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* THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE *

Leading as it does through many environs, winding ever upwards, the path of the knowledge of the Bronze is but one path, not many. Yet the pilgrims upon it will each have the same understanding of a different kind, as some look there upon the ground, attending to the minute details as they watch their step, and others, more concerned with the view, hold their eyes fast to it. The former will see in the soil the microcosm. The latter, in the land about, will see the macrocosm. All will no doubt behold but a part of both, and surely all cannot but behold a part of the whole picture, for knowledge will never be complete, or else we would have no need of our continuing oracles, speaking of the writings of revealed matters. There is a potential limit to knowledge, yet we can be secure in that our knowledge within such a limit is complete because it was not ordained that we could exceed it. But now, I implore all to take care and walk with diligence, else they fall back and frustrate themselves, and in so continuing, learn in confusion and in darkness.

* *May the Light of Bronze illumine your path!* *



STRUCTURE OF PEDAGOGICAL ELEMENTS-*=

The Path:

Environs of the Layperson:

- I. *Upon the foot of the mountain:* FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE
- II. *Upon the upward way:* FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE EXPANDED

Environs of the Priest:

- III. *Within the cavernous pass:* TRIALS OF THE WOULD-BE PRIEST
- IV. *Upon the plateau:* DUTIES AND CONDUCT OF THE PRIEST
- V. *A light descent:* STANDARD ORDER OF SERVICE AND HOLY DAYS
- VI. *At the glacial spring:* FURTHER RITUALS
- VII. *Waiting out the storm:* A FURTHER TRIAL

Environs of the Sage:

- VIII. *Up the precipice:* TOWARDS FURTHER KNOWLEDGE
- IX. *Upon the precipice:* COMPLETION AND CONTEMPLATION

EXPOUNDING THE ELEMENTS-*=

Now it is seen that the structure is a succession of three sets containing nine elements between them. It is not necessary for the student to undertake them all, but some will, and they shall have the greater enlightenment. Every set of environs is a higher state of knowledge. It is to be made clear that one may reach and pass through the Environs of the Priest without becoming a priest. The aim and goal is knowledge, not necessarily the attainment of an office. Yet, it is incumbent upon a would-be priest and priest alike to know what is required in these sections.

Every section has its assigned reading and questions pertaining to that reading. The questions are numbered and, once the required reading is read, the student is to copy out the questions and submit them with a written response under each to the Council of Knowledge.

The Environs of the Layperson will make it sure that the student has been washed of all falsehoods, and it will make it clear that he or she knows the fundamentals of our order. Without such, one cannot be an effective follower of Bronze. This is necessary knowledge, not only for the layperson, but especially for those who wish to be priests.

The Environs of the Priest will test the knowledge of those who wish to proceed further. One need not be a candidate of the priesthood to proceed, only a thirst for continuing knowledge is required. The completion of this and the prior section is required for any would-be priest.

The Environs of the Sage will trace the footsteps of the Sages, whose heights few have reached. Knowledge will be expanded further, and the student will have reached that precipice whereupon one can look down upon previous knowledge and speculate with wisdom as well as ponder mysteries yet to be revealed. One need not pass through the Environs of the Priest to reach it, but may take a side way. Be warned however, that in so doing completion cannot be attained to. Therefore is the proper path advised, even if it is not necessary.

** If one completes all, that very one is a Scholar and worthy of merit. **

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=* - ENVIRONS OF THE LAYPERSON -*=

I. *Upon the foot of the mountain:* FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

With the insurmountable heights of the mountain before and the wastes of illusion and falsehood behind, the pilgrim embarks, having nothing but the light of Bronze to guide the way.

Required Reading:

Letter from the Prophet

Upon initial themes Part I.

Revelations of the Prophet I., X., XI., XII., XX.

Answer Thou:

- I. *From what did Sorenth (falsely called Gielinor) proceed in the beginning?*
- II. *Are Guthix, Saradomin, and Zamorak worthy of devotion? If not, why?*
- III. *What is another name for The Bronze?*
- IV. *Who or what is Dagon?*
- V. *What is the Pure Element?*
- VI. *Who are the Piscines?*
- VII. *Who is Kristy?*
- VIII. *Who may properly use Bronze Armor and why?*
- IX. *What is our calling and mission?*
- X. *What is the lineage of the King?*
- XI. *What is the significance of his role?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

II. Upon the upward way: **FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE EXPANDED**

The climb begins to take a toll, but the pilgrim has gained a new understanding, and with it, resolves to continue, knowing full well that the journey has only just begun.

Required Reading:

Upon initial themes Part II.

The Prayer of Release

Revelations of the Prophet III., XIII., XXIII.

Answer Thou:

- I. Without the souls of the Piscines, what would become of the world?*
- II. Was fishing always evil?*
- III. What is the difference between Calam and Sikath?*
- IV. Why and how is the Prayer of Release to be effected?*
- V. What is the origin and significance of the “frost from heaven”, or, as it has been called, “snow”?*
- VI. Over what does the power of snow hold sway?*
- VII. Are creatures not having pure affinity with water under our protection?*
- VIII. What are some examples of corrupted forms?*
- IX. What did Dagon propose to do with such corrupted forms?*
- X. Who knows the full name of Dagon?*
- XI. What is a fuller revelation of his name?*
- XII. Should his name be taken lightly?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.



