

# Another version of an endeavour

A History of the Golden Dawn

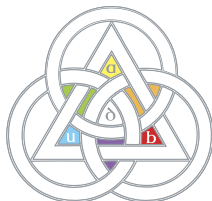


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A History of the Golden Dawn

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The **Golden Dawn** was originally an expression and aspect of the Druid work. Later its expression was a united effort by five schools or methods. It was manifested by the Freemasonic Society-Societa Rosa-crucis in Anglia-the S.R.I.A. Its basic rituals were drawn up in accordance with manuscripts preserved in the old Masonic Records which were used in formulating this new Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn .

The Freemasonic Society of that time bore the burden of responsibility for this 'leakage' and for the action taken in making use of the manuscripts and it had to face much opposition because of this.

**William Blake**, the artist, poet and mystic, one-time Chosen Chief of the then all most secret Order of the Druids, had by a balance of symbolic correspondence

worked out a system to help his companions to an understanding of a Universal Basis of Occult investigation. There was also a Dr. Falk who had a Q'abalistic School called Q.B.L. in London.

These were preceded by a number of people who also attempted to bring some semblance of order into these methods, so there was a widespread investigation of religious mystical symbols and other elements. The result of all this work was to bring into being a "Book of Symbolic Correspondences", a copy of this a parchment bound volume was once in the possession of Druid Allen Bennett MacGregor, the V. H. Frater I. A.

**Allen Bennett** later became a Buddhist monk, and assumed the name of Amanda Maitreya, his firm object was to study Buddhism in order to bring it into the Unity. This book also came into the possession of Charles Rosher, the V.H. Aqua Ammi, a poet, artist and seaman, who became a student of Islam with the same objective. He too was a member of the Druid Order.

The **Reverend A. Gordon** was another Druid who studied and became a teacher

of Universality in Japan. Shinto was his study, he wrote several books on the Lotus Religion.

**The Picture About 1889 to 1900.** The result of the publication of the Welsh manuscripts and especially of the Triads came about through various writers, including Davis' 'Celtic Druids and Celtic Researchers', Edward Williams (Iolo Morganwg) Bardas" and other books, Godfrey Higgins in his 'Celtic Druids' and 'Anacalypsis', Dr. A. Kinnealy in his 'Book of God', Book of P. O.', and others. Gerald Massey in 'Primordial Symbolism' and 'Ancient Egypt'.

**Dr. A.E. Churchward** continued this work in his 'Masonic Symbols' and 'Symbols of Primordial Man' and in the work of Dr. Wyn Wescott regarding the Q.B.L., 'The works of MacGregor Mathers translating the Q. B. L.. 'The Wisdom of Abramelin the Mage', a work on the tarot card symbolism and the 'Key of Solomon the King'.

**In France and Germany** a similar effort was going on, leading to the founding of a number of schools. On the Continent the Masonic Order had become involved in

political matters, it was used to establish certain powers and to overcome others.

Symbolism was used by Napoleon and by those who designed the Seal of the United States of America.

A study of this will disclose much when compared with the Table of Correspondences and some of this effort can be found reflected in the school of Hegelian Philosophy; this later found expression as Grand Orient Masonry, which uses the symbolism perhaps without knowing the true reason why.

The work of the Martinists, the remains of the Egyptian Masonry of Cagliostro, the work of Eliphas Levi, these were in truth all connected, and are the public appearance of the work of the Secret Schools. The school of Swedenborg, the rise of the Theosophical Society, blending the East and West, the modern schools of Hermetic Magic and of the Alchemists, and the rise of spiritualism, can all be traced historically. And all of them came face to face with internal divisions.

**The Druids** extended the bond of "CAW", and there are a number of works extant to show their efforts to establish the Universal Bond, linking with understanding the East and the West, making, as it were, an arch -a Royal Arch - that demonstrated the unity of the Ancient Celtic Peoples from Persia and India to Britain. Freemasonry itself early hid or cut off the mystic and the occult, and has remained much the same and on the same level as Masons are today.

**The Hermetic Students** flourished and developed into the above - mentioned Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. It met in the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, and such for a time looked as though becoming a very successful effort, the leaders being in high grade Masonry: MacGregor Mathers, W.W. Wescott, Brodie Innes, W. B. Yeats, A. E.(George Russell), William Sharp (Fiona McLeod) - many more could be added to this list but these will suffice.

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There have been many internal wars in the Masonic portion of the field, for war between York Masonry and the London Lodge which overthrew the ancient York



Masonry and the work of many centuries, some of which was saved by Godfrey Higgins in his works.

**In London** the Round Table was led by Harry Simpson (Pendragon). After his sudden death the work was continued by G.R. Simms the painter, and his companions. Later the group was broken up and taken over by a group called the Ancient and Archaeological Order of Druids, a body in alliance with the Societa Rosicrucis in Anglia, and both were then closed to all except those who were freemasons also.

**The Golden Dawn** was originally a Druid translation of the central idea of the Celtic Movement, and was used to bring peace over most dreadful internal troubles; but it broke into several fragments, each claiming to be the right one, under different names - such as the Order of Alpha and Omega the Stella Matina and the Reformed Rosicrucian Order.

The first was led by Brodie Innes, and the second by a Triad, the third by Arthur Waite. Other fragments were led by Dr.W.W. Westcott and W.B. Yeats and

they became almost impotent in their work.

