



F.A.Q.

Q. How do I apply for Order membership?

A. Preferably, put your request in a formally written letter (signed and dated), to:

The Secretary
Ordo Astris
PO Box 3609
BA1 2ZN
England, UK

Q. Is the O.:A.: associated with the OTO or any other organisation?

A. We are an independent magical Order and there is no official affiliation between the O.:A.: and any other organisation.

Q. Are there any fees or dues to pay?

A. There are no fees for membership. There are no fees for Initiation, or for Initiatory grades or degrees. Members are placed under no financial obligation. Anyone is welcome to assist us with our work by making a voluntary donation to the Order (this may be done through the website). The knowledge books – one for each grade – are published privately and may be purchased online; profit from these contributes towards the expenses of our administration.

Q. I do not live in the UK. Would this be a problem, regarding membership?

A. We are an international Order, and we have members and students in North America and mainland Europe as well as in the UK, where we established our base.

Q. To join the O.:A.: do I have to sever my links with any non-Thelemic organisations?

A. No.

Q. Will I have to pledge allegiance to any member or members of the O.:A.:?

A. There are no “oaths of allegiance”, but the grade system works by oath and by deed.

Q. Do I have to obey the commands of any person that is in a higher grade than myself?

No. In *Ordo Astris*, the grades or Initiation degrees do not represent a hierarchy of power. The administration of the Order is conveyed through the traditional offices (e.g. Praemonstrator, Imperator, Cancellarius).

Q. Do I have to pledge my acceptance of the Book of the Law?

A. We are a Thelemic Order; therefore acceptance of the tenets of Liber AL vel Legis is a requirement of membership. This is part of the signed agreement for a Probationer. It applies to all subsequent grades in the Order.

Q. Can I be a religious person and associate with the O.:A.:? What if I am of a political persuasion?

A. All religions claim to hold the keys of life and death. Most if not all political organisations have ideological values or sets of beliefs that their members are expected to be loyal to. By agreeing to accept the tenets of Liber AL vel Legis, it is possible that a person would be setting up a division in their self that might cause difficulties at a later stage.

Q. If I am accepted as a Probationer, will I have to do the exercises that are given in *The Equinox* series of Aleister Crowley?

A. No. *The Equinox* series of Aleister Crowley and his Order of A.:A.: was written a century ago. Some of those practices are still workable and useful, but others – particularly the teachings on practical yoga – may lead to serious mishap.

Q. Do you teach the practice of yoga?

A. In the O.:A.: we have our own methods of yoga, which are the result of the handed-on work of several generations of occultists. We have our own rituals. Though these practices have continuity with the past through an unbroken tradition, we do not have much use for material that is now in the public domain, as this tends to render it useless in occult terms.

Q. Does the Order encourage experiments in mediumism?

A. Candidates to the 19th century Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn had to sign the following pledge:

The Chiefs of the Order do not care to accept as Candidates any persons accustomed to submit themselves as Mediums to the Experiments of Hypnotism, Mesmerism, or Spiritualism; or who habitually allow themselves to fall into a completely Passive condition of Will; also they disapprove of the methods made use of as a rule in such experiments.

There also exist what might be called higher forms of mediumism. The classical approach utilises a female clairvoyant and a male magician, for example, who have clearly defined functions in the ritual operation. It is not mediumism *per se* that is discouraged, but the ignorant practice of it (including all forms of “professional” occultism).

Q. Does the Order practice spiritual healing?

A. We endorse the general view given by Crowley in his book *Magick*, Chapter XXI, where the use of the Magical Force for anything other than aspiration to the Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel is considered to be Black Magic. The popular New Age techniques now in use for so-called “healing”, “empowerment”, “personal development” and so forth, are considered to be in every way obnoxious. If the person succeeds in their Probationership then they should already possess an intuitive apprehension of the spiritual and occult facts of life. Every Probationer agrees to practice Poverty, Chastity and Obedience and to fully understand the meaning and purpose of this.

Q. I have seen the Holy Obligation of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Does this mean I have to walk around naked with a begging bowl, abstain from sex and do anything I am told by the Order?

A. One must be aware of the spiritual meaning of these. The student is encouraged not to fall into the trap of mixing up and confusing the mystical and occult language with moral taboo. We refer here as much to modern humanistic thinking and popular cultural hedonism as any archaic religious taboos. One may, though, impose certain limitations on the self in order to achieve certain desirable ends.

Q. Why is it considered so important to keep a daily magical Diary Record?

A. The Record forges a vital link between the subtle modes of consciousness made available through magical practice, and the ordinary conscious mind of the person. Every Probationer agrees to keep a daily Diary Record for the O.:A.:, and this is an essential requirement of Order membership.

Q. What books would you recommend to give me an idea of what Thelema and the O.:A.: are all about?

A. We provide a general reading list with our knowledge book for the Probationer; in addition to that there are the knowledge books of the O.:A.:, and our published work, *The Ending of the Words*.

Q. What does it mean to discover my True Will?

A. The True Will is the true meaning and purpose of your life and existence, as applied to your every thought, word and deed. It is the essence of what Thelema (= “Will”) is all about.