=* - ENVIRONS OF THE PRIEST -*=

III. *Within the cavernous pass:* TRIALS OF THE WOULD-BE PRIEST

The pilgrim entered into a pure darkness (not the darkness of mind, but of sight), moving through it as a test of faith. Knowledge of truth is a light. There was no fear.

Required Reading:

Scroll of the Bronze Priesthood (trial portion)

Scribes Concise Rendering (optional and supplementary)

Answer Thou:

- I. *According to the vision, should the would-be priest have anything equipped in beginning the trials?*
- II. *What is to be carried during the first trial?*
- III. *What was to be forged, thereafter?*
- IV. *What is the second trial?*
- V. *What was to be kept during the second trial?*
- VI. *What is to be done with the holy herb during the third trial?*
- VII. *What is to be kept during the third trial?*
- VIII. *During the fourth trial, which item corresponds to which cardinal point?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

IV. Upon the plateau: DUTIES AND CONDUCT OF THE PRIEST

Exiting the darkness, the pilgrim was renewed. The caves held many dangers, but the steps taken were sure, guided as they were by The Bronze. It was now peaceful travel under fair weather.

Required Reading:

Scroll of the Bronze Priesthood (the rest)

Answer Thou:

- I. What is the first of the four responsibilities given to the priest in the Scroll?*
- II. What is the second?*
- III. What is the third?*
- IV. What is the fourth?*
- V. Who may pick of the Holy Herb?*
- VI. What is it that the priest should wear?*
- VII. What robes are forbidden?*
- VIII. When is the holy mace to be equipped?*
- IX. When the holy mace is not to be equipped, what should always be held?*
- X. What does the right conduct of the priest entail?*
- XI. What is to be said of special assignments?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

V. A light descent: STANDARD ORDER OF SERVICE AND HOLY DAYS

A storm moved over the horizon, chasing birds off of distant peaks as the pilgrim took a downward way. Soon would the path again rise.

Required Reading:

Calendar of the Pulse

Concerning Holy Days

Standard Order of Service

Answer Thou:

- I. *Upon what is the Bronze Calendar based?*
- II. *How are the ages, years, months, weeks, and days divided?*
- III. *What is a Standard Year according to our system?*
- IV. *What are the three standard Holy Days, and how many other Holy Days do we observe?*
- V. *What is the focus of each, the Standard Order of Service and its two variations, respectively?*
- VI. *Concerning the first variation, are the sister elements to be joined?*
- VII. *Concerning the second variation, who is allowed to distribute the Holy Herb?*
- VIII. *What is the purpose of the ceremonial wear of the laity?*
- IX. *What is the ideal succession of services?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

VI. At the glacial spring: **FURTHER RITUALS**

From whence did this quiescent flow come? The pilgrim could not know it, yet it was gratefully received as it proceeded from behind the stone. The storm drew closer.

Required Reading:

Ritual for the Cleansing of Higher Order Evils

Ritual for the Cleansing of Houses

Answer Thou:

- I. What is the process by which a higher order evil is confirmed?*
- II. As with every cleansing ritual, dealing with great or small evils, what shall the priests equip?*
- III. How much of the Holy Herb is required the King, Prophet, and priests to have?*
- IV. What are the names proclaimed after the first, second, and third Holy Herb?*
- V. After what time can the ritual be tried again if it was found unsuccessful?*
- VI. Concerning the ritual for cleansing houses, what is the first place of pilgrimage?*
- VII. What is the second, and what is warned concerning it?*
- VIII. What is the third?*
- IX. Before the priest, or whoever is chosen or overseen, proceeds to forge, what must be done?*
- X. After all is forged, how is it to be distributed?*
- XI. Before the house is entered what must be done?*
- XII. Where shall the armor and sword be placed?*
- XIII. Where is the owner to remain during the ritual?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

VII. Waiting out the storm: **A** FURTHER TRIAL

Now the storm raged, and the pilgrim sought refuge within the hollow of an ancient tree. And the pilgrim wondered at how a tree of such a size could have grown at such heights.

Required Reading:

Scroll of the High Priest

Answer Thou:

- I. *Is the office of the High Priest still an attainable position?*
- II. *What can be gained from undertaking the High Priest trial?*
- III. *What is first to be obtained for the trial?*
- IV. *At what place is the ore to be smelted?*
- V. *At what place is the greatsword to be forged?*
- VI. *Where shall the doer of the trial stand after the four fires are lit?*
- VII. *After the sword is bound with light, what shall be done with it?*
- VIII. *After the trial, what is the first of the rituals that the priest is privileged to perform?*
- IX. *What is the second?*
- X. *What does the third entail?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.



