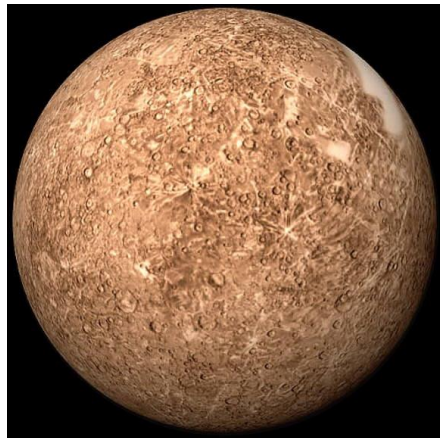


Sphere 3: Splendor

What Are Spheres?

Spheres are the levels of training that we offer for the initiatory process of the Tradition. There are 8 Spheres. Each Sphere contains information on the topics relevant to understanding at its level. These topics build on each other and give a foundation for being able to work in the Circle of the Dark Mother. Some of these areas may be something you've already experienced, and you may be very well-versed in. If that is the case, feel free to move quickly through the section. We ask that everyone complete all sections because this is also the training foundation for clergy in the Circle. It is important that everyone is on the same page and can speak the same language for the optimal communication.

After completing each Sphere, contact Mark H. Williams (markw.ohio@gmail.com) with a description of what you've learned and what you've tried out in the Sphere. He will reply back with any additional questions, suggestions, and answers to any questions you have posed in your email.



Sphere 3

This Sphere is called Splendor and is associated with the Mage or Magician. This Sphere is also called “the hazy mirror of prophecy” meaning that it is also associated with prophetic movements, but the messages are hazy, confusing, and not as sure to transpire.

Correspondences

Color: Orange

Astrological Attribute: Mercury

Incense/Plant: Storax, Orchid, Peyote

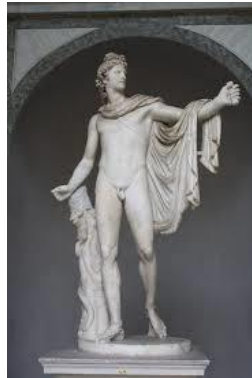
Virtue: Sound logic, skilled communication, clarity of mind

Vice: Dishonesty, unclear mind, misperception

Personality



This is the realm of the mage or magician. He/She is the representation of those who can perform magic both internal and external to us.



Greek Deity

Apollo: Apollo is one of the most complex and important gods, and is the god of many things, including: music, poetry, art, oracles, archery, plague, medicine, sun, light and knowledge. He is the son of Zeus and the Titan Leto.



Spiritual Beings:

Archangel: Michael

The archangel Michael, “Who is Like Unto God”, is said to be the warrior and protector. He brings peace but will fight when necessary.

Order of Angels: Beni Elohim

The order of angels called the Beni Elohim are a very interesting angelic presence. Beni Elohim means sons of God and these angels are the most skilled at interacting with physical incarnation and are said to be able to easily possess human beings if allowed.

Meditation:

Meditation is an important part of any spiritual practice. For Sphere 3 we will focus on the beginnings of mindfulness training.

Primordial meditation is the type of meditation that is present in many traditions as the basis for all mindfulness training. The purpose of this meditation is to clear the mind, learn to manage thoughts and emotions, and listen.

1. Get into a comfortable position.
2. Push all thoughts aside and begin to breath in a regular rhythm.
3. Breath in... and out... in... and out
4. As thoughts arise, gently push them aside and refocus on your breathing.

It is important not to get upset or agitated over thoughts that arise. Our minds are pretty noisy, and it takes time and practice for longer periods of silent mind.

Start with a short session. It is much more important to have consistent practice than to have long practice. You can work your way up.

If you have trouble not thinking about time – set a timer for even 5 minutes for the start of your practice.

Ritual Topic:

Ritual items need to be acquired as part of the process of working with the Spheres. If you do not have money to purchase items, don't worry – you can make do with what you have. For instance, a cup can be used from your kitchen cabinet. It doesn't have to be anything fancy.



Cup or Chalice

The cup can be a traditional chalice, or it can be a Kapala (Buddhist skull cup). It is whatever you are more comfortable using. It is typically made of metal, wood, stone, crystal, or bone, but symbolically anything that can hold liquid can be used.



Chakra

Solar Plexus (Located between stomach and heart) - The solar plexus chakra corresponds with our mental body and the mental world, the ordinary mind or surface consciousness, the force of personal will or power, the transformation and delivery of energy, the knowledge and ability necessary for works of magic or wonderworking arts, alchemy, psychism, all intellectual pursuits, metaphysical and spiritual metabolism, technology and humor. It also corresponds to the elemental force of fire and the direction south in the sacred circle.

When the solar plexus is joined to the heart the mental consciousness becomes illuminated and inspired, the solar plexus then acts as the receiver and transmitter of the spiritual influxes and energy from above. In this illumination all human endeavors assume their true purpose and meaning, generating a true and righteous humanity in balance with Creator and Creation. However, when cut off from the heart, this chakra is the “head of the Great Beast,” and our life is bound up in the titanic power of egotism, the play of dominion or power over others in selfish consumerism and selfish ambition that potentially knows no end, no satisfaction.

Religions preaching a revelation of love but enacting holy wars and inquisitions are an example of the darkness of this center when divorced from the heart and upper chakras. Restoration to a pure spirituality of direct experience, founded upon the awareness of Sacred Unity, is the redemption of this center, its restoration to its rightful place in submission to the Divine.

This is the energetic center through which we are able to become aware of the subtle energetic dimension within and behind the physical or material dimension, and through which we contact and interact with the world of spirits. In spiritual work affecting changes or shifts in the material reality, this chakra is key, a principle center of focus. of matter-energy-light, pure energy, light or spirit manifest in material form.



Level of the Soul

Ruach (Spirit) – the human intelligence and the divine intelligence. The lower Ruach points toward the Nefesh and is our intelligence where the upper Ruach points toward the Neshamah (eternal soul) and toward enlightenment.



Holy Day

Ostara (Spring Equinox) – Ostara marks the time when the sun passes over the celestial equator. Ostara is a festival that celebrates the season's change from dark winter to brightening spring.

Completion

When you are finished with the course, Mark will send you a certificate stating that you are a full initiate of the Tradition. You will be then ready to start Adept training which contains more advanced topics.