

MITHRAIC INITIATIONS RECONSTRUCTED



A·DECIMVS·A·FIL·PAL·DECIMIANVS·A·E·DEM
CVM·SVO·PRONAQ·IPSVM·QVE·DEVM·SOLEM·MITHRA
ET·MARMORIBVS·ET·OMNI·CVLTV·SVA·P·RESTITVIT

CORAX. MERCURY

Purpose: This ritual aims to initiate the candidate into the grade of Corax (Crow).

1. Preparation and Purification:

- The candidate, known as the Neophyte, begins by ritually cleansing themselves with water and anointing their forehead with sacred oil. This symbolizes purification and readiness to become the divine messenger, a role under the guardianship of Mercury.
- The Pater recites a hymn dedicated to Mithras, invoking his guidance as the Neophyte transitions through the underworld of their consciousness. This hymn serves to awaken their connection to the cosmic path.
 - Hymn to Mithras: " *Illustrious Mithras, guardian of light and truth, who by Thy radiant power governs the heavens, the earth, and the underworld. Thou who dost illuminate the vast celestial sphere, whom dread Necessity obeys, eternal and self-created, by whose decree all things come to pass. Thou who commandest the winds and dost cloak the firmament with Thy bright rays, piercing the boundless expanse of the heavens with Thy glorious light, do thou shed thy beneficent rays upon us.*
 - ."
- The Neophyte listens to these praises, allowing the words to awaken their inner connection to the cosmic path. The Pater places a symbolic caduceus staff beside the Neophyte, representing the link to Mercury, the divine messenger.

2. The Bird Augury Rite:

- Before entering the sacred space, the candidate must "observe the birds" for omens. The Pater explains the importance of recognizing both the birds from the East (symbolizing new life and growth) and the West (symbolizing death and transformation), with particular emphasis on the Raven—the symbol of air and messenger under the guardianship of Mercury.
- The Pater explains that the Raven bears the emblem of the caduceus, the sacred staff of Hermes-Mercury, signifying their role as the intermediary between realms.
- The Pater addresses Mithras: " *O Mithras, lord of the cosmic order, Grant thy blessings upon this seeker, Who doth gaze into the mysteries of life and death. Guide him through the cycles of transformation, As the birds of dawn and dusk reveal thy truth.*"

3. The Sacrificial Offering:

- In honor of Mithras, three symbolic offerings are made. The Pater presents grain, wine, and honey.
- The offering is accompanied by a hymn to Mithras, who represents the cycle of life, death, and resurrection. The Pater also holds up a cup—a symbol linked with Mercury—signifying the communion of divine elements.
 - Hymn to Mithras: " *O Mithras, Monarch of the radiant sun and shadowed cave, who by Thy light movest the celestial dome, whom the host of the celestials revere, whom even the eternal fates obey, immortal, rock-born, by whose will all things ascend and descend, who guidest the stars and coverest the world with Thy divine glow, piercing the vast expanse of heaven with Thy fiery beams. Thy commandment shines forth in the unchanging orbits of the celestial*

spheres. Around Thy brilliant domain stand armies of devoted vassals who adore thee as we do, wherefore do thou attend to our sacred rites."

4. Journey to the Underworld:

- The Neophyte is led blindfolded into the Mystic Cave, representing the journey into the underworld, similar to the descent of Orpheus. The Mystagogue carries the caduceus staff as a symbol of guidance through the depths.
- The Pater guides the Neophyte while reciting an Orphic prayer for protection and insight, invoking Mithras and Mercury to allow safe passage.
 - Formula to Mithras: *"Hail Mithras, begetter of light,
Grant thy protection to this seeker,
Who journeys through depths unfathomable.
Open the gates of the underworld,
That they may pass in safety and wisdom,
And emerge reborn into the light of truth."*

5. The Rite of the Crow:

- The Mystagogue removes the blindfold, revealing a sacred image of a crow. The Pater explains that the Crow symbolizes the Neophyte's role as a messenger between realms—between Mithras and the celestial spheres, just as Mercury serves as the messenger of the gods.
- The Pater anoints the Neophyte's forehead with wine, saying: "Just as the crow soars between worlds, may you now ascend towards the heavens, bearing witness to the mysteries of Mithras under the protection of Mercury."
 - Hymn to the Crow: *"Illustrious Corax, herald of the mysteries,
Bearer of messages betwixt earth and sky,
Guide this seeker on their journey of ascent.
Hail, O winged one, who soars through the heavens,
Reconciling darkness and light, uncovering the path of divine truth."*

6. The Sacred Meal:

- The Neophyte is offered a sacred meal consisting of bread and wine, symbolizing the body and blood of Mithras. A cup is held, invoking the symbolism of Mercury, who connects the realms of gods and men.
- The Pater recites a discourse celebrating the divine spark within every being, reminding the Neophyte of their potential for spiritual ascent.
 - Hymn to Mithras: *"Hail, O Mithras, who nourishes the soul,
With bread from the earth and wine from the vine.
Thou who dost unite the initiate with the Gods,
Hail, giver of the sacred feast,
That strengthens the spirit and reveals the path,
Leading us to the imperishable light."*

7. Oath of Silence:

- The Neophyte takes an oath of silence concerning the sacred mysteries: *"I swear by him who separates earth from heaven, and darkness from light, and day from night, and rising from setting, life from death, and generation from corruption, I swear. To the gods which I beseech to observe and guard the mysteries transmitted to me, etc..."*
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- The Pater seals the initiation by giving the Neophyte a black cloak and a raven mask, symbolizing the Crow grade and their connection to Mercury. The Neophyte is instructed to meditate on the journey they have taken through the underworld, and taught the grade password or passwords.
 - Hymn to Silence: *"Hail Silence, symbol of the living incorruptible God,
Veil of the hidden and keeper of secrets,
Envelop this seeker in thy tranquil embrace.
Hail, O stillness, that speaks of the divine,
Teaching the wisdom beyond words, and revealing the truth from darkest recesses."*

8. Closing Invocation:

- The ritual concludes with an invocation to Mithras and Mercury, seeking their blessings on the new initiate.
- The Neophyte is told: *"As the Crow, you are now the mediator, the bridge between darkness and light, death and rebirth, under the auspices of Mercury. Carry these mysteries with you as you ascend through the grades of the Mithraic path."*
 - Hymn to Mithras: *"Hail, O Mithras, guardian of the sacred path of initiation,
Bestow thy blessings upon this seeker.
Hail, O divine power,
Who guides us through the cycles of life and death,
Bringing us to the light of rebirth.
Hail, O Mithras, who stands at the threshold,
Leading us from darkness to illumination,
Sealing the mysteries within our hearts."*
- Pater: *"Hail to the Crow under the protection of Mercury!"*

NYMPHUS. VENUS

Opening Invocation: The Pater as initiator, stands at the entrance to the sacred cave or temple.