=* - ENVIRONS OF THE SAGE - * =

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*HAST THOU TAKEN THE SIDE WAY, OR THE LONG AND NARROW ROAD?
BEFORE PROCEEDING, IT MUST BE MADE KNOWN AGAIN THAT IF ONE TAKES THE
SIDE WAY AND DOES NOT PASS THROUGH THE ENVIRONS OF THE PRIEST, THAT VERY
ONE CANNOT ATTAIN UNTO COMPLETION. IF ALL ENVIRONS HAVE BEEN TRAVELED,
COMPLETION SHALL BE AWARDED, **BUT IF THE SIDE WAY BE TAKEN,** ONE MAY TRAVEL
THROUGH THE FIRST ENVIRON OF THE SAGE AND THE EFFORT SHALL NOT BE
RENDERED COMPLETION. **THAT ONE SHALL NOT STAND UPON THE PRECIPICE,** BUT
SHALL STOP SHORT OF IT. YET IT SHALL BE A NOBLE UNDERTAKING, NEVERTHELESS,
AND THOSE THAT UNDERTAKE IT SHALL RECEIVE MERIT.*

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HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THIS THE STUDENT MAY PROCEED

VIII. Up the precipice: **TOWARDS FURTHER KNOWLEDGE**

The precipice was in view, but the path was unsure. With great faith did the pilgrim proceed, hearing the beckoning call of a Sage upon the wind.

Required Reading:

*Revelations of the Prophet
II., IV. - IX., XIV. - XIX.,
XXI., XXII., XXIV. - XXVI*

Answer Thou:

- I. What has been revealed concerning the end of our cause?*
- II. Explain in your own words how Dagon came to be.*
- III. How is it that something so corrupt proceeded from something so pure?*
- IV. What can be said of the Watcher of the Seas?*
- V. To what do the lies of Dagon appeal?*
- VI. Who are the Piscine Sages?*
- VII. In your speculative opinion, to what could that which is mentioned in IX. pertain?*
- VIII. How did the fourteen lords come about?*
- IX. What was the fate of those cities that followed after the lies of Dagon?*
- X. What was the Holy City?*
- XI. What is said of the Oracle under the Holy City?*
- XII. Let it be known that there are four great spirits, the Oracle is but one, what are the others?*
- XIII. Will the pure and holy element ever be restored?*
- XIV. What was the nature of the dragon in Revelation XXIV?*
- XV. Where are the dark lords of Dagonshal sealed?*
- XVI. What is the nature of the Holy Herb and what of the cults centered around it?*

After that the student has copied out and placed answers under each of these questions, the student is to submit them in full to the Counsel of Knowledge. If it is deemed that the student has understanding, that very one may continue along the path.

** GOERS UPON THE SIDE WAY SHALL NOT HERE PASS **

IX. Upon the precipice:

COMPLETION AND CONTEMPLATION

The journey was tempering to the mind, it was burdensome yet enlivening to the heart, and all the ways that the pilgrim had tread were in view. Yet there was still wisdom to be had, and the pilgrim awaited the voice of a Piscine Sage, that, when it sounded upon the wind, assured in many words poetic and true that the knowledge of Bronze would never be complete.

Now that all has been read, it is incumbent upon the student who has worked her or his way in diligence to summarize and reflect upon the corpus of Bronze Lore and Doctrine in writing. This may be done with as much brevity or prolixity, with as much simplicity or pedantry as one is led to, as long as the student's knowledge is displayed with a level of nuance as is becoming of a scholar. The student will submit this summary and reflection to the Council of Knowledge. Once it is approved, the student will receive the title of Bronze Scholar, which is the Mark of Completion. If the content of the writing is not found satisfactory, but it is yet found to be on the verge of satisfaction, there may be questions posited the student by the council as an opportunity for the student to clarify his or her positions and apparent lack (which does not necessarily imply a true lack). Now, it is no hidden matter that new things are always being revealed, and it is necessary, that, before the title of Bronze Scholar be obtained, that it be inquired whether there be anything new since the establishment of this pedagogical system, so that that may be read and briefly summarized. It is also incumbent upon those who wish to retain the status of completion that they read anything new that may come about, and likewise submit a brief summary of all such things to the Council of Knowledge. The grace period for this is to last thirty days, being half of a Bronze Month (though if the material be a long and arduous task, more time will be allotted accordingly). If the grace period be exceeded, the title of Bronze Scholar shall be removed from the one who exceeded it, yet it can be quickly restored by following the aforementioned ways prescribed.



...And so, the pilgrim returned home, falling asleep for a full day and night. The pleading of the daystar for all to awake availed nothing, yet the whispers of the stars reached the pilgrim's dream: a journey again to and from the mountain.

** THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT _____ HAS
COMPLETED ALL THAT IS REQUIRED, AND HAS
ATTAINED TO THAT NOBLE TITLE OF BRONZE
SCHOLAR, WHICH IS THE MARK OF COMPLETION,
ON THIS DAY OF _____ OF THE
SIX-HUNDREDTH AGE. **

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