

An Introduction to the Esoteric Order of Dagon



This publication of the Esoteric Order of Dagon may be freely distributed to the public. Those wishing to learn more about the Esoteric Order of Dagon may contact:
esotericorderofdagon@comcast.net

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.
Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu R'lyeh wagh'nagl fhtagn.

I wish to personally formally introduce you to the reformed Esoteric Order of Dagon, as described in the enclosed booklet which outlines its history, structure and aims.

As “Randolph Carter” I was the Founder of the modern adaptation of the Esoteric Order of Dagon and therefore I am in the unique position to formulate and implement the agenda of the Order as envisioned by the former Directors who constitute the Yaddith Lodge, the Supreme Council of the Temple of Dagon. As the new Grand Master (as described in the enclosed Announcement) I now possess the Seal and Ring of the Order and am prepared to perform the duties of my office and implement the new phase.

In March 2007 I visited London, where I met Michael Staley of the Typhonian O.T.O. , and traveled to York where I met my long time correspondent and counterpart Peter Smith who has been instrumental in the creation and evolution of the Order. Both are former Directors and present members of the Yaddith Lodge, and our meetings were both personally rewarding and encouraging about the future of the Esoteric Order of Dagon.

This Order, currently with members in the United States, Europe and South America, is intended for those who can demonstrate their sincere interest and efforts in the Lovecraftian mythos as it

connects to esoteric traditions. If you believe that you are a serious researcher in the Lovecraftian magickal tradition, and believe you would be interested in associating with others that are mature, sane and effective in their esoteric pursuits, please considering applying for membership. Persons seriously interested in applying for membership after perusal of this Introduction are invited to contact the Grand R'lyeh Lodge, contact information listed at the end of the enclosed booklet. A creative effort is needed for applying for the Neophyte degree and evidence of such should be enclosed with the application.

I would be glad to answer any questions you may have, and your inquiry will be answered promptly. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Love is the law, love under will
Ia! Ia! Cthulhu fhtagn!

"...the Cult still lives..."

Yrs Fraternally,

Paul Remi Prevost
"Obed Marsh", Grand Master,
The Esoteric Order of Dagon



An Introduction to the Esoteric Order of Dagon *as revised by Frater Obed Marsh, Grand Master*

The name of our Order is derived from the story *The Shadow Over Innsmouth* by the New England horror and fantasy writer H.P. Lovecraft, (1890-1937). Written in November/December, 1931 and published in 1936, it was the only book of HPL's fiction to be published and distributed in his lifetime.

Lovecraft's fiction, first published in the American pulp magazines such as *Weird Tales*, presents an internally consistent cosmology, constructed through the literary realizations of the author's dreams and intuitive impulses. This cosmology came to be known as the "Cthulhu Mythos", after its central deity. These stories and novels contain hidden meanings and magickal formulae unknown even to their creator.

Lovecraft suffered from an acute inferiority complex, which prevented him from personally crossing the Abyss in his lifetime. He remained a withdrawn and lonely writer who retained a rational, skeptical view of the universe, despite the glimpses of places and entities beyond the world of mundane reality, which his dream experiences allowed him. He never learned the true origin of the tremendous vistas of cosmic strangeness that haunted his dreams. He never realized that he was himself the High Priest 'Ech-Pi-El', the Prophet of the dawning Aeon of Cthulhu.

Before he died, Lovecraft left behind the "Silver Key to the Ultimate Gate" in the form of Randolph Carter, his most developed character who appears in no less than four tales. This character assumed an independent existence during and after Lovecraft's life. For many years Randolph Carter waited in the parallel world the men and women of this world can sometimes visit in dreams for someone to discover the clues to the Mythos that Lovecraft had unconsciously revealed in his stories.

During the socially turbulent 1960's a young man, with the help of a certain rare dream elixir made from the Fungi of Yuggoth, fell into a deep sleep and in dream boldly descended the entire "Seven Hundred Onyx Steps to the gate of Deeper Slumber". "Randolph Carter" was then able to assume a physical existence by inhabiting his mind. The name and character of Randolph Carter was assumed, the *Manifesto of the Aeon of Cthulhu* issued, the Esoteric Order of Dagon was revived, and the Temple of Dagon was re-established.