Pater: *“To thee, regent of the Heavenly Hosts, O Mithras, we, thy faithful servants, dedicate our hearts in victory and thanksgiving. Lead us through the mysteries of the cosmos and deliver us from the darkness of ignorance. Reveal to us the path of the Nymphus, that we may unite with thee and cry aloud: Hail, O Lord of Light!”*

Chant: (As a group, the initiates respond in unison.)

Initiates: *“Hail, O Mithras, Lord of Light! Hail, the Unseen who is the seen! Hail, who brings life from the darkness! Hail, Nymphus, who prepares the soul for sacred union!”*

Stage 1: The Messenger of Light

The initiate stands before the mystagogue, representing the archangel who reveals the mysteries of Mithras.

Mystagogue: *“An archangel was sent from the Sun to guide you, O Seeker of Truth. With celestial voice, he reveals the light of Mithras and the path of the Nymphus.”*

The initiate is presented with a white veil, a torch, and a small vial of rose water (symbolizing Venus).

Mystagogue: *“Rejoice, for you will walk the path of enlightenment:
Rejoice, thou who art called to the sacred union of soul and light!
Rejoice, thou who shall be purified in the flame of truth!
Rejoice, thou who enterest the mysteries of the celestial bride!
Rejoice, thou who art protected by the veil of wisdom and the blessings of Venus!”*

The veil is placed upon the initiate's head, and a few drops of rose water are sprinkled upon them.

Initiate: *“Hail, O Mithras, who prepares me for the mysteries! Hail, the one who guides me through the threshold of transformation!”*

Stage 2: The Question of Purity

The initiate is led to a pool of water, symbolizing purity, reflection, and the element of Venus.

Pater: *“Are you pure in body and mind, O Seeker of the Path? Have you cleansed your heart for the mysteries that await? The Nymphus must be purified to prepare for the sacred union.”*

The initiate dips their hand into the water, then crosses themselves or makes a gesture of reverence.

Initiate: *"I purify myself in the waters of truth and love. I wash away doubt and fear. O Mithras, reveal to me the mysteries!"*

Pater: *"Rejoice, for you are purified:*

Hail, thou who art freed from the bonds of ignorance!

Hail, thou who shall walk the path of truth and light!

Rejoice, for the veil is drawn aside, and the mysteries of Mithras are revealed to thee!"

Stage 3: The Flame of the Sun

The initiate is led to a flame, representing the divine fire of Mithras, and the wedding torch of Venus.

Pater: *"The power of Mithras shines in the flame, and the Nymphus must embrace the light. The fire within you is the fire of the cosmos, and it calls you to ascend beyond the material realm."*

The initiate touches their hand to the flame or passes an object (such as a small candle or torch) through the fire.

Pater: *"Rejoice, for the fire of Mithras purifies and strengthens:*

Rejoice, thou who art illuminated by the Sun of Truth!

Rejoice, for the power of the Most High overshadows you, and the light shines within you!"

The initiate is now given a silver ring, symbolizing their readiness for union with the divine and the blessings of Venus.

Pater: *"With this ring, you are bound to the mysteries of Mithras, the celestial union that awaits, and the protection of Venus."*

Stage 4: The Ascent to the Celestial Union

The initiate is led to a mirror, where they gaze upon their reflection, symbolizing the final preparation for the union with the divine.

Pater: *"Forasmuch as the Sun ascends to the heights, so too must the Nymphus rise. You stand at the threshold of the mysteries. Are you prepared to gaze upon your true self and behold the divine union?"*

The initiate gazes into the mirror, which is framed with symbols of Venus, such as roses and doves.

Pater: *"Hail, thou who art crowned with the light of Mithras and the grace of Venus! Rejoice, thou who hast passed through the veil of illusion! Rejoice, thou who art called to ascend to the celestial wedding feast!"*

The initiate then clasps the right hand of the initiator, symbolizing the *iunctio dextrarum*, the clasping of hands as a pledge of fidelity and alliance.

Pater: Teaches grade password or passwords

Conclusion: The Hymn of the Nymphus

The group, led by the initiator, sings a final hymn of praise.

Initiates: *“Hail, O Mithras, light of the cosmos! Hail, the Lord of life and death! Hail, thou who brings us to the sacred union of soul and spirit!”*

Pater: *“Let your soul now be joined with the light of Mithras, the Nymphus who unites the mortal and divine. In his name, let your journey continue!”*

The ritual concludes with a final benediction, as the initiate is welcomed into the Nymphus grade.

Pater: *“Hail, O Mithras, Lord of Light! Hail, Nymphus, who prepares the soul for the final ascent! Hail, Venus, who blesses the union with love and beauty! Hail to the Nymphus under the protection of Venus”*

MILES. MARS

Setting:

The initiation takes place in a Mithraeum, symbolizing the cosmic grotto of Mithras. The setting represents a military camp of darkness, emphasizing the initiate's journey into the light and their readiness to serve Mithras as a devoted soldier. The environment is dimly lit, creating a sense of mystery, with images depicting Mithras' heroic deeds and symbols of martial valor. Symbols of Mars, the god of war, such as a ram, spear, and shield, are also present, reinforcing the martial aspect of the initiation and the astrological influence of Mars, the planet of courage, conflict, and action.

