



of Geburah

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The initiation of the Sphere of Geburah is that of Adeptus Major. Only one of the Greater Adepts can use the Power of the Sword, and unless he can use it, he is not a Greater Adept. The world cannot be ruled by love alone, but only by power in equilibrium, justice and mercy kissing each other.

The four symbols of Geburah are the Sword, the cutting instrument and weapon which severs and cuts off; the **Spear, the piercing instrument and weapon which is like a projection and extension of force, a solid ray as it were, emanating on the plane of Malkuth**; the Scourge, the punishing instrument and weapon that stings but does not slay and whose use is to stimulate the redemption; the Chain is the restraining instrument and weapon which imposes limits

on willful evil. These four sacred symbols are the weapons of Gebuhra, and the Greater Adept must be expert in their use.

The tasks of Gebuhra, dual tasks, as all must be that deal in the sphere of manifestation, are to stimulate and to withstand, these being the positive and negative aspects of the work of the Greater Adept. At a certain stage upon the Path, initiates pass out of the mild sphere of Tiphareth and enter that of the severity of Justice. The Adept who initiates here must know no mercy, for cosmic law knows none, and what he spares, the Lords of Destiny, who rule over evolution, will punish. He aspires high who submits himself to the tests of Major Adepthood, and he must abide his fate. Here is no place for folly or weakness. Good intentions avail him nothing in the sphere of Justice, nor may ignorance be pleaded in extenuation. Achievement is the only test and all weakness is burnt away.

It is not the greatness of the strength that constitutes the test of this Sphere, but its perfection in proportion. An ant is strongest than a man in proportion to its size, yet Nature does not demand of an ant that it shall be as strong as a man, but only that it shall have due strength of an ant. So of a simple nature we do not demand that it shall be as strong as a world leader, but only that it shall have the element of strength proportionate to its gifts; for lack of courage can invalidate the powers of the most gifted

creatures, making them of no avail.

The initiate of Gebuhra submits himself to the tests of Gebuhra, which try his courage and endurance; and if he be not found wanting in these, the Sword of Justice is placed in his hand and he becomes a Greater Adept. He must then wield the Sword with wisdom and courage, for as the Yetziratic Text has it, courage is the characteristic virtue of Gebuhra, which emanates from the primordial depths of Chokmah, Wisdom.

Mercy is not on this Sphere, yet emanates it; and this is a paradox in which is to be found deep meaning. The wielder of the Sword of Gebuhra knows no mercy, but continues to the end. But even as Gebuhra was emanated from Gedulah, Mercy, when the Lightning Flash descends down the Tree, so in its turn it emanates Beauty in the centre of the Pillar of Equilibrium, which "causes the influence to flow into all the reservoirs of blessing and wherein is seen the Vision of the Harmony of Things and wherein are performed the Mysteries of the Crucifixion".

Remember that it is said in the Mysteries that no degree becomes functional till the next degree has been conferred, so mighty works of redemption in Tiphareth do not begin until the Initiation of Gebuhra has been undergone. Thus is Gebuhra balanced in equilibrium between Mercy and Beauty, and this is the

secret of its work.

In the great stories of the Table Round which are the Glyphs of Gebuhra, even as the legend of the Graal is the Glyph of Tiphareth, the Knights of King Arthur are famed for their strength towards the strong, their mercy to the weak and their personal beauty. Thus does Gebuhra confer the knighthood of the Mysteries. The army is terrible with beautiful banners. Beauty is the true mean, and resides in right proportion. So always must the power of Gebuhra be wielded in right proportion and wisdom.

The Adept of Gebuhra may not deal in Mercy. When he has performed his work of initiation passes out of his hands into the Sphere of Mercy, but in his hands, Mercy would be weakness, which in folly suffers evil to multiply or yields to temptations of sloth. Ruthless and calm he abides, the servant of cosmic law, and Mercy and Beauty are the fruits of his work.

Whoso serves in the Sphere of Gebuhra as an Adept Major lays his soul upon the Altar of the Sacrifice. When he invokes justice upon another, he appears with him before the Bar of Divine Justice and is judged equally with him. Therefore must his hands be clean and his heart free from guile; for guile and Gebuhra do not abide together, the one counteracting the other. Immediately below Gebuhra, in Hod, Mercury, is the Sphere of Guile, even as immediately above this most dynamic of the Sephiroth is

the Sphere of Saturn, the giver of Stability. Whoso has strength needs no guile, though guile be used to cause evil to destroy itself; but it is not the work of Gebuhra, and when the sword is invoked the fight must be straightforward.

Whoso takes in hand the sword must abide by its judgement. If he err, he will perish by the sword. He may not wield it save in the name of Justice, yet he may wish it to ensure justice for himself as well as for others, for is he not also one of God/dess' children? Dare to invoke the might of Gebuhra if your heart be pure and your hands clean. Whosoever has not known the experience of the Initiation of the Sword cannot pass on to the higher Degrees, for it is by the power of the brave that evil is withstood. By the Sword evil is cut off from its source of power; by the thrust of the Spear its onslaught is checked; by the Scourge are its exponents schooled, and by the Chain are they restrained.

The two greater implements and weapons of Gebuhra work in the sphere of abstract force, and the two lesser in the sphere of manifestation through personalities. Never forget, in wielding the powers of Gebuhra, that the most effectual defense is attack. Therefore, do not be afraid to drive at evil with the thrust of the Spear, do not think it incumbent upon you to await its onslaught passively. But remember that in all things there is a rhythm, and even the most dynamic of the spheres alternates between

activity and passivity; but until the thrust of the Spear has been given, the work has not begun. Passivity is folly in Gebuhra. There is a method whereby evil is turned back upon itself and caused to sting itself to death with its own venom, but this is not the method of Gebuhra; it belongs to Hod, which lies immediately beneath the Fiery Sphere upon the Pillar of Severity; and there is a method of working whereby the interplay of the Sephiroth, equilibrating among themselves, is used, and Mars can pass on Mercury and Mercury back to Mars, the task of salvation by destruction