

a dark chamber, and there was no light; all of a sudden as you walk in through the dark chamber all kinds of images would start floating at you, some of them phantoms, and some of them figments of your own imagination; in essence, they are all projections, or thought-forms of your own inner self which are projected on the screen of your inner mind. The second ordeal or initiation is by water; you have to swim through a crocodile infested pool; if you make it you have the next ordeal to face. The third ordeal is by fire, where you have a fiery pit; you would have to leap across the pit which was simulated by an updraught from glowing coals. The fourth ordeal was by air, where there was a trick door, which suspended the initiate over a pit amidst a blast of cold air. After you go through these four elements, you enter into the sanctuary. The light opens up in this sanctuary of Isis, and the rays of the sun pour down on you, and all the members of the brotherhood say the sacred sound "OM," and the initiation process proceeds. In other words, you have conquered the elements. You are ready for higher truth.

Now for the symbolism in Egyptology. There is the popular symbol of the lotus. Now, if you can picture the lotus on a lake, and you can see the sun shining down on it, the water surrounding it, the green leaves around it, cool air flowing above it--then you can see that the four elements are involved in the total picture or symbol. When you see the blossom coming up, you see the product of life; it's just like mother earth opening up; in essence, you have an allegory here of the life cycle. In the center of the lotus you have the color orange, which symbolizes the sun, for at the center of all life is the fire, that's the beginning. As it opens up its leaves you have the border petals which are purple, which signify the succession of generations and the evolutions of seasons; the esoteric meaning refers to the purple of the crown chakra, the thousand-petaled lotus which opens up during enlightenment. When you have a head coming out of the lotus, you have the spiritual man attaining enlightenment.

Another symbol is the ark. This was the vehicle in which the dead were ferried across the river. It is not only the symbol of the transmigration of a soul across the river of life to the other side, when the soul is carried away from the body to the spirit world, but it also carries the concept of the human body as an ark upon a journey called life.

Then there is the symbol of the winged disk. It consists of a solar disk with the two wings on the sides and two asps or snakes. It not only symbolizes the flight of the sun across the sky, and the two asps don't just symbolize upper and lower Egypt (as some literalists would have it), but it has the esoteric meaning of the two snakes of the kundalini rising up; they are known in Hindu terminology as the Ida and the Pingala, or the positive and negative currents along the spinal cord.

There is one more thing that I need to mention, and it concerns what some esoteric Egyptologists consider to be the work of the Egyptian Hermes. It's called the Book of the Secrets of Enoch. The Catholics kept it out of the Bible because it was too revealing; they called it apocryphal literature. However, in this book there are seven heavens through which the initiate must pass before departure from the earth. He enters through two pillars; the two pillars are the positive and the negative. The seven heavens that you must pass through are the metaphysical seven chakras. Again, the study of man.

Remember, "KNOW THYSELF" has been written all over these books. The Delphic Oracle said: "Know thyself, for in thyself are hidden the mysteries of the universe."