Participants:

- **Initiate:** The candidate for the Soldier (Miles) grade.
- **Pater (Father):** The head of the Mithraic community who oversees the initiation.
- **Mystagogus:** The guide who assists the initiate throughout the ritual.
- **Heliodromus (Courier of the Sun):** Represents Mithras' celestial connection and authority.
- **Other Brothers:** The Mithraic community, who witness and support the initiation.

Preparation:

The initiate must prepare for a period of rigorous training, including physical discipline and reflection on the role of a soldier in service to Mithras. During this time, the initiate contemplates their duty to defend the community and uphold the values of courage, loyalty, and righteousness. The initiate also meditates on the astrological symbolism of Mars, seeking to embody its virtues of strength, determination, and warrior spirit.

Ritual Steps:

1. Entrance into the Cave:

The initiate, wearing a simple tunic, is led blindfolded into the Mithraeum by the Mystagogus. This cave, described as a "camp of darkness," symbolizes the harsh conditions of a soldier's life and the initiate's journey from ignorance into enlightenment. The initiate is guided to kneel before an altar dedicated to Mithras, with symbols of Mars present, representing the astrological influence guiding the initiate's path.

- Chant: As the initiate kneels, the community chants: "*Hail, Mithras, Light of the World, Defender of Truth! Grant us strength as we journey from darkness into your radiant presence.*"

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2. Challenge of Endurance:

The Pater, accompanied by the Heliodromus, presents a sword to the initiate. The initiate must grasp the blade by the hilt, symbolizing their willingness to fight for Mithras and protect the sacred mysteries. The Mystagogus reminds the initiate that a true soldier must face trials and challenges without fear. The initiate must then endure a symbolic trial of endurance, such as holding the sword in an outstretched position for a set period of time, signifying their strength and determination.

- Invocation: During the endurance challenge, the community recites: "*O Mithras, whose strength knows no bounds, grant our brother the endurance to face all trials. May his arm not falter, may his spirit remain steadfast.*"
- Mars Invocation: The Pater adds: "*By the power of Mars, may the fire of courage ignite within you, and may your strength be as unyielding as the ram.*"

3. Purification and Oath:

The Heliodromus brings forth a brazier or torch, representing the purifying element of fire. The Pater

then anoints the initiate's forehead with oil and says, "*May you be purified by the sacred flame and be prepared to serve Mithras as a soldier of light.*"

The initiate raises their right hand and takes an oath of loyalty, swearing to protect the community, uphold the virtues of Mithras, and maintain secrecy regarding the sacred rites.

- Response: The community responds in unison: "*Purify us, O imperishable Flame of Mithras, that we may be worthy soldiers in your service. We swear to uphold your light and defend your truth.*"
- Mars Blessing: The Heliodromus adds: "*May the spirit of Ares/Mars, lord of battles, empower you to stand firm before all foes.*"

4. **The Wreath Ceremony:**

The Mystagogus presents a wreath on the point of a sword and offers it to the initiate. The initiate then takes the wreath and places it on their head, but must immediately push it off with the flat of their hand, declaring, "*Mithras alone is my wreath.*" The wreath is then laid on the initiate's shoulder, symbolizing that the glory and honor of victory belong to Mithras, not to themselves. The initiate is never to be garlanded again, as a sign of their humility and devotion. This act also serves as a mark of identification, proving the initiate's loyalty and readiness when tested with the military oath.

- Chant: As the wreath ceremony concludes, the brothers chant: "*Glory to Mithras, whose victory is eternal. We, your humble servants, lay our wreaths before you, for only you are worthy of glory.*"
- Mars Symbolism: The Mystagogus adds: "*As Mars guides the warrior to victory, so does Mithras guide us to enlightenment. Let this wreath remind you that true victory lies in devotion to the divine.*"

5. **Symbolic Armament:**

The Pater presents the initiate with a shield and a small spear, symbolizing their new role as a defender of the Mithraic community. The initiate is instructed that these weapons are not just for physical defense, but also represent the spiritual armor needed to combat ignorance and uphold truth. The Mystagogus explains the significance of each piece: the shield as a symbol of protection for the community and the spear as a representation of their commitment to strike down falsehood.

- Prayer: The Pater leads the community in prayer: "*Mithras, shield us with your strength, arm us with your truth. May our shield protect the righteous, and may our spear pierce the heart of falsehood.*"
- Mars Invocation: The Pater adds: "*May Mars, guardian of warriors, bless this shield and spear, that they may serve as instruments of both protection and righteous combat.*"

6. **Declaration as Soldier:**

The Pater raises the initiate and declares them a Soldier (Miles) of Mithras. The initiate steps forward and salutes the community, who respond with a chant of "*Ave, Miles Invictus!*" (Hail, Unconquered Soldier!). The initiate is now recognized as a warrior of Mithras, dedicated to the defense of the mysteries and the community.

- Acclamation: The community chants: "*Hail, O Soldier of Mithras, unconquered and true! Stand firm in the light, and may darkness flee before thee.*"
- Mars Blessing: The Heliodromus adds: "*By the strength of Mars, may you remain unconquered in all battles, both within and without.*"

7. **Sacred Meal:**

Following the declaration, the initiate is invited to partake in the communal meal of bread and water (or wine), symbolizing unity with the Mithraic brothers and the shared sustenance of the divine. The meal represents the bond of fellowship and the strength provided by Mithras to his soldiers.

