

O. My mouth is on fire
 To my lord's desire.
[They exchange the holy greeting by a kiss.]

I. I kneel at thy feet,
 And the honey is sweet.
[O. plays music while I worships in silence.]

O. Exhausted, I sink.
 I. I am dead, on the brink.
 O. Let us dance!
 I. Let us dance!

O. I. The Lord give us power
 To be lost in the trance.
 For an hour—for an hour!

[They dance together. A pause of perfect stillness and silence follows: until O., sua sponte, advances and places I. upon the altar.]

O. Exhaust me!
 I. Nay, drink!
 O. Ere I sink!
 I. I shall sink!
 O. Drink wine! oh, drink wine!
 I. I am thine!
 O. I am thine!
[They drink and greet as before.]

I. Art thou armed?
 O. With a knife.
[O. draws the dagger from her hair.]

I. Love is better than life.
[O. cuts a ⊥, or if possible, the sigil of N. O. X., on I.'s breast.]

O. Let us dance!
 I. *[giving wine.]* To the trance!
[They drink, then dance.]

O. Back to the throne!
[I. returns, and takes seat thereon.]

I. I adore thee alone!

[O. does so, plays music if so inclined, and continues as necessity or inclination may dictate.]

O. It is ended, the play:
 I am ready to slay.
 Anoint me!

I. I rise
 To the fire of thine eyes.
 I anoint thee, thy priest,
 Babalon—and The Beast!
 And I ask of Thee now:
 Who art Thou?

O. Omari tessala marax etc.
[The Ritual of the S of R is in silence accomplished.]

IX°

CLOSING

I. Mouth to mouth and heart to heart!
 O. For the moment we must part.

I. Time and space renew the illusion.
O. Love is swallowed in confusion.
I. Love sustains us eminent
Till the hour of Sacrament.
O. I love you, and you love me.
I. Now and ever may it be!
I. and O. Hand in hand is heart to heart
Love be with us, though we part.
[They greet, as before, and depart.]