The Esoteric Order of Dagon is a modern Lovecraftian magickal order and has been in continuous public existence since 1981. Many members of the Order have been involved in various esoteric pursuits for many years, some for over thirty years. The group is elite, with membership limited and the importance is not in the number of members, but the quality, with current members including several published authors, a major occult book publisher, and many well-received artists, filmmakers and musicians. Serious work and dedication is the only means of achievement in mundane as well as esoteric pursuits. The membership of the organization is composed of successful, creative individuals, well adjusted and mature, who treat each other with respect. The creative artistic results of the members of our group is the proof that it has something of value to offer, and the "occult fantasies" of immature and ineffectual persons are usually the first reason for the rejection of their consideration for membership.

The Esoteric Order of Dagon (a fraternity which includes women) is an association of ardent researchers exploring the connections between the hidden mysteries concealed in H.P. Lovecraft's weird fiction and discovering the convergence of the esoteric traditions alluded to in various Lovecraft stories. Membership is open to those who can show that they can make a manifest contribution to the occult arts and sciences of the Lovecraftian magickal mythos. Researchers are not bound or limited to any of the particular traditions described in his writings. These include Thelema (the *Necronomicon*), Sex Magick (*The Thing on the Doorstep*), Wicca

(*The Festival*), Dream Working (*The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath*), Enochian Magick (*The Dunwich Horror*), The Yezidi and Qabalah (*The Horror at Red Hook*), Shamanism (*The Call of Cthulhu*), Skryering in the Aethyr (*The Haunter of the Dark*), Alchemy (*The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*) and many others. Members synthesize all of these various practices after personally verifying or adapting them.

The E.:O.:D.: utilizes the so-called Cthulhu Mythos of the horror and fantasy writer H.P. Lovecraft as a magickal method of exploring the Cosmic via the Collective Unconscious. The Order claims descent from the Sirius mystery cults traditions of ancient Egypt, Babylon and Sumerian and influences from the South Pacific Polynesian Cults. The fringe Masonic cast it has taken is to inform it with the privileged lineages of the Illuminati, Rosicrucians, Templars, Hermetics, Alchemists, and Gnostics.

The Triangle of Dots (∴) used as abbreviating periods signify a secret society connected with ancient mysteries. This usage derives from the very old Masonic connections of some occult orders and signifies that an esoteric meaning is involved. The true hidden reference is to the Sirius system, of three stars, including our own sun.⁽¹⁾ The ancient Sumerian/Egyptian Mysteries of Oannes (or the Philistine Dagon, Lord of the Deep Ones) and the stellar gnosis of the All Seeing Eye of Sirius, concealed in the Hermetic Freemasonic Traditions, forms the basis of the 23 Current that informs the secret society.

The symbolism of an amphibian, that is, a creature evolved to travel between two worlds, is the motif and formula of the Order. The means of traveling between the conscious world and the silent, unconscious right brain, is by means of lucid dreaming, "The Silver Key". Demonstrable results in Oneiric Magick require lucid dreaming or induced hypnogogic visions. Lovecraft's creative writings are believed to be the result of his unconscious connection to trans-dimensional sources via dreams. The Great

Work of the E.·O.·D.· is to forge a link with the cosmic entities and embody them, resulting in tangible manifestation of creative self-expression.

Other influences on the new mythos of the group include the author Kenneth Grant, the last living disciple of Aleister Crowley, and head of the Typhonian Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) who also attaches occult significance to the writings of Lovecraft. He has outlined these main themes in his books, particularly expounded in *Outside the Circles of Time*.⁽²⁾

The E.·O.·D.· is formally affiliated with, yet remains a totally independent organization from the TOTO, and its aims are in alignment with Thelema.

Many people have an incomplete or distorted history of the EOD, mostly due to the difficulty in getting information about it and popular accounts that have had limited access to original source documents. Another supposedly esoteric group using the same name in their attempt to obtain authenticity and authority, is revealed to be an obvious bogus imitation upon careful inspection and can be dismissed as fraudulent - imposters, without any genuine credentials - and a source of misleading disinformation.

The honored and long-existing EOD Amateur Press Association can be found at <http://www.qusoor.com/EOD/home.html> and is of course a completely different organization with no connection or relation to us, being purely a Lovecraftian literary organization bearing the same name.

A journal, *BATRACHIA* is published and publications issued in the past included *The Pylon*, *Starry Wisdom*, *Fragments*, and *R'yeh Rising*,

A related organization, an exoteric artistic and literary society, the Miskatonick Society, issued the publication *The Silver Key*, and is presently dormant.