- Blessing: Before partaking, the Pater blesses the meal: "*O Mithras, who feeds us with your strength, bless this bread and wine, that we may be nourished in body and spirit, united in your holy name.*"
 - Mars Invocation: The Mystagogus adds: "*May the spirit of Mars, who nourishes the warrior's heart, strengthen us in our fellowship and resolve.*"
8. **Elevation and Closing:**
 The Pater concludes the ritual by blessing the initiate, stating, "*May you serve Mithras with courage, loyalty, and honor, ever walking in the light of the Unconquered Sun.*" Candidate is given password. The community raises their hands in a gesture of blessing, and the ritual ends with the initiate being welcomed by the brothers as a full member of the Soldier grade.
- Benediction: The community chants: "*May the light of Mithras guide you, may his courage fill your heart, and may you walk forever in the path of the Unconquered Sun.*"
 - Mars Blessing: The Pater adds: "*May the power of Mars ever embolden you, and may your path be one of valor and unwavering devotion.*"

Symbolism:

- **Blindfold and Darkness:** Represents the initiate's journey from ignorance to enlightenment.
- **Sword and Endurance:** Symbolizes the strength, courage, and readiness required of a soldier.
- **Wreath Ceremony:** Represents the humility of the soldier, acknowledging Mithras as the true source of glory.
- **Shield and Spear:** Symbols of defense and commitment to uphold the truth and protect the community.
- **Sacred Meal:** Reflects unity with the Mithraic community and the shared commitment to the divine path.

After the Ritual:

The new Soldier is encouraged to reflect on their duties within the Mithraic community, focusing on defending the mysteries, embodying loyalty, and supporting their brothers. The initiate is also reminded that they are now part of Mithras' cosmic army, fighting for light and truth against the forces of darkness.

LION. JUPITER

Setting: The initiation takes place in a Mithraeum, symbolizing the cosmic grotto of Mithras. The environment is dimly lit, creating an atmosphere of sacred mystery, with the walls adorned with images of Mithras' deeds. The central space features representations of the lion, the bull, symbols of light, and imagery associated with Jupiter, including lightning bolts and the eagle, emphasizing his role as a protector and ruler.

Participants: • **Initiate:** The candidate for the Lion grade. • **Pater (Father):** The head of the Mithraic community who oversees the initiation. • **Mystagogus:** The guide who assists the initiate throughout the ritual. • **Heliodromus (Courier of the Sun):** Symbolizes the connection between Mithras and the celestial realms. • **Other Brothers:** The Mithraic community, who will witness and support the initiation.

Preparation: The initiate must undergo a period of purification, including fasting, abstinence, and reflection on the mysteries of Mithras and the influence of Jupiter. During this time, the initiate contemplates the symbolism of the lion as the element of fire, the embodiment of courage and power, and the presence of Jupiter as a divine protector and source of authority.

Ritual Steps:

1. **Entrance and Blindfolding:** The initiate is led into the Mithraeum blindfolded by the Mystagogus. This symbolizes the darkness of ignorance and the journey towards enlightenment. The Mystagogus whispers, "*May Jupiter guide your steps through this darkness, as he guides the thunderbolt through clouds.*"
2. **Challenge of Courage:** The Mystagogus instructs the initiate to kneel before the Tauroctony. The Pater, standing beside the initiate, places a sword or dagger near the initiate, signifying the courage required to overcome challenges, similar to the struggles faced by Mithras. The initiate must declare their readiness to face any trial, representing their inner strength and resolve to embrace the path of the Lion. The Pater proclaims, "*May Jupiter grant you the strength of his thunder and the courage of his eagle.*"

Hymn of Courage:

Pater: *O brave initiate, seeker of the Lion's flame, we honor thy courage.*

Chorus (Community): *Hail, O Lion, called forth from the darkness! Hail, fearless one, who steps into the light! Rejoice, for like Mithras, you face the trials of fire! Rejoice, for Jupiter's strength empowers your heart with courage!*

3. **Purification by Fire and Honey:** The Heliodromus brings forth a brazier or torch, symbolizing the fire element associated with the Lion grade. The Pater holds the brazier close enough for the initiate to feel the heat, emphasizing the purifying nature of fire. The Mystagogus then pours honey over the initiate's hands, instead of water, symbolizing the rejection of water as hostile to fire and emphasizing purity. The Pater proclaims, "*May your hands remain pure of all iniquity, as befits an initiate of the Lion, and may Jupiter's blessing be upon you.*"

The Mystagogus also anoints the initiate's tongue with honey, cleansing it of sin and preparing the initiate to speak only truth and words of light. This symbolizes the sacred nature of speech and the rejection of impurity.

Hymn of Purification:

Mystagogus: *O initiate, behold the purifying fire, the light that shines forth, and the sweetness of honey, washing away all impurity.*

Chorus (Community): *Hail, O Lion, cleansed by the sacred flame! Rejoice, anointed with honey, free from all sin! Rejoice, pure of heart and bold in speech! Rejoice, for Jupiter's wisdom guides your words as golden as the sun!*

4. **Descent into the Pit:** The initiate is guided to a pit, representing the depths of the earth and a symbolic descent into the underworld, where they must confront their fears. Once in the pit, the Pater presents the initiate with a linen garment adorned with a red border and four tassels, signifying their connection to the divine and the embodiment of the element of fire. The Mystagogus says, "*Take this garment, symbol of courage and purity, woven with the threads of Jupiter's protection.*"
5. **The Mithraic Catechism:** The Mystagogus leads the initiate through the Mithraic catechism, a series of questions and answers on Mithraic symbolism.

"... He will say: 'Where ... ?' '... he is/(you are?) there (then/thereupon?) at a loss?' Say: ... Say: 'Night'. He will say: 'Where ... ?' ... Say: 'All things ...' (He will say): '... you are called ... ?' Say: 'Because of the summery ...' ... having become ... he/it has the fiery ... (He will say): '... did you receive/inherit?' Say: 'In a pit'. He will say: 'Where is your ...? ... (Say): '...(in the...) Leonteion.' He will say: 'Will you gird?' The (heavenly?) ...(Say): '... death'. He will say: 'Why, having girded yourself, ...?' '... this (has?) four tassels'.	'Very sharp and ...' '... much'. He will say: ...? (Say: '... because of/through?) hot and cold'. He will say: ...? (Say): '... red ... linen'. He will say: 'Why?' Say: '... red border; the linen, however, ...' (He will say): '... has been wrapped?' Say: 'The savior's ...' He will say: 'Who is the father?' Say: 'The one who (begets?) everything ...' (He will say): '('How ?)... did you become a Leo?' Say: 'By the ... of the father'. ... Say: 'Drink and food'. He will say '...?' '... in the seven-...'. "
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The Pater adds, "Forasmuch as Jupiter is the ruler of the heavens, so must you rule over your fears and desires."

