

# Good Heavens Today



## The Temple of High Magic



### Interview

### With Ina Cüsters-van Bergen

Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

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Free Online magazine of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

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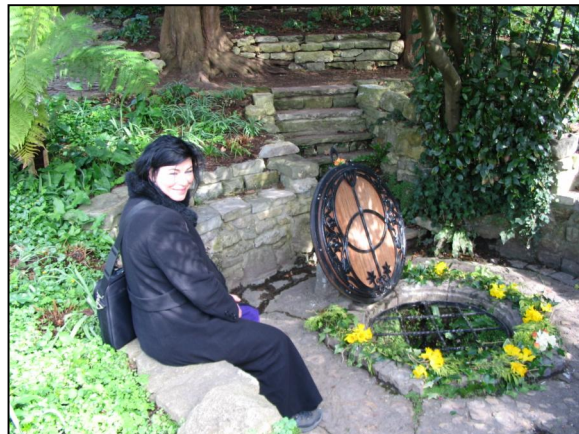


## The Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

*This free E-magazine is offered to you by the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®. We are a Western Mystery School with a direct lineage to the Order of the Golden Dawn. We learn you how all the disciplines of the Sacred Sciences are parts of one general teaching. We offer an in depth training in Spiritual Ceremonial Magic. Learn more about our order and the training we offer and visit [www.templeofstarlight.eu](http://www.templeofstarlight.eu)*

## The Temple of High Magic

In WR Imbolc 2007 Merlin has written a short review about your new book. I have seen it also – I have not read it entirely, because such a book you read and use as a reference book for years. At least: that is how I think you wrote it – as a workbook. But we will hear later about the 'why'.



*Morgana from the Pagan Federation  
International Interviews Ina*

*Cüsters-van Bergen in 2007, at the release of the Dutch version of the book.*

Can you introduce yourself to us?

I have been active on the esoteric path since my 16th birthday. I have started off with Tarot, Astrology, Yoga and Zen Buddhism. After that I have been working on personality development. I have worked i.e. with Gestalt therapy, Bio-energetics, with the work of John and Eva Pierakos.

I started my social career as an artist. Later I made a change in profession and worked as a psychiatric nurse. For about 15 years I worked on open and closed hospital units. I got interested in Magic and Occultism. Teaching these subjects is my profession right now. The red thread in my career is the



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fascination for the power of the subconscious mind. Because of this fascination I discovered how to work with it and how to influence these currents of the mind. I discovered how I can work with these energies so that people start to feel better and can develop themselves more fully.

How did you enter into 'The Temple...' yourself?

In my day job I observed that processes from the subconscious mind were closely connected to what I knew about Magic. I got fascinated, and I looked for ways to get experiences in this area. I quickly found out that this is very difficult to accomplish on your own. The 'undercurrent' is very powerful, and in spite of the fact that I was not a beginner on the esoteric path when I started to practice Magic I was taken by surprise by the strong reaction of my own subconscious mind on the exercises. I started to look for teachers and I found them within the SOL.[1]

I learned how Magic works. High Magic is an immense ancient path, it is a road full of miracles and unexpected riches. In the old days High Magic was used to develop people and to heal them. Magic is a combination of spirituality and applied psychology and it works with everybody – whether you 'believe' in it or not, because it is based on technique. Magic as 'Science of the Sacred' compares the effectiveness of techniques from different religious and magical systems.

How did you start with the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight?

The Hermetic Order Temple of Starlight® has developed as a result of a natural process. While I exercised the basic techniques of spiritual magic, I wanted to share my experiences with other students. I raised a group to exercise in temple work. The result was that I created a Magical Lodge.

Lodges need to take in new people, because people also leave because of all kinds of private circumstances. Suddenly I noticed that we had grown further from the beginner level, and it was not possible for people to join us without preparation. That is why I developed a basic course.

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In the mean time the Lodge developed, because also lodges have degrees. This process ended in a miniature school with a curriculum of its own. When I got initiated in the Third Degree I was able to initiate the students that I educated myself. In this way the Temple grew in a natural way in the line of the tradition and developed from the mother school. Nowadays we are completely independent and we have a fixed training program towards the first degree, and the first students start to walk the path towards the second degree.

How is the training within the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight organised?

We are an initiating Order who educates students to Priest-Magicians. The training is based on the Grade system of the Golden Dawn. The school has three degrees, which are divided in steps. Per degree you work through a curriculum. You combine theory and praxis. The effects of the rituals and the exercises stack of. This is why during the training you learn to work with stronger currents of Magical Energy. The three parts of the training are crowned with an initiation. This gives a connection to a higher frequency of magical energy, and that is why you get access to deeper levels.

During the training you work with a broad range of traditions and occult techniques. You work with energy-exercises, with meditations, theory and ritual. You learn i.e. Kabbala, Star magic, Greek, Egyptian, and Babylonian Magic. You learn to work with Arthur mythology, Angelic Law, Tarot, and the Mythology from a broad range of cultures.

Students can pass through the training by means of the Solo Magical Training individually. You can learn groupwork in the Temple Training and during intensive weekend workshops. We help people who want to start a magical group. We have developed a special program for them.

Is there a place for a mystery school?

Mystery schools have never been away. The question is: what is the place for a mystery school in this culture. People in this society look for social structures and spirituality. They start their search and they explore out the

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area, and then they develop the wish to connect to a tradition. We have different types of students: we have the interested seeker who is curious about what we are doing and we have the one who has the ambition to do the full training towards becoming a Priest-Magician.