A Brief History of the Order

(from the Introduction, as written by Frater Tutulu.)⁽³⁾

“The current incarnation of the Esoteric Order of Dagon began with the Announcement in 1981 of the imminent reification of the ‘Aeon of Cthulhu Rising’. This Announcement, formulated by a then-unknown student of the Cthulhu Mythos living in Ashland, Oregon, was published in various Occult journals around the world - thus setting in motion a chain of connections between widely separated individuals who shared a common vision of the ‘Lovecraftian Gnosis’.

By the mid 1980s, invitations to join the Esoteric Order of Dagon had been issued (by the pseudonymous ‘Randolph Carter’) to such individuals already privately working the Mythos, and the structure of the Order had begun to cohere into a network of semi-autonomous Lodges. Each of these Lodges operated under the control of its respective Lodgmaster or Lodgemistress (designated XIII*), all in turn under the central Directorship of Frater Zkauba XXIII*. Certificates of Fraternal Affiliation were also drawn up at this time with other organisations who recognized the significance of the Aeon of Cthulhu Rising within a wider, Thelemic context (including the Ordo Templi Orientis Antiqua). When the time came for Zkauba to enter into his Greater Magickal Retirement in 1987, the office of Director passed to Soror Azenath XXIII*, and a new phase in the evolution of the Order began.

With the publication of the booklet ‘An Introduction to the Esoteric Order of Dagon’, further details were released pertaining to the Degree Structure of the Order, the procession of the Directorship, and the nature of the Yaddith Lodge: the latter comprises those ex-Directors who had returned from their Retirements to assume the XXXIII*. The Tradition behind the EOD was also elaborated stylistically in terms of the regeneration of cultic-elements from ancient Sumerian and Babylonian religions, preserved historically though the rituals of Ancient Egypt; the Indo-European witch-cult of the Middle Ages;

and, most recently, encoded within the fictional mythos of a neurasthenic New England writer of pulp horror fiction.

Around this time Soror Azenath made contact with a young Englishman, a graphic artist obsessed with the iconography of the Cthulhu Mythos, and also deeply immersed in the Typhonian Trilogies of Kenneth Grant. In due course, the Directorship passed to Frater Nephren-Ka XXIII*, and the Grand R'lyeh Lodge crossed the Atlantic to a new home in the United Kingdom. In a restructuring of the Order, eleven Lodges were inaugurated in various countries (including Spain, Germany, and the USA), corresponding to the Eleven Sephiroth of the qabalistic Tree of Life. An official journal of the Order was launched, entitled *Fragments*, in which the work of individual members was published. Some individual Lodgemasters also undertook the publication of Lodge magazines, such as *The Pylon*, issued by the Pylon of Yog-Sothoth Lodge.

After five years, Frater Nephren-Ka entered into his Retirement. Having been unable to make the transmission of the XXIII* to a new Director, he took the decision to place the Order into a Period of Silence, of indefinite duration. During this Period, the exoteric affairs of the Order continued under the guise of a purely academic organisation, The Miskatonick Society.

In 1997 an ex-Initiate of the Order, Frater Bokrug, successfully petitioned the Yaddith Lodge for permission to open a new Lodge of the Order, thus ending the Period of Silence. In due course, Bokrug assumed the office of Director left vacant by Nephren-Ka, taking the name of Frater Eibon XXIII* and re-establishing the full Degree System and Lodge Structure of the Order on the Outer. The Grand Lodge returned to mainland USA, and the official journal of the Order re-emerged, this time entitled *Cthulhu Rising*. A comprehensive and complete Bibliography of Order publications was compiled by Eibon, and a new influx of members from diverse occult groups also entered the Order during his term as Director.

Following the resignation of Frater Eibon, the Directorship was transferred, by the three members of the ruling Yaddith Lodge, to Frater Tutulu XXIII*. With this appointment a new chapter in the History of the Esoteric Order of Dagon opened, with a concerted commitment to the re-earthing of the current of magical creativity which had originally inspired Randolph Carter, two decades ago.”

Philosophy

(from *An Introduction*, revised by Frater Nephren-Ka)⁽⁴⁾

“Though the initiates of the Esoteric Order of Dagon do not believe in the absolute existence of the deities which are portrayed in the Cthulhu Mythos, they find the iconography of Lovecraft’s work to be a useful paradigm for gaining access to deeper, non-rational areas of the subconscious. The oneiric origin of Lovecraft’s stories is of crucial importance here, in pointing the way of access to parts of the human mind which are identified with alien and (literally) nameless horrors in his fiction.”