6. **Burning of Incense and Sistrum Shaking:** The Mystagogus directs the initiate to approach an altar with burning coals. The initiate is given incense and instructed to place it on the coals, symbolizing purification and offering. The Mystagogus also hands the initiate a sistrum, an ancient musical instrument associated with divine energy and protection, and instructs the initiate to shake it. The shaking of the sistrum symbolizes the awakening of inner strength and the invocation of divine protection. The Pater invokes Jupiter's protection, saying, "*May lofty Jupiter shield you from all harm as you awaken the power within.*"

7. Hymn of Offering:

Mystagogus: *Accept, O holy Father, accept the incense-burning Lions. Through whom we offer the incense, through whom we ourselves are purified.*

Chorus (Community): Rejoice, O Lion, whose scent rises to the heavens! Rejoice, whose heart burns with sacred fire! Rejoice, intermediary between earth and divine! Rejoice, for Jupiter's eagle watches over you!

8. The Roar of the Lion: The Mystagogus removes the blindfold, and the initiate is instructed to let out a loud roar, mimicking a lion. This symbolizes the embrace of the Lion's attributes: courage, fearlessness, and the power of the sun. The community responds with a collective chant of "Invictus" (Unconquered) to acknowledge the initiate's new strength. The Pater adds, "*Let your roar be heard by Jupiter, ruler of thunder, and may his blessing be upon you.*"

9. Hymn of Strength:

Pater: Let forth your voice, O Lion, that all darkness may flee before you.

Chorus (Community): Hail, mighty roar that echoes through the cosmic grotto! Hail, unconquered heart of flame! Hail, for your roar is heard by Mithras himself! Hail, guardian of the mysteries of fire, under the watchful gaze of Jupiter!

10. Anointing and Bestowal of the Lion Symbol: The Pater anoints the initiate's forehead with oil, marking them with the symbol of the Lion. The initiate is given a lion-headed scepter or a small figurine of a lion, along with a fire shovel and a sistrum, which symbolizes their new rank and their connection to the purifying power of fire. The fire shovel represents the responsibility of maintaining the sacred flame of Mithras and the duty to keep the community's spiritual fire alive, while the sistrum symbolizes the initiate's role in invoking divine energy and protecting the community. The Pater declares, "*As Jupiter is the guardian of order, so shall you guard the sacred flame of our mysteries.*"

11. Oath of the Lion: The initiate stands before the altar, facing the tauroctony, raises their right hand, and swears an oath of loyalty to Mithras, Jupiter, and the community. The Pater and the Mystagogus guide the initiate in reciting a formulaic oath that emphasizes secrecy, courage, and dedication to the path of Mithras.

12. Hymn of Oath:

Pater and Mystagogus: *Raise your hand, O initiate, and swear your loyalty to Mithras and Jupiter.*

Chorus (Community): *Hail, O Lion, sworn to the path of light! Rejoice, keeper of the sacred vow! Rejoice, defender of the mysteries of Mithras and protector under Jupiter's watch! Rejoice, bearer of the lion's mark!*

13. Sharing the Sacred Meal: After the oath, the initiate is welcomed by the community and invited to partake in a symbolic meal of bread and water (or wine). This meal represents the initiate's union with Mithras and the fellowship of the community, mirroring the sacred meal shared by Mithras and Sol. The Pater proclaims, "*May Jupiter's abundance bless this meal, as it blessed Mithras and Sol.*"

14 . Elevation and Closing: The Pater declares the initiate as a Lion, the embodiment of the element of fire, and a guardian of the mysteries, and teaches him the password. The community congratulates the new Lion with the phrase, "*Hail to the Lions, under the protection of Jupiter!*"

15. The ritual ends with the community raising their hands in a gesture of blessing, saying '*Hail to the lions for many and new years!*'

Symbolism: • **Blindfolding and Fire:** Represents the journey from ignorance to enlightenment and the purifying aspect of fire. • **Honey:** Symbolizes purity and the sacred nature of the initiate's actions and words. • **The Mithraic Catechism:** Emphasizes the core teachings and values of the Mithraic mysteries. • **Incense Burning and Sistrum Shaking:** Represents purification, the sacred duty of the Lion to serve as an intermediary between the divine and the community, and the invocation of divine protection. • **The Roar:** Emphasizes the courage and power of the Lion. • **Sacred Meal:** Reflects unity with Mithras and the community, as well as the sacred nature of their fellowship. • **Anointing, Fire Shovel, and Sistrum:** Marks the initiate with the attributes of the Lion, including strength, courage, the responsibility to maintain the sacred flame, and the duty to invoke divine energy for the community.

After the Ritual: The new Lion is encouraged to meditate on their role within the Mithraic community, particularly focusing on embodying the qualities of courage, loyalty, and the power of light to dispel darkness.

PERSES. LUNA

Setting:

The initiation takes place in a Mithraeum, symbolizing the cosmic grotto of Mithras, adorned with images of the moon's phases and the tools of the reaper. The setting reflects both the lunar and Saturnian aspects of Perses, who serves as the guardian of the sacred fruits. The environment is illuminated by torchlight, representing the moon's glow and the cyclical light of the harvest season.

