

# The Enigma of René Guénon and Agarttha

As we said, in 1956, Paul Chacornac wrote Guénon's first biography, where the spiritist modality used for the foundation of the OTR was described. As Marcel Clavelle declared, he helped Chacornac with Guénon's biography; in his unpublished "Document," Clavelle gave his personal opinion trying to explain this episode: or Guénon influenced the medium's mind, or Guénon himself caused the spiritist phenomenon.

The "Ordre du Temple rénové" was founded in the year 1908. *The Golem* of Gustav Meyrink was published in 1914; in 1909, Mark Twain wrote the *Letters from the Earth* that was published posthumously. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century actively prepared the last phase of the *Kali-yuga*, and had as main objective to create a paramount confusion. In that period, the solidification of the world, illustrated by an obtuse and dark materialism, was corroborated by the commencement of the dissolving process, to which the spiritist movement belonged. The confusion aimed at the annihilation of the true spirituality, of the true esotericism, and therefore, the episode of OTR could easily (and wrongly) be considered just a spiritist application, with René Guénon as its exponent.

The counter-initiatory forces have no access to the "power of discrimination." On the contrary, they use indiscriminately all the tools they can get, and because they need to create confusion, these tools can appear as opposing each other. Some of these tools are writers like Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), Mark Twain (1835-1910), Gustav Meyrink (1868-1932) and Alfred Kubin (1877-1959).

Âtmâ, the universal spirit, which is not different from *Brahma*, is concealed to our eyes by three main veils that – the Hindu tradition explains – represent its "limitative conditions" and correspond to the three-partition of the universal manifestation (the "Three Worlds") and to the accordingly tripartite constitution of the total being (*Corpus-Anima-Spiritus*). The "waking" and the "dream" states,<sup>1</sup> components of the changeable and perishable individuality, embody the external grosser veils. Closer to Âtmâ is a diaphanous veil, the "deep sleep" state, a state without dreams and full of bliss (*ananda*), but beyond these three states there is the supreme and unconditioned one, "The Fourth," where Âtmâ dwells in itself.<sup>2</sup> These last two are essential for a complete initiation and

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<sup>1</sup> *Mândûkya Up.* I, 3-4.

<sup>2</sup> *Mândûkya Up.* I, 5-7.

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spiritual realization. The “deep sleep” state, corresponding to Dante’s *Paradiso*, leads to the Gate of Liberation, yet it is still a limitative state and the truly effective and total liberation through the Sundoor aims at *Turiya*, “The Fourth” state.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, the grosser states are inadequate for a full initiation and in the best case they could provide support for a realization of the *Lesser Mysteries*.

In the domain of the *Lesser Mysteries*, the danger is tremendous. The “waking” and “dream” states constitute the realm where the satanic forces have access and, the closer the end of time is, the stronger they act. The communication with the superior states breaks and the path towards *Turiya* (or at least towards the “deep sleep” state) is lost, which facilitates the chaos and confusion in the individual order. And the corporeal sheath, the grossest, is not the most vulnerable, even if the lower appetites and desires are its emanations; but the psychical sheath, with all those sentiments and emotions, and especially the mind represents the favourite place for mixed influences. The mind is the fanatic supporter of duality that permits the devil to feel legitimated. “As in dream the mind acts through *Mâyâ* presenting the appearance of duality, so also in the waking state the mind acts, through *Mâyâ* (the art of illusion), presenting the appearance of duality” and only in the “deep sleep” state the mind ceases to act and “becomes identical with fearless *Brahma*.”<sup>4</sup> An untamed mind maintains the illusion of reality; that is what happens in the “waking” and “dream” states.

It is desirable then to abandon the illusion and look upwards to the everlasting and non-dual Principle. Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* repeatedly illustrated the above fundamental doctrine. Illusion, “country of dreams,” chaos and confusion, sports, characterize this special night; yet at the end order is restored and a new luminous cycle is ready to begin, proving the ties with the Principle. Dante travels through Hell (where there is no hope), yet at the end he rises to Heaven, reaching the Celestial Paradise. “No hope” is only for those lost into the labyrinthine “outside darkness,” those who look downwards and not upwards, those who wander without a guide or having a deceiving one. With the evolvment of the cycle, more and more often the interest is directed towards Hell, ghosts, dreams and “chthonic gods”; the tendency (*guna*) *tamas* (error, inertia, darkness and ignorance) dominates, and these who follow *tamas* go downwards, says *Bhagavad-Gîtâ* (XIV.18). For the *tamasic* individuals, the monster’s jaws are the Jaws of Death and not the Gate of Liberation, and the Existence is a chaos containing nightmares, spirits, fear and death.

This kind of limitation due to the ignorance of the decaying world happens equally for extensive and secondary cycles. We note it with the “evolution” in time of Western literature. Alexandre Dumas, Jules Verne, Bram Stoker, Edgar Poe, even if they provide dwelling for some traditional symbols in their works, all are more concerned to look downwards. For Melville, the quest of the white whale is a fearful enterprise, *Moby Dick* illustrating the Jaws of Death. For Verne, the journey through Hell leads to illusion and destruction. In Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale*, Hermione, whose illusory “image” is a statue, a perfect copy of herself, symbolizes *Madonna Intelligenza* and *Shekinah* (the

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<sup>3</sup> “The Fourth” state corresponds to Meister Eckhart’s Godhead, the divine abyss, where God appears without names and attributes (Eckhart, *Sermons*, I, 56).

<sup>4</sup> *Mândûkya Up.* III.29-35.