"At Babylon there was (in these times) a great resort of people of various nations, who inhabited Chaldea, and lived in a lawless manner like the beasts of the field. In the first year there appeared, from that part of the Erythraean sea which borders upon Babylonia, an animal destitute of reason [sic],* by name Oannes, whose whole body (according to the account of Apollodorus) was that of a fish, that under the fish's head he had another head, with feet also below, similar to those of a man, subjoined to the fish's tail. His voice too, and language, was articulated and human, and a representation of him is preserved even to this day.

"This Being was accustomed to pass the day among men; but took no food at that season; and he gave them an insight into letters and sciences, and arts of every kind. He taught them to construct cities, to found temples, to compile laws, and explained to them the principles of geometrical knowledge. He made them distinguish the seeds of the earth, and shewed them how to collect the fruits; in short, he instructed them in everything which could tend to soften manners and humanize their lives. From that time, nothing material has been added by way of improvement to his instructions. And when the sun had set, this Being Oannes, retired again into the sea, and passed the night in the deep; for he was amphibious. After this there appeared other animals like Oannes."

- Berosus, from *Ancient Fragments* (Isaac Preston Cory)

DEGREES

The Order has been restructured with the Honorary Degree (0*) being retired. The degrees formerly for the office positions of Lodge Master (XIII*) and Director (XXIII*) (this position of Head of the Order is now entitled Grand Master) have also both been retired, and these positions are henceforth entirely administrative offices and no longer degrees. These offices can only be held by an Adept.

The system consists now of only three degrees, Neophyte (I*), Initiate (II*) and Adept III*). These are all self-initiating grades

New members are entitled to hold the degree of Neophyte within the revised structure of the Order. Initiates are expected to be deeply involved in creating their Magnus Opus. The Adept degree alone indicates proven worth and is entitled to all the rights and benefits of full membership. A new Order name may be taken with each new degree, (or Lodge Master office) however, to avoid confusion, only one name is used at a time within the Order. Members not directly associated with a Lodge are attached to the Grand R'lyeh Lodge In all cases; the Grand Master, who may also remove any member from the rolls for any reason, must approve a potential member.

A previous Deputy of Dagon administrative position has also been retired.

There was also the Ordeal of the Abyss, an experience (previously noted by the degree notation XI *, Adepti Abussus) however this is not a pleasant experience, is not recommended and no longer is associated with a degree.

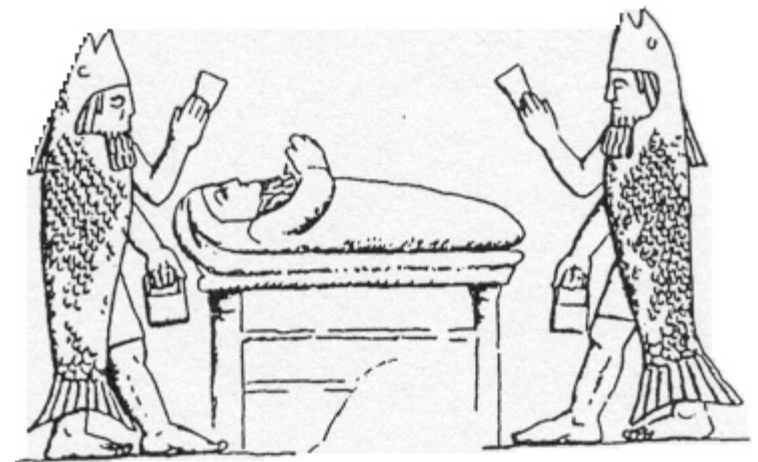
This revised system is simple, designed to facilitate progress by individuals, an also to limit emphasis on degree status. There are no degrees above Adept. By corresponding to both the Three

Oaths of Dagon and the Masonic system of three degrees, this system gives the Order a structure that is predicated on members progressing to Adept, and thereafter, being full members, focusing on their own individual Work. Parallels with Masonic rituals relating to Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees are explained in confidential papers given upon reaching that particular degree, explaining the deeper symbolism and reason for why the Order assumed a Masonic guise.