Participants:

- Initiate: The candidate for the Perses grade.
- Pater (Father): The head of the Mithraic community who oversees the initiation.
- Mystagogus: The guide who assists the initiate throughout the ritual.
- Perses (existing): A current Perses representing the connection between Mithras, Saturn, and the lunar cycle.
- Other Brothers: The Mithraic community, who witness and support the initiation

1: Entry and Invocation

The initiate, dressed in grey, enters the Mithraeum to the sound of rhythmic drumming, echoing the moon's pull on the tides. They are greeted by two torchbearers, Cautes and Cautopates, standing at the entrance, symbolizing the lunar nodes. As the initiate proceeds, they recite a hymn to Mithras, extolling his role as the begetter of light and the master of creation. This hymn is structured in 12 strophes, corresponding to the 12 lunar months, each celebrating a different aspect of Mithras' power over creation, the moon, and agriculture:

2. Hymn to Mithras

1. *Hail, Mithras, born from the sacred rock, bringer of light to the darkness, we honor your power to illuminate the hidden paths of the cosmos.*
2. *Hail, Mithras, guardian of the sacred bull, whose blood nourishes the earth, we praise your role in the cycle of life and renewal.*
3. *Hail, Mithras, companion of Sol, who drives the chariot of the sun, we glorify your strength as the radiant protector of the heavens.*
4. *Hail, Mithras, lord of the moonlit grove, where shadows dance in your presence, we seek your guidance in the mysteries of the night.*
5. *Hail, Mithras, the divine archer, whose arrow strikes true, we honor your precision and the balance you bring to the cosmos.*
6. *Hail, Mithras, keeper of the sacred flame, who warms the hearts of the faithful, we call upon your fire to ignite the spirit within us.*
7. *Hail, Mithras, the preserver of fruits, nurtured by the moon's gentle light, we thank you for the sweetness of the harvest and the abundance of life.*
8. *Hail, Mithras, the reaper of the divine fields, whose sickle gathers the golden grain, we praise your role in the eternal cycle of growth and decay.*
9. *Hail, Mithras, ally of Saturn, keeper of time's mysteries, we honor your wisdom in the turning of the seasons and the flow of existence.*
10. *Hail, Mithras, who dwells in the hidden caverns, where the secrets of creation lie, we seek your insight into the deep and sacred truths.*
11. *Hail, Mithras, protector of the initiates, whose light guides us through the trials, we trust in your power to transform and uplift our souls.*
12. *Hail, Mithras, lord of the celestial vault, who holds the stars in his grasp, we celebrate your dominion over the heavens and the order you bring to all things.*

3: Cleansing with Honey

The initiate is brought to the center of the Mithraeum, where a stone altar holds a bowl of honey. The initiate's hands are cleansed with honey by the officiating Pater, who says:

"As the moon preserves the seed, so shall your hands preserve the fruits of the earth. May this honey, born of the moon, grant you the power of preservation and the sweetness of truth."

The initiate is then given a small amount of honey to eat, signifying their acceptance of the moon's gift and their role as the guardian of fruits. The act symbolizes the lunar power to nurture and preserve, linking the initiate to the sacred cycle of growth and harvest.

4: The Symbolic Reaping

The initiate is handed a sickle and asked to approach a bundle of grain placed near the altar. The Father intones:

"As Mithras, the divine reaper, gathered the harvest from the blood of the sacred bull, so too shall you, as Perses, reap the fruits of the earth under the watchful eye of the moon."

The initiate uses the sickle to cut the bundle of grain, symbolizing their acceptance of the agricultural role tied to the Persian grade. The grain is then placed on the altar as an offering to Mithras, Saturn, and the moon, acknowledging the interconnectedness of all these divine powers in the cycle of life and death.

5: The Oath and Branding

The initiate kneels before the Father, who holds a bowl of water mixed with honey. The Father dips a branch (representing the long twigs seen in depictions of the Persian) into the bowl and sprinkles the initiate, saying:

"By the light of the moon, by the sweetness of honey, and by the fruits of the earth, do you swear to uphold the mysteries of Mithras and preserve the sacred order of the cosmos?"

The initiate responds: *"I swear."*

A symbolic branding is then performed. The Father touches the initiate's forehead with a small, crescent-shaped emblem, symbolizing the moon's blessing and the initiate's new role as a guardian of the sacred fruits. The branding is not literal but is marked with honey, signifying spiritual transformation rather than physical pain.

6. Elevation and the Feast of Perses

To conclude the ritual, the initiate joins the other members of the Mithraic community in a feast. The sacred meal includes bread, symbolizing the grain reaped, and a cup of honeyed wine, representing the sweetness of the moon's gift. The initiate, now a Persian, is given a seat of honor and a bundle of ears of corn to hold, representing their new status.

A hymn is sung in honor of Mithras, Saturn, and Luna, celebrating the harmony of the cosmos and the initiate's role within it. The community, led by the Father, chants the final lines together:

"Hail, Mithras, guardian of light! Hail, Saturn, keeper of time! Hail, Luna, nurturer of life! Hail to the Perses under the protection of Luna!"

Symbolism:

- **Grey Tunic and Sickle:** Represents the lunar power of preservation and the role of Perses as the guardian of the sacred fruits.
- **Honey and Grain:** Symbolizes the moon's gift of sweetness and the harvest, emphasizing the nurturing and preserving aspects of the lunar forces.
- **Sacred Meal:** Reflects unity with Mithras, Saturn, and the moon, and the initiate's role as partaker in the sacred cycle of growth and preservation.
- **Wreath Ceremony:** Represents humility and the acknowledgment that glory belongs only to Mithras and Saturn.

After the Ritual:

The new Perses is encouraged to meditate on their role as the guardian of sacred fruits, contemplating their responsibilities in preserving the cosmic order and maintaining the sacred balance between Mithras, Saturn, and the lunar cycles. The initiate is to serve as a protector of the sacred mysteries, ensuring the eternal cycle of life and harvest endures.

HELIODROMUS. SOL

Setting:

The initiation takes place in a Mithraeum, symbolizing the cosmic grotto of Mithras, adorned with images of the Sun's daily journey across the sky. The setting reflects both the celestial and terrestrial aspects of Heliodromus, who serves as the deputy of Helios-Sol on earth. The environment is illuminated by torches and a brazier, symbolizing the eternal light of the Sun.

Participants:

- **Initiate:** The candidate for the Heliodromus grade.
- **Pater (Father):** The head of the Mithraic community who oversees the initiation.
- **Mystagogus:** The guide who assists the initiate throughout the ritual.
- **Heliodromus (existing):** A current Heliodromus representing the connection between Mithras and the celestial realms.
- **Other Brothers:** The Mithraic community, who witness and support the initiation.