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“divine presence” of the *Kabbalah*), the immortal Knowledge and Tradition descending to initiate a new cycle and establish a new spiritual center. Hermione is absolutely real, infinitely more real than the world. When Paulina, the Initiatrix, commands her to descend, she says: “Music, awake her: strike!”<sup>5</sup> The music has divine powers providing resurrection and life. For Verne, on the contrary, music causes death and then, like Stilla’s image, is just an illusion, a devil’s trick. In the same way, Dumas and Stoker, instead of suggesting a luminous way upwards, maintain their stories at the level of graveyards, vampires and death.<sup>6</sup> In the modern times, especially these authors, with interest in extraordinary tales, give the opportunity to the traditional symbols to find refuge in their work and, despite the authors’ attraction to the *tamasic* domain, a spiritual symbolism is very likely to hide under the fictional surface.<sup>7</sup> Beside the rare authors who still consciously know some genuine traditional data, the majority are more or less innocent transmitters and it is the reader’s responsibility to be capable to unveil or restore a sacred meaning where it is the case. Not sentimentalism and profane analysis, but the power of discrimination in accordance with the sacred writings of divine inspiration should be the infallible guide – say the seers. The power of discrimination (symbolized by the *Hamsa* in the Hindu tradition and by the *Qur’an* in Islam) guarantees the right choice between heavenly (supernal) and terrestrial (infernal) symbols, between the immortal and mortal twin, between the wheat and the darnel,<sup>8</sup> which could cohabit together, as it happens in Christ’s parable. The same cohabitation appears in the literary works, which always imposes a selective approach. It does not mean that such works are in any way genuine traditional or initiatory stories; it is a fundamental mistake to consider that the work itself, because some traditional symbols are hiding there, is a traditional one or an initiatory one; on the contrary, this type of “literature” is usually just a “parody” of the genuine sacred stories and is infested with infernal influences, aiming at confusing the reader.

Edgar Allan Poe’s *Pym* is mostly concerned with evil and infernal trials. In *Ms. Found in a Bottle*, Poe describes the pole, the center, as a fearful abyss, a whirlpool in which, amid a bellowing and thundering of ocean and tempest, the ship, whirling in concentric circles, is falling down. Mark Twain wrote in 1896 a similar story, unfinished, called *The Enchanted Sea-Wilderness*, in which he depicts an infernal abyss, close to the South Pole, and named the “Devil’s Race Track.”<sup>9</sup> The sea voyage starts at the winter solstice and it is directed southward; eventually, the brig reaches the “bewitched domain” of circular shape, being “in the whirl and suck of the Devil’s Race-Track.” The “Great Dark”

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<sup>5</sup> V.III.

<sup>6</sup> It seems that E. T. A. Hoffmann played a very suspect role in all of this. His work influenced not only Dumas, Verne and Poe, but also Freud and Carl Jung.

<sup>7</sup> It is a kind of a game. The devil’s parody of the spiritual domain and sacred rituals, its monkey-like symbols, constitute an attempt to confuse and delude, in a vain hope to eliminate the celestial influences. The devil is tricky, a master of deception, and altering the divine symbols and mystifying their meaning, it tries to take control over the sacred kernel. On the other hand, the traditional symbols take advantage of this parody to remain alive and accessible to a true quest. The inferior influences have no access to the spiritual and celestial domain, only to the psychical one, therefore the traditional symbols, even covered with dirt or devilish illusions, will preserve their divine significances.

<sup>8</sup> *Matthew* 13:24-30.

<sup>9</sup> *The Devil’s Race-Track: Mark Twain’s Great Dark Writings*, Univ. of California Press, 1980, p. 29.

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governs there, but in the center there is “a trap” called the “Everlasting Sunday” where ghost-ships keep rotating and a forever bright sky replaces the darkness. Like in Poe’s *Pym*, black and white alternates, marking the “center,” but in Twain’s case it is more obvious the infernal character of the abyss; even the “Everlasting Sunday,” which normally should symbolize the eternity and peace of the spiritual and paradisiacal center, is a “ghostland.”<sup>10</sup>

Another unfinished story, so-called *The Great Dark*,<sup>11</sup> presents an illusory world seen through a microscope, which reminds of Verne’s telescope that opened the window to illusion and evil. In this story, Mark Twain introduces a “master puppeteer” named the “Superintendent of Dreams,” who in *The Mysterious Stranger* becomes the Little Satan.<sup>12</sup> *The Great Dark* uses, like *The Enchanted Sea-Wilderness*, Pym’s skeleton: a ship aiming at the South Pole, enters a zone of total darkness (the Great Dark) and is sailing toward a Great White Glare, a zone of “disastrous bright light.”<sup>13</sup> As Melville’s fearful white, Twain’s light is not the spiritual illumination but a terrible, demonic light.<sup>14</sup> This story seems to be not about “ghostland” but about the “country of dreams,” suggesting that life is an illusion, and showing the confusion between “waking” and “dream” states.<sup>15</sup> Twain appears in agreement with the Hindu tradition and Zhuang Zi, yet for him there is no other reality. This limitation to the individual order, without any link to the supernal levels of more consistent reality, facilitates the *tamasic* actions, which try to replace the traditional symbolism with counterfeits and deceiving meanings.<sup>16</sup> Therefore, Twain’s “country of dreams” is also a “ghostland,” during the process of confining everything to the psycho-physical domain the spiritual order (the “deep sleep” state as super-individual, celestial world) being replaced with “spiritism” or other hoax, which can be crowded into the individual plane.<sup>17</sup> For that reason the “Superintendent of Dreams” is described as a spirit, a ghost.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>10</sup> In August 1896, Mark Twain’s favourite daughter, Susy, dies. This misfortune and others made Twain turn to spiritism and develop his “dark” writings. He is not an isolate case; tragic deaths in the family made many others to find consolation in spiritism (Guénon, *L’Erreur*, p. 372). For Twain, the “ghostland” is interwoven with the “country of dreams” and he studied William James’ theory about dreams (note that James at the end of his life became involved with spiritism). See John S. Tuckey, *Mark Twain and Little Satan*, Purdue Univ. Studies, 1963, p. 27 and Guénon, *L’Erreur*, p. 89.

