

of dealing thoroughly with a given subject in a single page. It was an acute agony, similar to that of Asana, to write, and the effort removed me so far from normal human consciousness, that there was something indicibly ghastly in its naturalness when I got into bed in full daylight in the hope of acquiring a particle of warmth from the complacent 'Camel.'"

When he began writing Liber Aleph, Crowley thought he was addressing it to his magical "son" O.I.V.V.I.O., whom he then believed would be the child prophesied in the Book of the Law. In several ways he strove to help this "son" in his progress. Thereby he was fulfilling the very prophecy in the Book:

*'It shall be his child and that strangely.  
Let him not seek after this; for thereby  
alone can he fall from it.'* AL III, 47.

Up to 1919, events allowed Crowley to persist in his belief that O.I.V.V.I.O. would be the "child" promised in AL (Although in the Samadhic writing of Liber Aleph itself he had foreseen — see Chapter 166 — the Truth of this matter). From then on, things began to happen that forced Crowley to become doubtful against his every wish and hope. By 1924 it became conclusive that O.I.V.V.I.O. (motto of the "son" on assuming the grade of Magister Templi) had failed to annihilate the personality completely.

But what mattered this to the Secret Chiefs, who spun their web about the Scribe so that, motivated by all the wealth of love in his nature, he should strain in this mighty effort? For, in one sense, Liber Aleph is addressed to the child of The Great Wild Beast, and the child of Man is mankind; and in another sense, the child promised in AL shall yet arise — in its own good time.

Therefore, for that child, and its brothers and sisters everywhere, we are now issuing this Work at a time when the sense of frustration in all continents of the globe has led almost to a vision of complete Chaos.

The Editors