

## THE MAGIC CIRCLE (Chapter 3)

All books that deal with the subject of ceremonial magic and give accounts of invocation and evocation of any kind of being stipulate that the magic circle plays the most important role. There are hundreds of instructions available on how to make magic circles for a wide variety of purposes. For example, instructions can be found in works such as the Albertus Magnus, the Clavicula Solomonus, the Goetia, Agrippa, Magia Naturalis, in the Faust Magia Naturalis, and in the ancient grimoires. In all these books the instructions given are always the same: all one has to do when summoning a being is to stand in the circle. But rarely is there an explanation for the esoteric symbolism of a magic circle. I shall therefore explain the magic circle in detail to the seriously aspiring magician in accordance with the analogies and the universal laws.

A true magic circle is a symbolic representation of both the macrocosm and the microcosm, in other words as far as the microcosm is concerned it is a representation of the perfect human being. A circle indicates the beginning and the end, and therefore the alpha and the omega. Furthermore, it depicts eternity, which has no beginning or end. As such, the circle is a symbolic diagram of the Infinite, of the Divinity, in all its aspects, that can be understood by the microcosm, which means by a true initiate or a magician who has successfully completed all the exercises in Initiation into Hermetic. In other words, it is understood by a perfected magician. The drawing of a circle symbolizes the Divinity in its perfection, to come into contact with the Divinity, namely when the magician stands in the center of the circle, whereby, symbolically expressed, the connection with the Divinity is graphically represented. For the magician, it is a connection with the macrocosm of the highest level of his consciousness. It is therefore completely logical from the point of view of true magic for the magician to stand in the centre of a magic circle with the awareness of being at One with his universal divinity. This clearly shows that the magic circle is not only a diagram for protection against undesirable negative influences, but it also expresses untouchability and unasailability as a result of connecting one's consciousness with the Highest. Therefore, a magician who stands in the center of a magic circle is protected from all influences, be they good or evil, because he symbolizes the Divinity in the universe. Besides, a magician who stands in a circle is God himself in the microcosm, who rules the beings which are created in the universe and he is the one who exercises his absolute powers.

Therefore the esoteric significance of standing in a circle represents something entirely different than what the conventional books on magic dealing with the matter of evocation, invocation or incantation claim it to be. If a magician, when standing in the magic circle, were not conscious of this esoteric significance that he symbolizes God, the infinite Being - he would be unable to exert any influence upon a being. At that point, the magician is a consummate magical authority and all powers and beings must be absolutely obedient to this consummate authority. His will and the orders he gives are the orders of the Infinite, of God, and without exception these orders must be respected by the beings with whom the magician comes in contact. Should the magician fail to have this attitude during the magical operation, he will sink to the level of a sorcerer, and he will be merely a mimic, without actually being in contact with the Highest. His magical authority will therefore become questionable. Besides, he will face the danger of failing to gain any respect from the beings that he has summoned, or worse, he may be ridiculed. Besides which, there are all the other undesirable, accompanying problems to which he would be subjected by the powers he has summoned, especially when they are negative beings. The design and preparation of such a magic circle depends solely upon the individual preference and level of maturity of the particular magician.