Preparation:

The initiate must undergo a period of spiritual purification, meditation, and fasting, during which they contemplate the cosmic role of Helios-Sol and their connection to Mithras. The initiate must also practice endurance, strength, and devotion, preparing themselves for the role of bearing the light and representing the Sun's power on earth. During this time, the initiate reflects on invocations emphasizing the glory of the Sun and the divine guidance of Mithras.

Ritual Steps:

1. **Entrance into the Mithraeum:**
The initiate is led into the Mithraeum by the Mystagogus, wearing a red tunic symbolizing the fire of the Sun. The initiate carries a torch, representing the light they will bear as Heliodromus. The Pater stands before an altar, representing Mithras' divine presence, while the brothers of the community form a circle, symbolizing the cosmic journey of the Sun.
2. **Challenge of Endurance:**
The Mystagogus presents the initiate with a whip, a radiate halo, and a globe—symbols of the Heliodromus. The initiate must endure a symbolic trial of strength, holding the whip aloft while standing on one foot. This represents the initiate's readiness to traverse the heavens, urging on the Sun's chariot as Heliodromus. The trial is intended to emphasize endurance, balance, and dedication, mirroring the daily journey of the Sun.
3. **Invocation of the Sun:**
The Mystagogus leads the initiate and the community in a solemn invocation: "*Hail, O Sun, radiant and eternal; hail, O celestial light that guides us through darkness. Hail, O Helios, shining guardian of the cosmic order; Hail, O bearer of Mithras' blessing, whose rays illuminate all.*" The community joins in, chanting praises to the Sun and to Mithras, acknowledging the initiate's role as the earthly bearer of this sacred light.
4. **Receiving the Globe:**
The Pater presents the blue globe to the initiate, saying, "*This is the world entrusted to your care. As Heliodromus, you are the bearer of light, protector of the divine order, and servant of Mithras, guiding the heavens.*" The initiate receives the globe with their left hand and holds it close to their chest, signifying their new role as a guardian of the light. The radiate halo is placed around their head, symbolizing their connection to the Sun.

5. **Imitation of the Sacred Pact:**

The initiate is brought before a depiction of Mithras and Sol concluding their sacred pact. The Mystagogus explains that Heliodromus, as the earthly representative of Helios-Sol, plays a crucial role in ensuring the harmony between Mithras and the Sun. The initiate must place their hand on the altar, swearing loyalty to Mithras, and declare, "*I am the Courier of the Sun, and I shall carry the light of Mithras to all corners of the earth.*" The Pater blesses the initiate, reaffirming the sacred bond.

6. **The Wreath Ceremony:**

The Mystagogus offers a wreath on the point of a sword to the initiate, who then places the wreath on their head. The initiate must push it off with the flat of their hand, declaring, "*Mithras alone is my wreath.*" The wreath is then laid on the initiate's shoulder, symbolizing that the glory belongs solely to Mithras. The initiate will never again be garlanded, signifying humility and the understanding that their role is in service to the divine.

7. **Sacred Meal of Sol and Mithras:**

The initiate then participates in a reenactment of the sacred meal shared between Mithras and Sol. The Mystagogus guides the initiate to sit at a table beside an image of Mithras and Sol. They partake in bread and water (or wine), symbolizing the nourishment provided by the Sun and the unity of divine forces. The initiate shares this meal with the Pater, further emphasizing their new bond and responsibilities as Heliodromus.

8. **Raising the Torch and Whip:**

The initiate is handed a torch and a whip, representing their role in guiding the Sun's chariot across the heavens. The Pater instructs the initiate to raise both items high and proclaim, "*With this whip, I shall drive the horses of the Sun; with this torch, I shall bring light to the world.*" The community responds with a chant of "*Ave, Heliodromus Invictus!*" (Hail, Unconquered Courier of the Sun!). The Mystagogus then adds: "*Hail, O bearer of divine fire; hail, O guide of celestial steeds. Hail, O servant of Mithras, whose light never fades.*"

9. **Elevation and Closing:**

10. The Pater raises the initiate and declares them the Heliodromus, the earthly representative of Helios-Sol. The initiate steps forward and salutes the community, who respond with raised hands in blessing. The new Heliodromus is then welcomed by the brothers, each offering a greeting of peace and light. "*Hail to the Heliodromus under the protection of Sol!*"

Symbolism:

- **Red Tunic and Radiate Halo:** Represents the fire and light of the Sun, marking the Heliodromus as a bearer of celestial power.
- **Whip and Globe:** The whip symbolizes the driving force of the Sun, while the globe represents the world entrusted to Heliodromus' care.
- **Sacred Pact:** Symbolizes the harmony and unity between Mithras and the Sun, which the Heliodromus is sworn to uphold.
- **Wreath Ceremony:** Represents humility and the acknowledgment that glory belongs only to Mithras.
- **Sacred Meal:** Reflects the unity with Mithras and Sol, and the initiate's role as a partaker in the divine light.

After the Ritual:

The new Heliodromus is encouraged to meditate on their role as the bearer of light, contemplating their responsibilities as the earthly representative of Helios-Sol. The initiate is to serve as a beacon of strength and enlightenment, guiding others towards the divine mysteries and maintaining the sacred balance between Mithras and the cosmic order.

PATER. SATURN

Setting:

The initiation takes place in the Mithraeum, representing the cosmic cave and the domain of Mithras. The setting is richly decorated, filled with sacred symbols, including the seven planetary symbols, Mithras slaying the bull, and representations of Saturn. Torches and braziers illuminate the Mithraeum, creating an atmosphere of sacred reverence and cosmic mystery. Elements from the Orphic tradition, including symbols of the Orphic egg and serpents, are also present, connecting the initiate to the cosmic creation and renewal.

Participants:

- **Initiate:** The candidate for the Pater (Father) grade.
- **Current Pater (Father):** The head of the Mithraic community who oversees the initiation.
- **Heliodromus:** Represents Mithras' celestial connection and authority.
- **Other Brothers:** The Mithraic community, including members of the various grades who witness and support the initiation.

