

On the Proper Methods

of

Entering into the Labyrinth of Ages

and

Ensuring Return

whilst

Maintaining Continuity of Experience

This Seventh Edition (Revised) codified by the
First in Preparation of the Imperial Liao
in the Year 382

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Reception of the Questors

The Questors must divest themselves of:

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

The Welcoming and Confirmation of the Questors' Intent follows.

The Armouring of the Questors against the Labyrinth's Perils

The First Servant warns the Questors about the dangers of the Labyrinth.

The Cassock-Servant performs their duty. Then, at the request of the First Servant, the Mask-Servant begins:

Mask-Servant: In darkness and silence, there is madness. In unending pain, there is madness. In the pitiless eye of the Heavens, there is madness. In the limitless depths of the ocean, there is madness. When the heart clenches and the blood runs thin, when the tears flow with the screams, when the dire expanse of the infinite dimensions crushes the fragile mortal mind, there too is an ending, to be guarded and warded against. When you enter the Labyrinth of Ages you risk rending and tearing the link between your soul and your body, and the resultant annihilation of your conscious mind. Your soul will shrink away from the endless expanse of experience and never again emerge from behind your eyes. Will you risk insanity now?

Questors: I will.

Mask-Servant: Will you swear it by the Virtue which guides you?

Questors: I swear it.

Mask-Servant: Will you swear it by the Nation which keeps you?

Questors: I swear it.

Mask-Servant: Will you swear it by the Empire which you serve?

Questors: I swear it.

Mask-Servant: Then take you this mask and put it upon you, covering your head and shrouding your face. *The First and Cassock-Servants hand the Masks to the Guide-Priest and the Visionary.* Do not remove it within the Labyrinth, for the Visions of Pure Liao are fragile, and this may end them. This mask has seen Virtuous souls safely into and out of the Labyrinth for as long as there has been an Empire, and longer still before then. Trust to its holy power.

When asked about their duty by the First Servant, both Servants should reply:

Servants: I have done my duty.

The Servants now present the Pure Liao.