

## New Policy on Ritual Memorization

New Policy, effective January 1, 2005 e.v. for all U.S. local bodies:

Initiatory officers in the Degree of Minerval shall memorize their parts in advance. Ritual scripts are prohibited within open Temple for the Minerval Degree, with the exception that one copy may be held by a prompter who is not otherwise a ritual officer.

This policy does not apply to rehearsals.

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Rationale:

In Confessions, Crowley states the following regarding the initiation rituals of M.M.M.:

"Another essential point was to reduce the unwieldy mass of material to a compact and coherent system. I thought that everything worth preserving could and should be presented in not more than a dozen ceremonies, and that it should be brought well within the capacity of any officer to learn by heart his part during the leisure time at his disposal, in a month at most."

A month may or may not be a realistic estimate; nevertheless, it was clearly Crowley's intent that the initiation rituals be memorized. Many, perhaps the majority, of U.S. local bodies already perform their ritual initiations largely without the use of scripts in Temple. However, heretofore, our official policy has been to strongly recommend this practice, rather than to require it. There was no particular rationale or formal decision behind that policy; it represented a default, interim position based on 1970s "battlefield conditions." It is our judgment that the current quality of initiator training available, and the strength of the current body of chartered initiators, makes this change practicable; whereas previously, it was merely desirable.

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Notes:

1. Similar policies will be phased in for the remaining degrees of the Man of Earth Triad in the coming months, with allowances made for the reading of certain, specific passages.
2. Rehearsals, which have always been recommended, will become a must under this new policy. Regular ritual practice run-throughs, with discussion of symbolism, are also a very good idea.
3. Despite what is printed on the ritual manuals, copies may be made and lent to U.S. members who are studying to serve as initiatory officers. The chartered initiator must maintain control of all such copies, and they must be returned to the chartered initiator when not in active use for the above purpose.