

On the Proper Methods

of

Entering into the Labyrinth of Ages

and

Ensuring Return

whilst

Maintaining Continuity of Experience

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

The Questors must divest themselves of:

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

The Welcoming and Confirmation of the Questors' Intent follows.

The Armouring of the Questors against the Labyrinth's Perils

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

At the request of the First Servant, the Cassock-Servant begins:

Cassock-Servant: When the heart ceases to beat, there is death. When the mouth ceases to breathe, there is death. When the spleen ceases to vent, there is death. And when the brain ceases to think, there is death. When the humours cool and the blood runs thick, there is an ending, to be mourned and remembered. The soul remembers its endings. When you enter the Labyrinth of Ages you follow a path that you have walked a thousand thousand times before, yet which you can never remember. Your soul will yearn to flee the harsh constraints of the mortal form and rejoice again in freedom. Will you risk death now?

Questors: I will.

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

Questors: I swear it.

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

Questors: I swear it.

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

Questors: I swear it.

Cassock-Servant: Then take you this armour and put it upon you, over your head and over your shoulders, and down across your body. *The First and Mask-Servants hand the Cassocks 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 robe 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.

The Mask-Servant then performs their duty. 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.