<sup>11</sup> See Bernard DeVoto’s commentary in Mark Twain, *Letters from the Earth*, Crest Book, 1964, p. 231 ff.

<sup>12</sup> “Little Satan” is a suitable expression used by Tuckey.

<sup>13</sup> Twain, *Letters*, p. 227.

<sup>14</sup> That is not surprising, thinking of some occultist movements, in Twain’s time, which praised Lucifer as “light-carrier” and “Creative Intelligence” (Guénon, *L’Erreur*, p. 303). Unfortunately, this Lucifer isn’t different from Satan, which makes his “light” a satanic light.

<sup>15</sup> Henry, the main character of the story, considers the miniature sea voyage only a dream, not real life, but his wife, Alice, regards their previous life as a dream and this one, on the ship, as real (Twain, *Letters*, p. 207-8).

<sup>16</sup> As we said before, there is no perfect deception; there is always a hint to reveal the truth. For example, in Twain’s unfinished story, Turner, the mate, thinks, “that the world has come to an end,” because there is no sun or moon or stars (Twain, *Letters*, p. 200). This remark is enough to warn us. At the end of a cycle, the link with the Principle is extremely damaged and everything is limited to the individual order, which implicitly explains Twain’s attitude.

<sup>17</sup> Another “hoax” could be the theory of subconscious. G. K. Watkins, comparing Poe’s *Pym* to Twain’s *The Great Dark*, (*God and Circumstances*, Peter Lang Publishing, 1989), makes the common error to

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Twain's "Superintendent of Dreams" is a kind of Puck, but he plays an ambitious role, which ruins the symbolism. He is not under a higher command, because there is no higher level. He creates a microscopic world, the "little people" constituting here the corporeal order, even if it is a "dream world." The character is more obvious in *The Mysterious Stranger*, where he is Satan but called Traum (German "dream"); he is a boy, who creates a "small" world with small people and animals made of clay, indicating that Twain thought of him as Creator, yet even if he is presented as an angel and Lucifer's nephew, there is no mistake: he is the Devil.<sup>19</sup>

Gustav Meyrink makes good company with Verne, Poe and Twain. He also uses some traditional symbols, but it is obvious that his work is a "parody" of the genuine initiatory stories and creates a terrible confusion. Like Jules Verne in his works *The Carpathian Castle* and *Mathias Sandorf*, Gustav Meyrink uses (in fact, abuses) the symbolism of the center. Verne's and Meyrink's center is a pseudo-center, an "occultist" center, a caricature and a mockery, a suspect center influenced by the counter-initiatory forces, and we have to use our power of discrimination to understand Guénon's sayings that the "'counter-initiation' derived from the unique source to which every initiation is attached," which indicates how dangerous such a pseudo-center could be.

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confound the subconscious with spirituality, that is, to confound the "below" with the "above." Spirituality belongs to the "super-conscious" and to the "super-rational" (see Shri Aurobindo, *Le guide du Yoga*, Albin Michel, 1970, pp. 115-6, Guénon, *Le règne*, pp. 303-313, and Burckhardt, *Mirror*, pp. 45-67).

<sup>18</sup> Twain, *Letters*, p. 195. Normally, the "dream" state, as part of the psychical domain, is open to influences coming from "above" and "below." The former are, as Titus Burckhardt says, "the dreams coming from the Angel"; they carry a genuine spiritual symbolism and sometimes they have a providential meaning (see Joseph's dream about Christ's conception, *Matthew* 1:20). The latter are "dreams of satanic impulsion, containing palpable caricatures of sacred forms" and opposing the "dreams of divine or angelic inspiration." The satanic dreams bring a sensation of "obsession and vertigo; it is the attraction of an abyss" (Burckhardt, *Mirror*, p. 57). In some ancient *Mysteries*, this abyss was described as mire, symbolizing Hell, but it is a huge difference between the initiate "descending to Hell" and then ascending to Paradise, and the profane "falling into the mire." Descending to Hell, the neophyte transforms and integrates his inferior levels; falling into the mire, the profane is caught by the mire without hope of salvation (Guénon, *Le règne*, p. 310). This very abyss, a parody of the center, is described by Poe and Twain in some works as a whirlpool, a Hell without salvation, indicating the "fall into the mire."

<sup>19</sup> Mark Twain names the village where Satan appears "Eseldorf," which means in German "the Ass' village." The village represents for Twain the whole mankind and the name suggests the degradation of the world and the evil and stupidity of the human race as Little Satan states it. But "Eseldorf" is a sign that betrays Satan: where else could the Devil land, if not in Bottom's village? The village is "in the middle of that sleep," which indicates the "country of dreams" (See Mark Twain, *The Mysterious Stranger*, Signet Classics, 1962, p. 161). Twain describes also a castle there, which is a copy of Dracula's castle; the oldest serving-man in the castle tells the children about ghosts, vampires, and other horrors he had seen in that region (*ibid.* p. 165). Little Satan is described creating a miniature world and destroying it after, without remorse, like a playful child (*ibid.* pp. 168-9, 173); but he is a spirit (*ibid.* p. 175). At the end of the story, Little Satan makes the terrible statement that no other world exists but this one (that means no supernal levels and no God), and that life is just a dream, a vision; in fact, nothing exists but a *thought* (*ibid.* p. 252). As we mentioned before, the mind is a favourite field of action for devil, so Little Satan's affirmations that "there is no God, no universe, no human race, no heaven, no hell," and "it is all a dream" and "nothing exists but you, and you are but a *thought*" (*ibid.* p. 253), seem pretty devilish.

