

On the Proper Methods

of

Entering into the Labyrinth of Ages

and

Ensuring Return

whilst

Maintaining Continuity of Experience

This Seventh Edition (Revised) codified by the
First in Preparation of the Imperial Liao
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Reception of the Questors

The Questors must divest themselves of:

1. implements, weapons and armour,
2. potions and herbs,
3. materials with any magical conductance of any kind,
4. anything except their clothing, and that only if it is non-magical.

The Welcoming and Confirmation of the Questors' Intent

The First Servant, standing at centre, welcomes them with open arms. The Cassock-Servant holds the Questors' Cassocks. The Mask-Servant holds the Questors' masks. A censer of sandalwood is prepared, to lay the Questors' minds to rest.

First Servant: Behold.

Servants: Behold.

First Servant: Behold Virtue.

Servants: Behold Virtue.

First Servant: Behold the Virtue of the Empire.

Servants: Virtue is the heart of the Empire.

First Servant: Who are these souls of immortal Virtue who come before the Gate of the Labyrinth in this transient mortal guise?

Guide-Priest: I am [NAME].

Visionary: I am [NAME].

First Servant: Welcome, [NAME] and [NAME].

First Servant (to Guide-Priest): Are you a dedicated Servant of Virtue, a soul worthy of prestige, proposed and approved for this solemn and faithful duty by the lawful Throne, by the Gatekeepers of Virtue, or by right of Prosperity?

Guide-Priest: I am.

First Servant: Who among these citizens so named vouches for you?

Guide-Priest: [NAME], or, I vouch for myself.

First Servant: What Virtue do you live by?

Guide-Priest: I come in the service of the Virtue of [VIRTUE].

First Servant: Then may your [VIRTUE] cleave you close to this wo/man who comes before us, and aid your sight and understanding in the truth of the Vision you witness within the Labyrinth of Ages.

The First Servant then repeats the questions to the Visionary, with the final blessing:

First Servant (to Visionary): Then may your [VIRTUE] guide the course of your soul to a place of learning.

The Armouring of the Questors against the Labyrinth's Perils

First Servant (to both): The Labyrinth of Ages contains all that the fragile mortal form perceives as space and all that the transient mortal mind perceives as time. It is the domain of perfect freedom, in which all freedoms are established in infinite degree. It places no constraints on the minds of those who experience it. Yet just as the mortal form demands we shield our eyes from the light of the sun, so does the mortal mind demand we perceive the borders and boundaries of time and space. Only Virtue, the infinite lens through which absolute truth may be perceived, can guide you into the Labyrinth of Ages and safely forth again. I ask again: what Virtue do you live by?

Guide-Priest: [VIRTUE].

First Servant (to **Visionary**): I ask you again: what Virtue do you live by?

Visionary: [VIRTUE]

Or

I live by the truth of the Way.

First Servant (to **Guide-Priest**): And so, knowing that unfettered perception of the Labyrinth of Ages will strip your soul from your body, and that you will die at this time, do you each believe that your Virtue is sufficient to guide you and guard you into the Labyrinth and safely forth again?

Guide-Priest: I do.

Visionary: I do.

*The **First Servant** calls upon the **Cassock-Servant** to speak their part.*

*When the **Cassock-Servant** retires, the **First Servant** calls upon the **Mask-Servant** to speak their part.*

*When the **Mask-Servant** retires:*

First Servant: Servant of the Cassock, have you done your duty to armour the Questors?

Cassock-Servant: I have done my duty.

First Servant: Servant of the Mask, have you done your duty to armour the Questors?

Mask-Servant: I have done my duty.

The Opening of the Way

The Servants offer the Pure Liao to the Guide-Priest and the Visionary. They take them, but they do not consume them yet.

First Servant: Then by the mysteries of Wyr, by the grace of the Imperial Synod, and by the will of the Empire, the Pure Liao is offered to you. By the majestic destiny of the **Visionary** and the Virtuous Wisdom of the **Guide-Priest**, you will be carried safely forth and returned again. Remember that what you witness is true, whether known to the histories or not, yet its truth may be clear or hidden in metaphor. Remember, **Visionary**, that you witness only a fragment of your past life. Remember, **Guide-Priest**, that this destiny is not yours. It is a memory, and all the people and objects therein are a memory. None within save the **Visionary** will see you, none within save the **Visionary** will hear you, and your physical interaction with any aspect of the Vision may cause its collapse. If you are ready, you may now consume the Pure Liao which has been prepared in accordance with your wishes.

The Visionary and the Guide-Priest may now consume the Pure Liao.

All Servants: By Ophis, go forth! By Diras, go forth! By Irremais, go forth! By Graim, go forth!

The Visionary and the Guide-Priest go forth into the place prepared for the Vision.

First Servant: Servants of the Imperial Synod, you have done well. Be now dismissed, to prepare the way for the **Questors'** return.

Servants: By my oath.

First Servant: By my oath. It is done.