**INSTRUCTIONS NO. 1**

**A WARNING**

**There** is a strange law in Occultism which has been ascertained and proven by thousands of years of experience; nor has it failed to demonstrate itself, almost in every case, during the fifteen years that the Theosophical Society has been in existence. As soon as anyone pledges himself as a “Probationer”**,** certain occult effect ensue. Of these the first is the *throwing outward* of everything latent in the nature of the man: his faults, habits, qualities, or subdued desires, whether good, bad, or indifferent.

For instance, if a man be vain or a sensualist, or ambitious, whether by atavism or by karmic heirloom, those vices are sure to break out, even if he has hitherto successfully concealed and repressed them. They will come to the front irrepressibly, and he will have to fight a hundred times harder than before, until he kills all such tendencies of himself.

On the other hand, if he be good, generous, chaste, and abstemious, or has any virtue hitherto latent and concealed in him, it will work its way out as irrepressibly as the rest. Thus, a civilized man who hates to be considered a saint, and therefore assumes a mas, will not be able to conceal his true nature, whether base or noble.

THIS IS AN IMMUTABLE LAW IN THE DOMAIN OF THE OCCULT.

Its action is the more marked, the more earnest and sincere the desire of the candidate, and the more deeply he has felt the reality and importance of his pledge.

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**KNOW THYSELF**

The ancient occult axiom, “Know Thyself”, must be familiar to every student; but few if any have apprehended the real meaning of this wise exhortation of the Delphic Oracle. You all know your earthly pedigree, but who of you has ever traced all the links of heredity – astral. psychic, and spiritual, which go to make you what you are? Many have written and expressed their desire to unite themselves with their higher Ego, yet none seem to know the indissoluble link connecting their “Higher Ego” with the One Universal SELF.

For all purposes of Occultism, whether practical or purely metaphysical, such knowledge is absolutely requisite. It is proposed, therefore, to begin the esoteric instructions by showing this connection in all directions with the worlds: Absolute, Archetypal, Spiritual, Manasic, Psychic, Astral, and Elemental. Before, however, we can touch upon the higher worlds – Archetypal, Spiritual, and Manasic – we must master the relations for the seventh, the terrestrial world, the lower Prakriti, or Malkhut as in the Kabbalah, or the worlds or planes which immediately follow it.

It is clear that once the human body is admitted to have direct relation with such higher worlds, the specialization of the organs and parts of the body will necessitate the mention of all parts of the human organism without exception. In the eyes of truth and nature no one organ is more noble or ignoble than another. The ancients considered as the most holy, precisely those organs which we associate with feelings of shame and secrecy; for they are the creative centers, corresponding to the creative forces of the Kosmos.

Students are therefore warned that unless they are prepared to take everything in the spirit of truth and nature and forget the code of false propriety bred by hypocrisy and the shameful misuse of primeval functions, which were once considered divine – they had better not study esotericism.

**SEPTENARY PRINCIPLE**

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| **SANSKRIT** | **ENGLISH** |
| **ATMAN** | **DIVINE PRINCIPLE/MONAD** |
| **BUDDHI** | **SPIRITUAL SOUL** |
| **MANAS (LOWER AND HIGHER MANAS)** | **MIND** |
| **KAMA** | **DESIRE** |
| **PRANA** | **LIFE-FORCE** |
| **LINGA-SARIRA** | **ETHERIC DOUBLE** |
| **STHULA SARIRA** | **PHYSICAL BODY** |

**Malkuth** is the tenth Sephirah of the cabalistic Tree of Life, the bottom Sephirah on the whole Tree. The term is a Hebrew word meaning "Kingdom." It represents the archetype of the number 10, the manifested aspect of the Godhead. Malkuth symbolizes the entire physical world and the 4 elements.