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In a letter to Julius Evola (from 1949), René Guénon wrote: "There are cases in which the influence of counter-initiation is clearly visible. Among these cases we must include those in which the traditional elements are presented in an intentionally 'parodist' form; this is, in particular, the case of Meyrink, which, of course, does not mean that he was clearly aware of the influence which was exercised upon him. Therefore, I am surprised to learn that you seem to respect Meyrink."<sup>20</sup>

When Meyrink's last book, *Der Engel vom westlichen Fenster* (*The Angel of the West Window*), was translated in French, it was published with a *Foreword* by Julius Evola, and this *Preface* shows how such books can create confusion, even in the case of people like Evola, who knew well Guénon's teachings. However, Evola himself had his contribution to the general confusion, with his wrong ideas about initiation, Masonry and the spiritual authority. Even though Evola tried to highlight some of Meyrink's errors, the *Preface* remains dubious, especially at the end when Evola compares Agarththa from Guénon's *Le Roi du monde* to Meyrink's Elsbethstein.<sup>21</sup> Meyrink's center is, in the best case, a pseudo-Agarththa; nonetheless, it is instructive to see how Meyrink abuses the traditional symbols. For example, in Evola's opinion (expressed in his *Foreword*<sup>22</sup>) the novel transmits a real teaching when, at the end, denounces the Angel to be just an echo, an illusion,<sup>23</sup> a spiritist error. What Evola could not see is that the title, which represents the quintessence of the work, is *The Angel of the West Window*, emphasizing the importance of this "Angel," and if Meyrink at the end negates it, he negates the whole book. Not to say that the idea to use the term "angel" for this ghost is not only inadequate, but directly diabolical. And even if it seems that Meyrink eventually rejects the "Angel," his book extensively presents spiritist sessions.<sup>24</sup>

*The Angel of the West Window* continued the confusion created by Verne, Poe, and Twain, and influenced the modern antitraditional authors. We see from the beginning the importance of the "documents,"<sup>25</sup> a modern and profane idea, used by malevolent authors with regards to Masonry, Templars, and initiation. Here it is not only about the modern mentality, which cannot accept anything that is not "corporeal" and cannot understand

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<sup>20</sup> Julius Evola, *René Guénon, A Teacher for Modern Times*, Sure Fire Press, 1994, p. 33.

<sup>21</sup> "[Meyrink] talks about a supreme center of the world (Elsbethstein, an analogue idea to that of Agarththa)" (Gustave Meyrink, *L'Ange à la fenêtre d'Occident*, La Colombe, 1962, p. 17). We should add that, inexplicable, Julius Evola considered Gustave Meyrink as expressing in his work some "magico-initiatory teachings" (Julius Evola, *Masques et visages du spiritualisme contemporain*, Les Éditions de l'homme, 1972, p. 271)

<sup>22</sup> See also *Masques et visages*, p. 288.

<sup>23</sup> That is what Meyrink says at the end of his book (Gustav Meyrink, *L'ange de la fenêtre d'Occident*, Le Rocher, 1986, pp. 292, 312-313). We see here the same pattern that Twain used in *The Great Dark*, where the conclusion was that everything is illusion, but, in comparison with the sacred writings, there is nothing beyond this illusion. The Angel could be compared to Twain's "Superintendent of Dreams."

<sup>24</sup> *L'ange de la fenêtre d'Occident*, p. 138. Marcel Clavelle (Jean Reyor) published in 1932, in *Le Voile d'Isis*, an article about Meyrink, and it is depressing to read that this collaborator of Guénon could say that Meyrink's *Green Face* offers practical guidance with respect to the initiatory process (Jean Reyor, *Études et recherches traditionnelles*, Éditions Traditionnelles, 1991, p. 179); however, this is another proof that Reyor's opinion cannot be trusted or at least that his opinions should be regarded with caution.

<sup>25</sup> *L'ange de la fenêtre d'Occident*, p. 7.

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that the genuine spirituality and initiation do not need “documents,”<sup>26</sup> but it is a result of the influence of the counter-initiatory forces. Meyrink introduces a character called Lipotine or Nitchevo,<sup>27</sup> a name similar to Verne’s Nemo; in Russian, *nitchevo* means “nothing”; *nemo* comes from Latin and means “nobody.” As in Twain’s case, the (malefic) dream plays an important role<sup>28</sup>; but also the abyss, the Templars<sup>29</sup> and the Baphomet, which becomes a substitute for the Principle, the head turned backward, the blood, Tula,<sup>30</sup> St. Patrick and St. Dunstan,<sup>31</sup> are elements participating at the general confusion.<sup>32</sup> Meyrink makes of Bartlett Green a mock imitation of Christ.<sup>33</sup> Even though Evola tried to defend Meyrink, this one uses the erroneous theory of reincarnation,<sup>34</sup> and expressions like “the satanic astral body,”<sup>35</sup> “Golden Rose,”<sup>36</sup> “vampirism,”<sup>37</sup> “the Lodge of the West Window,”<sup>38</sup> and “the realization of Baphomet.”<sup>39</sup> We find in this work the same pattern used today in books like *The Da Vinci Code*, *Mysteries and Secrets of the Masons* and many others, where Alchemy, Rose-Cross, Masonry, Templars, etc. are mixed in a horrible way. But *The Angel of the West Window* is more than a sinister mixture; it is a “parody”<sup>40</sup>; and even more, it transmits an upside down symbolism, which represents the actual “Satanism.” In opposition to Solomon’s Temple, where there are three windows / doors open to the three of the cardinal points, Meyrink describes a room of a castle having the East, South and North windows immured.<sup>41</sup> The Alchemy is combined with Chemistry,<sup>42</sup> the Pentagram is abused,<sup>43</sup> the angels are ghost, and the spiritual forces are magnetic forces.<sup>44</sup> At the end, it is said: “Brother, you have crossed

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<sup>26</sup> Soon we will see authors trying to make us believe that Jesus Christ or the Templars made DVDs and hid them somewhere.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* p. 9.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* p. 11.