People seek the experience of the Divine in their own lives. That is what a mystery school has to offer. Not a blind faith, but experience. A mystery school teaches the students to make a connection between your personal life and your spiritual core, your family and your professional environment. That is what Magic has to offer. By means of magical energies you find a balance in yourself and you learn to experience spirituality IN your everyday reality. Magic gives access to sources of energy that give you the possibility to realise your values and your thought forms in your own life.

In our society we are bombed on a daily basis with Thoughtforms made by others. Politicians, multinationals. We do not live in a secularised society. The most important God is called Money, followed closely by Science. The main temples are banks. Everyone of us is bombed on a daily basis by magical spells in adverts. In a mystery school you learn to create your own Thoughtforms instead of being led by the strategies of multinationals.

We have access to so much information that we can get from the Internet. Is a teacher necessary?

You can hardly get access to the deeper layers without the contact to a good educated teacher. There is a lot of interesting material to be found on the internet, but also a lot of rubbish.

The most important details can only be transmitted through personal contact. You learn them in practice. Teachers prevent students from losing their way on side roads. A teacher recognises the signs which indicate that a spiritual development is about to come. A teacher observes the development of the personality of students. Pitfalls of this spiritual path are well known within magical schools and students are guided in these areas.

Teachers tell you where and how to come into contact with the Gods and the ancient material. There are libraries of Universities full with specialist material.



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But if you are not used to experience from a magical worldview then you can read learned books about the Imiut-wand, but you still do not know what kind of object this is, and how you can use it. The problem is to find well educated teachers. Everyone can nail a sign on his front door, and there are a lot of teachers who do not have an education or who have broken off their education.

Why did you write the book?

When I started with Magic I discovered that about this subject there was almost no book available in Dutch. The Western Mystery tradition has a very own energy which is much more accessible for us than the eastern systems. But our very own magical tradition is still taboo. In the Netherlands there are almost no books about Magic. The Mystical Qabalah of Dion Fortune burns as a lonely light at a great height. Strange books are translated which give the feeling of a rusty nail which is nailed curved in the wood. Almost all the books are old. I myself had but one choice and that was to read everything in English.

It seems that in Holland the fear which was created consciously in the Middle ages never went away. At different places in foreign countries good magical schools have developed. Here incomprehension dominates about who we are and what the Road of High Magic is about. It is my mission to give our very own Western Magical tradition its rightful place among the other spiritual systems.

I wrote the book to make a connection between theory and praxis. It is a workbook and a book of references. It gives a view behind the scenes of how practical High Magic works, within established religions, and within the ancient pagan religions. These traditions still contain the cores of magical systems. This is why people look for an understanding of Magic. The amount of people who needs our knowledge grows, because they want to make their own spiritual system complete again.

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Has the atmosphere changed since you have begun?

It is still a challenge to explain to other people our tradition. When we work in New Age Centres, we notice that there is a lot of misunderstanding about who we are and what we do. I sometimes call out 'the next time I take a sign with me for during the break and I put a plastic frog next to it on the floor:

*'Protected species: Magicians  
Take care, dangerous, can work magic!  
Love robes, incense and rituals.  
Prohibited to feed.'*

Slowly things are changing. My experience is that when you just tell people what you do, without mentioning how it is called, then you get a lot of understanding for the beauty of this tradition. Because of the increased interest in pagan belief systems more people are interested in High Magic. The road to a Magical School however is still practicable with difficulty. There is a broad gap between the expectations which people hold of High Magic and the reality. Our knowledge is specialist, you need a high basic level to get a understanding and a connection to the work of the school. My book builds a bridge.

Magic is a part of the so called Hermetic and Gnostic tradition. Until the Renaissance it was taught at universities. It was practiced by Popes, and every Monarchy with self respect had a Magician at the court. It will take some time until this job opening at the Dutch court has been fulfilled again (laugh!).

What kind of a future do you see for the Temple of High Magic?

The most important goal of the school is to offer a place where people learn to realise their full potential. I want to professionalize the training and the school. By professionalizing I do not mean commercializing. To give back this important work its proper place in society, we need a high standard of organisation and a professional quality.

When I look to the future I hope that there are high quality Magical Temples where you can learn to apply the Magical Training in your own life; comparable with the Martial Art schools where a black belt teaches the sport. I want our teachers to become true craftsmen in their trade and to develop as professionals: and that the applications of our techniques find a way in 'normal' professions.

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## Ina Cüsters-van Bergen

*Ina Cüsters-van Bergen is the Magister and the Director of Studies of the Hermetic Order Temple of Starlight®. She teaches the Western Mystery Tradition. Ina is a so called Cosmic Mediator and a Third Degree Initiate. She is a very experienced practicing ritual magician. Her lineage comes from the Golden Dawn via Dion Fortune, W.E. Butler and Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki.*

*Ina is a trained psychiatric therapist, sociotherapist, and healthcare manager. She is a certified NLP practitioner. She designs all her training modules in such a way that they integrate modern therapeutic systems and archaic magical systems such as Qabalah and Ceremonial Magic into one system. In this way your spiritual practice increases emotional, mental and spiritual health and growth.*

*Ina is the author of the Solo Magical Training of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight, called 'The Order of the Exalted Land' and the author of the book 'The Temple of High Magic', ISBN-13: 978-1-59477-308-2*

*Ina teaches spiritual Ceremonial Magic through intensive training weekends all over Europe.*

## More information

- *If you want to attend an event with Ina Cüsters-van Bergen*
- *if you want to book Ina to organize an event in your hometown*
- *if you want to start the Solo Magical Training*
- *if you want to become a member of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight*

*Then visit our homepage now, at [www.templeofstarlight.eu](http://www.templeofstarlight.eu). When you want to be informed of new issues of this online magazine, subscribe to our newsletter.*