarily, made a great posture and show of their Initiations, while simultaneously claiming to keep them secret. It is sometimes difficult to understand what is being offered (or withheld) ...is it a social or fraternal ceremony, or is it a sacramental transmission? A social or fraternal ceremony may or may not have spiritual power in it; a sacramental transmission of spiritual power may or may not involve a formal ceremony.

While the Inner Temple Traditions Inner Convocation ® (ITIC) network is not an occult group or order, we have esoteric spiritual practices that are initiatory; which simply means that they catalyze or start new consciousness in the individual and the group. There is no mystification around what we do. As with all spiritual or sacramental work, the individual needs to “train up” to gain the deeper effects, the full benefits, of Inner Temple Traditions work. We do not use a Grade system, such as is found in many modern occult, pagan, or witchcraft groups. Progressive training comes from following through on material received in workshops, combined with the broader content in our published books.

The Inner Temples Consecration Ceremony

In ITIC workshops, a simple ceremony is sometimes offered, as a vessel for sacramental transmission, once students have done sufficient background work and practice. This has been called, for around 30 years since the 1980's, the *consecration ceremony*. We do not claim, and have never at any time claimed, to offer “apostolic succession”, or the spiritual equivalent of “episcopal ordination”, and our ceremonies are always carried out in groups.

Thus there are always multiple witnesses and participants, numbering hundreds over the years, who can confirm what happened, what was taught, what was undertaken, and what was said by me or other teachers to the group. Anyone claiming to offer our Inner Temples consecration, or teach ITIC classes, would have to be verified not only by me , but through witnesses, consensus, and group confirmation.

Attendance at workshops does not qualify anyone to teach or offer our initiatory or consecration ceremonies, or to teach any ITIC material.

The Inner Convocation consecration ceremony is designed to increase individual and group association or resonance with spiritual consciousness; the word “consecration” implies a process of making-sacred-together. In simple modern language we could say that what is transmitted is a booster, a vitalized attunement, a sacramental current. It helps the recipient with their spiritual work, and, more precisely, can act as an attunement to the telestasms of the Inner Temples.

Those who have received this attunement, communicated through touch and spiritual mediation (*mediation* not *meditation*), do not automatically receive the means, or the methods, of further transmission for passing it onwards. In this sense it is unlike the popular idea of “reiki”, that can be endlessly re-transmitted, but may instead be likened to a vitalizing dose of specific subtle energies and altered consciousness that uplifts the recipient. This resonance is usually permanent, but can be occluded by life-habits or willful corruption and rejection. The basic method of transmission was taught to me by my teachers in the 1970’s, and I began to use it for Inner Temple groups in the late 1980’s.

There is a *first level of consecration*, offered to beginners after attending three or more basic workshops, and only this was offered in the early years. From around 2002 a *second level of consecration* was offered to group members with more experience of ITIC work, who had shown ongoing commitment. Those who dropped out after attending basic classes prior to 2002 did not receive this deeper attunement, though many who joined ITIC from 2002 onwards have now experienced it. Anastacia and I are currently developing a *third level of consecration* for certified teachers and long-term group members.

Levels of Sacromagical Initiation

Anyone claiming to have been initiated by me, and therefore able to pass on “apostolic succession” or any other similar claim, including anything to do with Inner Temple Traditions, is likely to be deluded, exaggerating, or posing. Such a person would have no evidence from any of our groups to support such a claim. Sadly, there are always those who make grandiose claims in the convoluted world of occultism, magical arts, and contemporary revival spirituality.

Our group process does not include the deeper esoteric initiations that I received from W.G.Gray and A.R.Heaver, as our simple consecration ceremony is a specially focussed development that grew out of practical Inner Temple work over several years in the formative period up to 1990. For me it arose because some of the Inner Temples spiritual content could only be mediated direct, as a transmission of feeling or subtle energy. Such transmissions are fairly well known in many traditions, either folkloric or revival; they are modes of “tuning” to a chosen sacromagical frequency.

Esoteric attunements and the oft-discussed but little understood deeper initiations take many forms...their main value, in any context, is to attune and strengthen individuals within their chosen tradition. Thus an attunement or initiation within, say, a modern witchcraft context, will have a different purpose and feeling to one within a Masonic lodge; either one may or may not carry sacromagical attunement via transmission.

It is usually most effective to stay within one tradition, and move into its deeper levels over a period of time and diligent practice. Collecting “initiations” , while widely practiced, can be counter-productive, creating inner confusion. An initiatory start is similar to dropping subtle energies into the pool or field of the individual: too many will

muddy the waters. Working steadily within one chosen path (no matter what that path may be) often brings the best results.

Deeper Initiation

While our Inner Temple Traditions consecration ceremony has now been active for some thirty years, the much longer history of the deeper esoteric initiation that I received from W.G.Gray leads back to Russia in the 18th century and earlier. While this lineage was once vowed to secrecy, nowadays it is fairly well documented in modern reference sources; it can only be handed on to three recipients in one lifetime, usually near the time of death. *I have not yet handed it onwards*, and there are strict requirements for this deeper or “higher-order” transmission; unlike our Inner Temples attunement, it may be transmitted further by recipients, according the few but stringent rules handed down through the initiatory lineages.

The Inner Temple Traditions Consecration International Members

The two levels of our simple group consecration or attunement ceremony, leading deeper into the Inner Temples, have been received by many people in the USA, Britain, Canada, and more recently, Israel. Some recipients have travelled internationally from Brazil, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand to join our small groups and receive the consecration.

There is nothing “secret” about the ITIC transmission, and people can freely talk about what they experienced during and after the ceremony. It can have long-term life-changing effects, and we encourage people to share their experiences. Publication in any form or media requires formal permission, and this is usually given providing the content is accurate and can be verified by our group members. For permissions or any questions, contact 78inf342@rjstewart.net