<sup>29</sup> “The Knights Templar of the New Grail,” see *ibid.* p. 254.

<sup>30</sup> And also Thule of Greenland, *ibid.* pp. 84-5.

<sup>31</sup> It is known that both, St. Patrick and St. Dunstan, were connected by some authors to Glastonbury. “St. Patrick’s well,” often used by Meyrink, is, in this case, similar to the abyss of Poe and Twain, or to Dumas’ “le trou de l’enfer.” *Ibid.* pp. 21, 30-31, 133.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 13-14.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 60-61, 63 (Green is resurrected), 65 (he comes back to visit the main character of the book, but he is a ghost).

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* p. 70.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* p. 102.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* p. 114. Guénon revealed the imposture of an organization like *Rose-Croix d’Or* (**Aperçus sur l’initiation**, p. 246). Also, the symbol of the Rose-Cross is suggested by Meyrink at page 282.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* p. 233.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.* p. 257.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.* p. 158.

<sup>40</sup> It presents a parody of initiation (see *ibid.* p. 175).

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.* p. 139.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 147, 150.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* p. 140.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* p. 173.

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the threshold of initiation with your face turned backwards.”<sup>45</sup> In fact, in a genuine spiritual realization, the neophyte must not look back, and all the initiatory stories are adamant in warning about it.

The author spends a tremendous effort narrating about the Angel to conclude in the end that the Angel is an illusion. The same effort is spent in all the modern occultist books about the “Secret,” which in the end appears to be something very disappointing, a *nitchevo*. *L'Énigme René Guénon et les “Supérieurs Inconnus,” Contribution à l'étude de l'histoire mondiale “souterraine,”* written by “Louis de Maistre,” is not different in this respect; on the contrary, it is the best illustration, since the effort was a long one, covering a length of 1000 pages.<sup>46</sup>

“Louis de Maistre,” in search for Guénon’s “sources” with regard to the Lord of the World, mentions Gustav Meyrink and his novel *The Walpurgis Night*, where he alluded to the “Emperor of the World,” and the reader is left with the impression that Meyrink was one of the “other” sources for Guénon’s *Le Roi du Monde*.<sup>47</sup> But “Maistre” cannot develop this devilish suggestion, since René Guénon clearly denounced Meyrink, so he tries to work out his scheme using another similar individual: Alfred Kubin, a friend of Meyrink. “Maistre” declares: “Kubin’s book [*Die andere Seite*, “the other side”] ... has a superior load and visionary power in comparison to Gustav Meyrink’s work, for example.”<sup>48</sup> In fact, the “superiority” of Kubin is “inferiority,” since, in comparison to Meyrink, he is even deeper sunken into the realm of the counter-initiatory forces. For “Louis de Maistre” the almost 1000 pages were not enough to clarify the “enigma Guénon,” and another book was published under another pseudonym: Alexandre de Dánann, *Un envoyé de la Loge Blanche, Bô Yin Râ*,<sup>49</sup> where again Gustav Meyrink and Alfred Kubin were mentioned,<sup>50</sup> even though this time it is suggested a comparison between Bô Yin Râ’s book, *The Book of the living God*, and Guénon’s *Le Roi du Monde*.<sup>51</sup>

Without any doubt, *Le Roi du Monde* was the most disputed and attacked work of Guénon, and the notion of Agarththa the most criticized; a lot of energy, hate and malevolent suggestions were used to annihilate this notion. Also, as we already said, creating confusion was a very convenient scheme, which could make Agarththa to appear as a fantasy and Guénon as an “occultist” no better than Bô Yin Râ or Meyrink.

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.* p. 315.

<sup>46</sup> This is not new. When Baron Hund promised to reveal his great secret, everybody was thinking of something magic and miraculous, yet his secret was that every Mason is a Knight Templar. René Guénon was very explicit about what an initiatory secret real is. Today, many execrable books about Masonry abuse the word “secret” in their titles, but it is only a revival of the title of a book written at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

<sup>47</sup> *L'Énigme René Guénon*, p. 108.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.* p. 139.

<sup>49</sup> Archè, Milano, 2004. *L'Énigme René Guénon et les “Supérieurs Inconnus,” Contribution à l'étude de l'histoire mondiale “souterraine,”* was also published in 2004 at Archè.

<sup>50</sup> *Un envoyé de la Loge Blanche, Bô Yin Râ*, pp. 22, 69, 93.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* p. 26. Also, the author, ceaselessly in search for Guénon’s “sources,” advanced the hypothesis that maybe René Guénon’s idea about the initiation and the counter-initiation came from the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor and Taychou Marou (*ibid.* p. 49).

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However, the hidden objective was not only to present Guénon as a common individual interested in all kind of occultist subjects, but to suggest his connection to the counter-initiation.

Therefore, if we ask the question 'why should "Maistre" spend time writing about Alfred Kubin?', the answer is obvious: his objective is, of course, to create confusion; but, moreover, his efforts aim at creating a parallel between Guénon and Kubin, not by comparing their works, but by suggesting similarities in respect to their lives, and then, by implying that they had a similar mentality.