**The Druid Mother Grove** then meeting in Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, refused to enter the war of the "Adepts" and it became a meeting place of those who recalled the Path" rather than the "Power

Aleister Crowley (Perdurabo) joined the Golden Dawn about 1889. He became the personal student of Allan Bennet (Amanda Maiteya) and friend of MacGregor Mathers. Allan Bennet became very troubled over the internal developments of the Golden Dawn and decided to join the Buddhists, which he did. Some of the sections of the Golden Dawn became very small and very very respectable.

The breaks became so pronounced that the misunderstandings became personal and it is remarkable to what depths some of the adepts sank in their endeavours to overthrow and vilify those with whom they were not in harmony.

Aleister Crowley let fly at some of them and built up his own Order, calling it the A.A.. He published his edited version of

the Universal Teaching and Method, very much was hidden in the symbolism, so that only he that knew could read! Israel Regardie obtained his information from Crowley, to whom he was personal secretary for some time. He also made use of the paper and books of the Bristol Lodge of the Golden Dawn, without permission.

**The Order of the Alpha and Omega**, once led by Brodie Innes of Scotland, remained faithful to MacGregor Mathers.

**Violet Firth**, who founded **The Order of the Inner Light**, made use of many of the Brodie Innes manuscripts, and some of these were used by Regardie without permission.

His publication regarding the Golden Dawn came not from the original rituals, but from the version of the Stella Matutina and from Crowley, and the responsibility for publishing these works is on his own shoulders. He was asked not to publish his volumes on the Golden Dawn and his last volume was not issued. He is considered by some to have sold his master for money.

The version continued by Arthur Waite under the name of the Reformed Rosicrucian Order fitted the ancient symbolic structure, but it appeared to some that it was very Latin and Roman Catholic, to such an extent that it reminded one of the Ugly Sister of Cinderella who cut off her toe to make her foot fit the slipper.

A Temple of the Golden Dawn functioning today is either very secret and small or is an extension of the Crowley A. A. or the movement of Arthur E. Waite. There is a legend that tells of a very strict Lodge in the Regent's Park area, working in the manner of the Jesuits, but who it is has not been made public.

This is not an attempt to criticise any of these leaders. Having met some of them they were found to be most interesting individuals and it is thought that the Golden Dawn inherited many of the troubles of the Theosophical Society and split for much the same reasons - a misunderstanding of the Method, a misuse of the teaching and an individualist messianic complex that got hold of nearly all of them.

The fall of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn came to be expressed by the symbol of the Tower of Babel, and the scattering of its different sections to the scattering of the peoples and the mixing up of tongues that is related in the Bible, whereby the very object of the early founders was completely overthrown.

The foundation principle of the Golden Dawn is the Symbolism and Rites and was based upon the four Ancients: the ONE, the TWO, the THREE and the FOUR — the Tetragrammaton, as in Pythagoras :The 1 - the 2 - the 3 - the 4, are evermore and nevermore."

This, the Tetragrammaton, the Four-Fold Name, the Mystery of How the Holy Shin **⚡** descends into the IHVH and shows the Deliverer, is displayed in all the ritual of the Outer Order of the Golden Dawn and each ritual can be used for FIVE objects, the central and main object being to enable each man to be his own Deliverer.

That is also the idea of Christianity. The path can be seen by the use of the number of the alphabet, the letters thereof and their correspondence to the symbols of

the 22 Tarot Cards — the systems of Egypt, Greece and India are equated thereby and the QBL Method worked on them caused the Gods to conform to the laws thus directed. All ways lead to the same path.

The FIVE ways became united into the DIRECT PATH - the path can only be trodden by those who overcome the world. Those who walk upon it themselves make many material sacrifices in doing so. In the Golden Dawn very few took the Direct Path (Middle Pillar). Many were lost in the Maze or Forest - thinking they had attained, and led some others upon the Serpent Path where they still seem to be wandering.

Crowley added to the Five that of Witchcraft. The Magic Mirror has been shattered - the dwellers in the Arch have been scattered, the keys have been misunderstood and some deeply hidden. Also the method has been adapted to uses that were never intended by the original students, who mastered some of the knowledge and attempted to universalise it.

Some used it for personal gain and had to pay the price. Some added misunderstanding to misunderstanding, only making higher the Mountain of Ignorance from which we are still suffering. Crowley in the A. A. did proclaim the first idea or object: " The Method of Science and the Way of Religion " .

In 'Zanoni ' by Lord Lytton something of this is expressed. The Druid Order A.D.U.B. has continued through all this conflict; it did not take part in the fruitless war of the Adepti, but endeavoured to preserve the Ancient Celtic foundation and the fact that each is a Minutum Mundum.

The oath of the Golden Dawn is perhaps the one point that has led to the break-up of the Order. It is not one person that matters in this work; but the oath might be understood as if it were so.

Our central Druid work is still called by the ancient name, the Golden Dawn, for which we wait and work. Our method is not the way of Witchcraft nor Magic but that of Unity, Harmony and Healing, and by the use of this one cannot go wrong. We use the breath to control the blood,

but do not follow the way of the sorcerer who works with the blood.

There is no known true college of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn functioning today. There may be imitations from the work of Israel Regardie; but remember, there is more in the work than the Ritual itself. Keep all simple and follow the natural path to the Light. Be careful regarding Direction. Be the Master over all you do. Do not let the ritual obsess you.

Keep the Harmony and the idea of Healing above all, and remember the Gods are originally the Family from Monday to Sunday, and a family should be united.

It is a very hard task for humans to work together, for they are all at different stages of understanding and development. But the Work of the Order should be able to rise above all the antagonisms of the individual, the differences of Sects, the oppositions of politics, the hatreds of peoples. For the Truth will make all Free, when they have understanding.