Each degree has its own icon, motto, assigned Task, oath, and objective. Fuller details are provided to members of each degree in the form of papers, (marked "Confidential, Not for Distribution"), concerning the particular mythology, gnosis and mysteries of that degree. Each booklet also contains a formal signed and dated acknowledgement from the Grand Master confirming the degree.

An effort is needed for each degree.

These three stages within the E.:O.:D.: require loyalty, commitment, and ability. An Order is pointless if there are no expectations from new members.



HIGH PRIEST/ HIGH PRIESTESS

All Adepts are qualified to act as High Priest/High Priestess of Dagon. (Initiates may assist as Acolyte).

This H. .P. . role does not require a different name within the Order.

(The details of this additional newly created role available for participation only by Adepts, the High Priest/ High Priestess of Dagon function, and the assistant position of Acolyte, are explained only in the confidential papers made available to Adepts.)

LODGES AND LODGE MASTERS

Only a member holding the Adept degree may petition the Grand Master to open a Lodge, which is not geographical in nature, but rather embodies a power zone of a Lovecraftian theme or motif. Lodge Masters are responsible for maintaining a viable motif for the Lodge, the primary theme that it is focused on, its signature image or concept often utilizing a Lovecraftian story or mythos as a basis, but not limited to this, and manifesting it in a tangible form.

The Lodge Master's chosen name ideally reflects something about the chosen Lodge theme, and Lodge Masters are encouraged to create a letterhead logo based on their theme.

The L. .M. . issues publications showcasing the activities of their members, including newsletters, chapbooks, circulating photos of artwork, recordings of music and DVDs of video productions by members of the Lodge. These publications are made available to all interested members at no charge.

Applications of candidates they sponsor as prospective new members are forwarded to the Grand Master for consideration. Details of the role of Lodge Master and function of the Lodge are found in the Lodge Master's Handbook which is made available to Lodge Masters and contains details of the objectives and undertakings of the office.

LODGE CHARTER

The Grand Master identifies Lodge Masters and authorizes them to open a Lodge by issuing a signed and dated Charter.

This signed and dated document authorizes an Adept as Lodge Master, to Open and Conduct a Lodge, with a particular mythos theme as its guide.

This Charter may be revoked at will by the G. . M. .

PUBLICATIONS

The Order's Journal, *BATRACHIA*, is issued on the dates of the Order's two yearly Festivals, April 30th and October 31st. This is published and distributed by the Grand Master at no charge to all members.

Lodge Masters also produce their own Lodge publications and broadsheets, with the courtesy to send any material to be circulated under the Lodge imprint to the Grand Master for formal official approval before publication.

DIRECTORY

A Directory is issued by the R'lyeh Grand Lodge containing the confidential listing of all members, including their order name, degree, mundane name, address and email address if available. The Directory also includes member's self-descriptions and interests.

THE OFFICIAL THREE OATHS OF DAGON

All members of the Esoteric Order Of Dagon are required to swear at least the First Oath of Dagon. Failure to obey a sworn Oath results in expulsion from the Order.

THE FIRST OATH (Neophyte Degree)

“Iä! Dagon!

I do solemnly swear that I will neither interfere with, nor inform upon, the activities of the Order, or reveal any of their writings and communications to non-members. I acknowledge that I have been given one year from the date of my admission to the Order to prove myself worthy of the trust given to me, or be cast out forever.

Iä! Dagon!”

SPOKEN AFTER ALL THREE OATHS

“I understand and accept that by breaking this Oath in any way I am subject to expulsion from the Order, and will be thereafter shunned from any further contact with any members of the Temple of Dagon.”

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

There is an established Internet group for members only to facilitate quick communication within the Order. The goal is to establish a vital and active organization that is stimulating and useful to all members, an active worldwide network of creatively interesting and seriously esoterically inclined members.

Confirmed members are given an invitation allowing admission into the official website where they can read and address posts, add and obtain papers, images, letters, files and photos.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

A certain level of serious detailed knowledge of Lovecraft’s writings and personal life story, and various magickal traditions (including Thelema, Austin Osman Spare, Kenneth Grant, Achad, etc) is expected. Realistic and rational consideration of the various claimed “Necronomicons” and informed skeptical attitudes towards urban legends about HPL’s life and sources of inspiration are essential.