"Louis de Maistre" titles his chapter about Kubin "Alfred Kubin the 'prophet' of Agarththa,"<sup>52</sup> which is a wretched and malevolent title, and suggests, of course, a similitude between Guénon and Kubin. There are other elements, not openly specified but insinuated: Kubin had health problems when he was young and was very sensitive; and so was Guénon. Kubin was called "the hermit of Zwickledt"<sup>53</sup>; Guénon was called by "Maistre"'s friends "the hermit of Duqqi."<sup>54</sup>

For the reader interested in Kubin, "Maistre"'s chapter does not help much; for the reader interested in Guénon, the chapter is out of place and futile. Hence, it seems that "Maistre" wrote this chapter for the "traditionalists" (see Guénon's definition), occultists like "himself" and for the newcomers, aiming at corroding René Guénon's reputation; at the same time, the author(s) had as main purpose to deteriorate the Agarththa concept. To name Kubin a "prophet" of Agarththa, even if the word prophet is put inside the quotation marks, is such an enormity that you have to belong to Twain's "country of dreams" to do such a thing.

"Maistre" is not embarrassed to declare that many of the themes developed by Kubin in his novel *The Other Side* were tackled later by Guénon in his *Le règne de la quantité et les signes des temps*.<sup>55</sup> Also, he says that some of *The Other Side*'s themes present, in detail, disturbing analogies with what Guénon and Ossendowski said about Agarththa.<sup>56</sup> As usually, "Maistre," after throwing out this calumnious affirmation, fakes objectivity, and adds that these are analogies and not assimilations, and there are fundamental differences between Guénon and Kubin. If there are fundamental differences, why then introduce Kubin in "Enigma René Guénon"? Maybe because Kubin, like Meyrink and others, is more compatible with "Maistre"'s mentality and soul?

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<sup>52</sup> *L'Enigme René Guénon*, p. 133.

<sup>53</sup> Alfred Kubin, *L'Autre côté*, Jose Corti, 2007; see Laurent Évrard's *Une lecture de L'Autre côté*, p. 368.

<sup>54</sup> Xavier Accart, *L'Ermite de Duqqi*, Archè, 2001.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* p. 135.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* p. 139.

Alfred Kubin, the so-called “prophet” of Agartha,<sup>1</sup> is a sad character. He has nothing to do with René Guénon, but “Louis de Maistre” tried to promote an illusory connection in order to, as we already stressed, degrade Guénon. In his *My Life*,<sup>2</sup> Kubin describes a life that is interesting only because illustrates pseudo-tradition, pseudo-initiation and counter-initiatory influences at work. One of Kubin masters is no other than Schopenhauer, and it is well known how Guénon criticized his bad influence regarding the Buddhism.<sup>3</sup> The Buddhism Kubin discovered through Schopenhauer and Hermann Grimm, in a word, through the German school, is a pseudo-Buddhism, a deformed Buddhism, for the use of the Occident, and, as Kubin said, his “moral shakings”<sup>4</sup> made him turn to this Buddhism; there is no need to say that Kubin appears in a flagrant contrast with Guénon, his attitude is exactly what Guénon criticized without mercy.<sup>5</sup> This is enough to expect a similar thing regarding Agartha, and we ask once more: Why did “Maistre” spend time writing about Alfred Kubin?

Kubin describes his Buddhist “initiatory” practice, which, again, represents a vivid illustration of what Guénon said you should not do. However, Kubin’s Buddhist practices without a guide kept him interested for only ten days<sup>6</sup>: after that he forgot about Buddhism.

If we turn now to his *The Other Side*,<sup>7</sup> we do not find anything traditional, only a dark parody. Kubin’s “center” is called the “Dream Empire” and the “Emperor” is someone called Claus Patera,<sup>8</sup> and we see the same idea like in Mark Twain’s case. The “Dream Empire,” located in Asia, is isolated by an impenetrable wall, a parody of Cusanus’ paradisiacal wall; it is a shelter, Kubin says, for all who are against the modern world and

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<sup>1</sup> *L’Énigme René Guénon*, p. 133.

<sup>2</sup> Alfred Kubin, *Ma vie*, Allia, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> René Guénon, *Orient et Occident*, Guy Trédaniel, 1987, pp. 139-140. See Alfred Kubin, *L’Autre côté*, Jose Corti, 2007, p. 318.

<sup>4</sup> Kubin, *Ma vie*, p. 92.

<sup>5</sup> Not to say that Kubin hated Mathematics (see *L’Autre côté*, p. 303).

<sup>6</sup> *Ma vie*, pp. 94-96.

<sup>7</sup> Alfred Kubin, *L’Autre côté*, Jose Corti, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* p. 11.

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everything is organized with respect to a highest spiritual life.<sup>9</sup> The author is invited to travel to this “Dream Land,” a “secret” place, having as center a city called Pearl.<sup>10</sup> Of course, Patera’s palace is in the center of Pearl.<sup>11</sup> Yet, what seems to be just a parody of Agarttha, of a spiritual center, is, in fact, an anti-center, because here there is no sun or moon or stars, only a grey sky and a sombre river called The Black.<sup>12</sup> And there is no high spiritual life, on the contrary. Even though all the world religions were represented in this “Dream Land,” there was a secret religion, a kind of Free-Masonry,<sup>13</sup> and a secret Grand Temple.<sup>14</sup> Kubin introduces a strange race of people with blue eyes,<sup>15</sup> who, he suggested at the end, could have been the Master Puppeteer of this “Dream Land.” Kubin also invented an apparently opponent of Patera, the “American,” who founded a political society called “Lucifer,”<sup>16</sup> but the “American” denounced Patera as a sort of Satan.<sup>17</sup> And now Kubin uses his “imagination” to describe the agony and the end of the “Dream Land,” crowned by the fight between Patera and the American.<sup>18</sup>

We insisted to present *The Other Side* only to make sure that the reader understands how unbelievable unintelligent and devious *L'Énigme René Guénon et les “Supérieurs Inconnus,” Contribution à l'étude de l'histoire mondiale “souterraine,”* written by “Louis de Maistre,” is. As we said, it seems to us that the authors of *L'Énigme René Guénon* themselves belong to the above “Dream Land.”