Preparation:

The initiate, having progressed through all previous grades, must undertake a period of deep meditation, reflection, and study of the Mithraic mysteries, particularly the astrological concepts underpinning the grades. The initiate must also prepare by fasting, purifying their body and mind, and contemplating their responsibility as a potential Pater, the representative of Mithras on earth. During this time, the initiate reflects on the Orphic hymn to creation, understanding the connection between Mithras, cosmic order, and the divine origins of the universe.

Ritual Steps:

1. Entrance and Vestments:

The initiate is led into the Mithraeum by the Heliodromus. The initiate wears a simple white robe, symbolizing purity and readiness to assume the mantle of the Pater. The Pater stands before the altar, clothed as Mithras, wearing the Phrygian cap, a robe adorned with symbols of the zodiac, and holding the sickle of Saturn, representing the initiate's guardianship under the planet Saturn. Before proceeding, the Orphic egg is presented to the initiate, symbolizing the potential for cosmic rebirth and the unity of all creation.

2. Invocation of Saturn:

The Pater raises his arms and calls upon Saturn, the guardian of the Pater grade, to bless the initiation. The Heliodromus brings forth a brazier filled with burning coals, over which the initiate must hold a sickle. The Pater recites an invocation to Saturn: "*O Cronus, begetter of time, guardian of the highest mysteries, and O Cosmic Creator, force of all beginnings, grant wisdom and strength to this initiate, who aspires to the title of Pater and guide his brothers in the path of light.*" The initiate must hold the sickle over the coals, symbolizing their readiness to take on the responsibilities of the Pater, under the auspices of Saturn and in acknowledgment of cosmic creation.

3. Invocation of the Divine Light:

The Mystagogus leads the initiate in a solemn recitation, addressing Mithras as the Unconquered Light: "*Hail, O Mithras, radiant guardian of the cosmos; Hail, O light that dispels the shadows of ignorance. Hail, O eternal guide, who leads us to the divine mysteries; Hail, O blazing flame that ignites our spirit with truth.*" The community joins in the chant, emphasizing the cosmic and divine nature of Mithras and affirming the initiate's commitment to embody these sacred virtues.

4. **Investiture with the Symbols of the Pater:**

The Heliodromus and the Pater present the initiate with the symbols of the Pater grade: the staff, the ring, and the Phrygian cap. The staff symbolizes the initiate's role as a shepherd of the Mithraic community, guiding and protecting his brothers. The ring represents wisdom, authority, and the eternal bond between the Pater and Mithras. The Phrygian cap, identical to that worn by Mithras, signifies the initiate's role as the earthly representative of the god. The Pater places the ring on the initiate's finger, hands them the staff, and says, "*You are now the magister sacrorum, teacher and guardian of the mysteries, entrusted with the wisdom of Mithras.*"

5. **Declaration of the Role:**

The initiate, holding the staff and wearing the ring, is instructed to kneel before the altar. The Pater addresses the initiate: "*You are now Father to your brothers, defensor of the mysteries, and the magus who imparts sacred knowledge. You shall dispense initiation to those who are worthy and protect the sacred fellowship.*" The initiate then rises, symbolizing their ascension to the highest grade.

6. **Astrological Wisdom and the Seven Grades:**

The Pater leads the initiate to a depiction of the seven planetary symbols, representing the seven grades of Mithraic initiation. The Pater explains the significance of each planet and its connection to the grades, culminating in Saturn, the guardian of the Pater grade. The initiate is asked to recite the attributes of each grade, demonstrating their understanding of the cosmic order and their place within it.

7. **Sacred Oath of the Pater:**

The initiate stands before the community and raises the staff high. The Pater guides the initiate in reciting the sacred oath: "*By the light of Mithras, by the wisdom of Saturn, by the cosmic unity of the Orphic egg, and by the sacred bond of our brotherhood, I swear to uphold the mysteries, protect my brothers, and serve as the rightful Father of this community.*" The community responds in unison, "*Hail, Pater Invictus!*" (Hail, Unconquered Father!).

8. **Acceptance as Pater:**

The initiate is now formally accepted as the Pater by the Mithraic community. The brothers come forward one by one, bowing before the new Pater and addressing him as "Father." The Pater of the community blesses the new initiate, saying, "*May you guide with wisdom, protect with strength, and lead with the light of Mithras.*" The community then chants a hymn celebrating the divine light that now resides in the new Pater.

9. **Sacred Meal and Fellowship:**

The new Pater is invited to partake in the sacred meal with the community, mirroring the meal shared by Mithras and Sol. Bread and wine are consumed, symbolizing unity, nourishment, and the shared light of Mithras. The new Pater is seated beside the current Pater, signifying their equal status as guardians of the mysteries.

10. **Elevation and Closing:**

The Pater raises his hand and declares, "*Hail all Fathers from East to West, under the protection of Saturn.*" The community echoes the blessing. The new Pater is then led to the throne, symbolizing his new authority. The ritual ends with the community raising their hands in a gesture of blessing and chanting, "*Ave, Pater Pientissimus!*" (Hail, Most Pious Father!).

Symbolism:

- **White Robe and Phrygian Cap:** Represents purity and the initiate's role as the earthly representative of Mithras.
- **Sickle of Saturn:** Symbolizes the Pater's guardianship under Saturn and the connection to the highest mysteries.
- **Staff and Ring:** Represent authority, wisdom, and the Pater's role as shepherd and teacher.

- **Astrological Wisdom:** Emphasizes the cosmic order and the Pater's understanding of the astrological foundations of the Mithraic mysteries.
- **Sacred Meal:** Reflects unity with Mithras and the community, as well as the sacred nature of their fellowship.

The new Pater is encouraged to meditate on their responsibilities within the Mithraic community, focusing on embodying the qualities of wisdom, leadership, and devotion to the divine mysteries. The Pater must also prepare to guide future initiates, ensuring the continuity and sanctity of the Mithraic path.