Self-actualization and dedication to themes of genuine depth are prerequisites - interaction and networking is expected by serious

researchers and this organization is not for pseudo-occultists and those with a trivial interest. Active participation is essential,

The advantage that a knowledgeable and sophisticated membership offers is the sharing of personal experience and the collaboration on significant projects. The required commitment to the Order includes developing relationships, both by regular correspondence and by meeting in person whenever possible, All private and privileged communications are kept confidential, including publications and papers circulated within the organization. Distribution of materials is limited to members, and confidentiality expected be respected concerning secret papers designated as being for “members only” and with all private correspondence.)

Requirements and Procedure

The Grand Master of the Order considers all membership requests by candidates for approval. Sponsorship (with a letter of recommendation) by another member, especially a Lodge Master, is helpful but not essential.

Applications require some evidence of some proven success (in the effort of “opening the eye of Cthulhu”) in the form of an example or sample of a mythos-inspired art work, writing, journal, ritual, musical composition, or dream account showing a connection to or inspiration by the “23 Current”, the magickal force that informs the Lovecraftian Magickal Tradition. (The Grand Master may waive this requirement if the applicant has already demonstrated their proficiency.)

Information required by candidates to provide includes:

Mundane name and age

Contact information, address and email

A statement indicating they are of legal age, without a criminal history, or psychologically unbalanced, and that they have a serious and sincere interest for wanting to join, and a detailed description of what motivates their interest in desiring to join the Order.

In addition, other personal information the candidate can offer:

Mundane livelihood or profession

Description of literary, musical, artistic and occult interests

Personal history: education, travels, and accomplishments

Membership in any magickal or esoteric organizations (past or present)

Upon approval and written confirmation, new members must:

Take the First Oath of Dagon.

Submit what magickal name they have chosen for Neophyte, which should indicate some personal significance.

Offer a description of recent esoteric activities and interests.

A signed and dated confirmation of their membership in the Degree of Neophyte (I*) is then issued by the Grand Master.

Financial Obligation:

There are no dues or financial obligations whatsoever associated with membership,

Those who believe they have heard the call of Cthulhu are encouraged to direct all membership applications and other enquiries to:

E.:O.:D.:

PO Box 5301

Eugene, Oregon 97405 USA

esotericorderofdagon@comcast.net

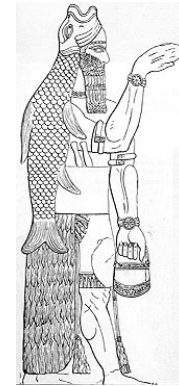
1) See *The Sirius Mystery* by Robert K. G. Temple (*The Sirius Mystery*, St. Martin's Press, 1975) and *The Lost Star of Myth and Time* by Walter Cruttenden, (St. Lynn's Press, 2005)

(2) *Outside the Circles of Time*, reprint forthcoming, Starfire

(3) *Preliminary Statement*, 2001

(4) *The Esoteric Order of Dagon – An Introduction*
Revised by Frater Nephren-Ka XXIII*

The Miskatonick University Press, 1992 e.v.



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Announcement of the re-emergence of The Esoteric Order of Dagon

ISSUED BY THE YADDITH LODGE, XXXIII*

Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu R'lyeh wagh'nagl fhtagn

Notification is hereby given of the Ending of the Period of Silence of the Esoteric Order of Dagon, and the corresponding commencement of a Period of Speech of Indefinite Duration.

On the date of the Vernal Equinox, March 20th, 2007 e.v., The Yaddith Lodge (comprising Three Ex-Directors) officially confirmed the appointment of Frater Obed Marsh as the new Grand Master (a position formerly know as Director, XXIII*), whose first official act will be to reopen the R'lyeh Grand Lodge and contact those persons he chooses to invite into the revived Esoteric Order of Dagon. The new Grand Master will also be authorized to inaugurate new Lodges operated by appointed Lodge Masters.

The new Grand Master acknowledges and agrees to uphold the Structure of the Temple of Dagon and the Traditions of the Esoteric Order of Dagon. Details of the Structure and Traditions will be found in the first issue of the publication of the R'lyeh Grand Lodge, the name of the publication to be determined by the new Grand Master.

Those individuals wishing to receive further information concerning membership in the Esoteric Order of Dagon should address their inquires to:

G.'M.'. Obed Marsh
PO Box 5301
Eugene, Oregon
97405 USA

Ia! Ia! Cthulhu fhtagn!

The Yaddith Lodge - Esoteric Order of Dagon

Frater Chandraputra

Frater Yoh-Vombis

Frater Tutulu