How is it possible that works like *L'Énigme René Guénon* to be written and published?<sup>19</sup> Well, since we live the end of the *Kali-yuga*, there is no surprise to see such things happening. And let us be more explicit. If we look around us, we see that the today leaders of various countries, does not matter to which continent they belong, seem to be clones of one family. The present politicians are selected based on the same criteria: they have to have a special brain configuration, which supports a special mentality. These

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* p. 12.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 21, 27.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* p. 58.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 55-6.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* p. 86.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* p. 124.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* p. 158.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* p. 174.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* p. 180.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* p. 278. *The Other Side* is really boring. On the other hand, the North-American schools would love to have it for their students, since the only interesting works for the School Boards are those connected with mental illness and psychical disorders (hence their favourite painter is Van Gogh, who cut his ear). They are not alone, of course. We should mention here a curious fact: the most famous ancient sculptures exposed in the Louvre Museum are Venus de Milo and the Victory of Samothrace. Why, when there are many others similar beautiful ancient Greek sculptures, these two became the most celebrated? The only reason is that these two specific pieces have something special: Venus de Milo has no arms and the Victory of Samothrace has no head, and these kinds of mutilations are compatible with the modern mutilated mind.

<sup>19</sup> We want to mention here as exemplification one more title: *Mysteries and Secrets of the Masons*, by Lionel & Patricia Fanthorpe (The Dundurn Group, Toronto, 2006); this book is a complete waste of time, a ridiculous book, yet it was published with the support of the Canada Council for Arts and with the financial support of the Government of Canada!

## L'Enigme René Guénon et l'Agarttha (V)

politicians are similar because they have similar, almost identical brain configurations. And therefore, the today elections are not for a candidate, but against the previous one, which means that the people “feels” that something is very wrong. But it is nothing wrong here. Since we are at the end of the *Kali-yuga*, there is a need of such leaders. Now, the last and the most inferior possibilities of manifestation have to be exhausted, and in order to accomplish this task the world needs a special type of politicians with a special type of brain. We cannot expect to have a leader who will redeem or restore the world. Because we are at the end of the *Kali-yuga*, we need fake prophets and fake heroes and fake leaders, who, with their special brains, will work to end this cycle. And we hope nobody is so naïve to believe that the groups behind these politicians have any idea of what they are doing.

For a similar reason, works like *L'Énigme René Guénon* are necessary. As we said previously, “Louis de Maistre” is not an isolate case, but belongs to a majority. The God’s command: “Be fruitful, multiply”,<sup>20</sup> if, at the beginning of this cycle, started the fall and development of the world, now, at the end, helps to end the cycle.

To the same majority belongs, for example, Jean-Marc Vivenza. Probably, for the English-speaking reader this name means nothing and this is a good thing. However, for our article, which tries to show how even today the “hate” for René Guénon remained intact, a phenomenon clearly suggesting that today, more than ever, Guénon’s work must be studied and, if possible, assimilated, for our article, we are saying, it is necessary to list some of the contemporary authors that participate to the above mentioned phenomenon, and Vivenza is one of them.

Today, there are various methods used to divert people from Guénon; one of them is a rather dumb one, and consists in publishing dictionaries regarding Guénon. Vivenza published in 2002 *Le Dictionnaire de René Guénon* (Le Mercure Dauphinois), and later, in 2008, Graham Rooth published his *Prophet for a Dark Age, A Companion to the Works of René Guénon* (Sussex Academic Press).<sup>21</sup> We see the devilish scheme: why study Guénon and spend a precious time, when it is at hand a “Guénon Dictionary,” with all you need? First, a dictionary in itself suggests “erudition,” and so, the reader will consider Guénon just a common scholar; second, a dictionary about metaphysics and Tradition is an insult, diverting the reader from the meaning of traditional studies and initiatory knowledge.

In 2004, Vivenza insisted with his antitraditional campaign, publishing a new book, *La Métaphysique de René Guénon*, which had two purposes: first, to suggest that there is a “Guénonian” doctrine, a “Guénonian” metaphysics, invented by René Guénon, similar to the inventions of the philosophers; second, to tempt the busy modern people, who have no time for reading, to read, instead of Guénon’s many books, one book, Vivenza’s book. Now, how silly this is? But it is more than a question of silliness, it is a devious way to condemn Guénon to oblivion.

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<sup>20</sup> Genesis 1:22.

<sup>21</sup> We may notice that the *Foreword* was written by an antitraditional individual, Mark Sedgwick, whose devious book *Against the Modern World* was considered by Rooth as “an excellent account...”

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In 2007, Vivenza decided that enough is enough and the time had come to give up the subtleties, which anyway were not his strength, and therefore he published a new book, *René Guénon et le Rite Ecossais Rectifié* (Les Éditions du Simorgh). On the front cover, the title is explained to make sure that everybody can see and understand what is the book about: “clarification regarding Guénon’s mistakes and misunderstandings with respect to the doctrine of Elus Coëns, the order *Ordre des Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cité Sainte*, and the theosophy of Louis-Claude de Saint-Martin.” Is this not something unbelievable! It is not, of course, since the fact that Vivenza, the author of a dictionary about Guénon, in which he presents Guénon’s views about Masonry, and of a book trying to explain “Guénon’s metaphysics,” becomes his open enemy, represents nothing else but a natural development of an individual, who from the beginning was antitraditional and probably worse.

Vivenza’s case is interesting because is a good illustration of what individuals like “Louis de Maistre” and others hide. In his new book, *René Guénon et le Rite Ecossais Rectifié*, Vivenza is happy to get rid of Guénon’s teachings and use a language dear to the Occultism, like “religious traditions.”<sup>22</sup> Of course, he has to mention the *Ordre du Temple rénové*, which, curiously enough, he calls it “Ordre rénové du Temple,” and considers that its creation took place in “circonstances rocambolesques.”<sup>23</sup> *Rocambolesques?*

Before to say a few more words about this book, let us stress what happened to Vivenza: he considered that the time had come to affirm loudly that his dear master is Robert Amadou. Again, for many this name means nothing, but Amadou was one of those who could not accept René Guénon’s direct way of unveiling the inconsistency, the masquerade and pseudo-spirituality of various Occultist orders. As a result of this connection with Amadou, Vivenza becomes immediately a completely uninteresting character, but his grand words (*remarquable, merveilleux, grand valeur, essence du sacerdoce primitive, elements fondamentaux, grandes et profondes vérités, enjeux initiatiques*<sup>24</sup>), praising the Occultism, makes him a pitiable figure manipulated by the adverse forces. He also uses grand words against Guénon: *une stupéfiante ignorance, complete méconnaissance, absolue ignorance, la “cause” guénonienne*,<sup>25</sup> *l’absurdité de la plupart de ses [Guénon’s] assertions*.<sup>26</sup> At the end of his book, Vivenza affirms that he has demonstrated Guénon’s *incroyable mauvaise fois ou insondable ignorance* regarding *la perspective saint-martinienne*, but, of course, he did not prove anything, he talked to himself in a sort of frenzy, uttering with arrogance that Robert Amadou and Vivenza know better what Martinez de Pasqually wanted to express, much better than Martinez himself! They had probably direct contact with *The Other Side*!

Vivenza dares to say (and why not?) that “the author of *Aperçus sur l’initiation* sensed, even though in a confused way, that in the works of Martinès and his disciples resides a

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<sup>22</sup> *René Guénon et le Rite Ecossais Rectifié*, p. 15.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* p. 23.

<sup>24</sup> Jean-Pierre Laurant’s last book about Guénon has this title: *René Guénon, Les enjeux d’une lecture*.

<sup>25</sup> La “cause” guénonienne? Soon we will hear about a “Guénonian conspiracy.”

<sup>26</sup> After writing a “Guénon Dictionary,” now Vivenza scolds and gives lectures to Guénon! Obviously, he belongs to Kubin’s “Dream Land.”

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mystery of superior nature.”<sup>27</sup> And Vivenza considers that he is doing a charitable work not mentioning the uncertainty regarding Guénon’s orthodoxy, which he mentions anyway; indeed the charitable intention is not so charitable after all, since Vivenza lists pell-mell Guénon’s wrong doings: his theory of the cycles,<sup>28</sup> his belief<sup>29</sup> in the existence of a “Lord of the World,” his idea that Christ was only (?) an *avatâra*.<sup>30</sup> And he calls René Guénon either *l’occupant de la villa Duqqi au Cairo*, or the Master of Cairo (sometimes the master of Cairo). Not to say that Vivenza ascribes to Guénon all the truths found in the sacred texts; maybe he does not know, for example, that René Guénon did not write the *Upanishads*.

Should we continue? We could characterize Vivenza with his own words: *une stupéfiante ignorance, complete méconnaissance, absolue ignorance, incroyable mauvaise fois ou insondable ignorance, incapable de comprendre*, but these words are too gentle for him and also inaccurate.

What is really sad is that authors like Jean Chopitel and Christiane Gobry, who wrote a relatively inoffensive book called *René Guénon, Messenger de la Tradition Primordiale et Témoin du Christ Universel* (Le Mercure Dauphinois, 2010),<sup>31</sup> started their book with a disgusting ad, prompting the readers to read Vivenza’s *Dictionnaire de René Guénon*, where Vivenza “expose magistralement une bonne part des caractéristiques de l’oeuvre guénonienne.”<sup>32</sup> *Magistralement* ??? Do they not know that Vivenza is incapable to expose by himself anything traditional?

At the end of the present article we want to mention another author, Roland Lardinois, who wrote a book called *L’invention de l’Inde, Entre ésotérisme et science* (CNRS Éditions, 2007), where among many things he mentions René Guénon. Lardinois presents “two prophetic positions,” those of René Guénon and Romain Rolland. Why on earth should René Guénon<sup>33</sup> be compared or associated with Romain Rolland?<sup>34</sup> Rolland, the author says, was “initiated in the culture of India,” which makes us understand the terrible confusion that reigns in the author’s mind. He also talks about Guénon’s “syncretism inspired by a Vedantic-Occultist traditionalism” and his function regarding a “syncretic unification.”

As we see, not only the today politicians have a special kind of brain.

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<sup>27</sup> *René Guénon et le Rite Ecossais Rectifié*, p. 55.

<sup>28</sup> Yes, that is exactly what Vivenza said: the theory of the cosmic cycles is Guénon’s theory!

<sup>29</sup> Yes, “belief”!

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* p. 60.

<sup>31</sup> However, they erroneously speak about the “doctrine” of René Guénon, about his work as being for everybody (!!!), about Guénon being born in 1884 (he was born in 1886), about “El Kird” (?)

<sup>32</sup> Maybe they considered that with such an ad they rewarded Vivenza for helping them publish the book at Le Mercure Dauphinois.

<sup>33</sup> René Guénon is called Abdel Wahed Safia (p. 187), when his Islamic name is in fact *Abd al-Wahid Yahya*.

<sup>34</sup> It is well known Guénon’s opinion about Romain Rolland.