

**Bodhi Tree Alternate Reality
Project
Into the Meridian**

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Overview

Into the meridian is an Alternate Reality Experience that brings spirituality into our present environment. Using Mixby and a beacon system, participants are tasked to go through a hunt. Throughout the hunt they are advised by Hayes, who also goes by his Society name, the Thief. The hunt will then give them instructions to attend an initiation Rite of their choice. During the rite they will encounter characters from the society, the Acolytes of Fire, Water, Earth, Wood and Metal. After the initiation rite, they are leaked a video of the super-high level Awakening ceremony, footage that is secretly taken by Hayes.

The Meridian

A secret society that revolves around the communing with the bodhi. Their motto is the Light is in the mind. It is a society that prizes the knowledge and the search for knowledge, which is exemplified in the hunt. Implicit in that statement is also that shadows lurk in the mind. These shadows are not meant to be excised, simply accepted and forgiven. Initiated members call themselves meridianites.

Meridianites are separated into active and inactive. Of the active members, 5 serve as elders until they decide to become inactive, as does the chairman. There are also five elemental acolytes at any given time. Acolytes take a vow of silence during their tenure which may vary from 5 months to 10 years.

The FIVE Values

The five values correspond with the five Elements.

Commitment - Earth

Resilience - Metal

Adaptability - Water

Forgiveness- Fire

Tradition - Wood

Early History

The Meridian began somewhere in the UK area by growing out of Tree worshipping cults. In the medieval ages it is believed an intrepid traveler from India left a magic Bodhi sapling somewhere in the UK, where it then flourished.

In the 1800's a tree worshipping cult led by the a man we now know as the Hanged Man was saved by clinging onto the branches of the bodhi. He and his clan began to worship the magic energies of this tree. This First Incarnation of Meridian, membership was around 50 or so at a time but passed down through merit rather than blood was not documented very well. By the 1840's They had formed rituals that were a combination of druidry and wicca and other forms of faith.

The society officially acquired the name Meridian in the early 1800's, when there was a rise in interest in the East. They began to catalog the rise and fall of the tree, which settled to about once every ten years. The first Initiation rite of it's type was held in 1816 and in 1826 they inducted a chairman, Scott Boone, to supervise. It was around this time that the chairman, who was usually more attuned with the bodhi cycles began to notice it sickening, which he compared to crops.

The Feng Shui elements of the Meridian came in the 1850's in the form of Chinese students, who stayed on in the country.

In 1866, some joined the Meridian, the most well known being John Lee, a polymath who was tea master and a talented musician. Feng shui elements were adopted because they were strongly linked with the cycle of growth and death of plant life, upon which the Meridian was based.

In 1879, a famine struck again in Ireland and the chairman, feared that it would be as bad as the infamous one in previous years that nearly killed the magic bodhi. In the early 80's a small select group of members were tasked with grafting saplings of the tree in the New World where it was hoped that the rich soil would help it to flourish in the years following.

John Lee and the member of who had bought him in Mercy Degreer, now his wife, took one of the saplings to America. John had a distant relative who had supposedly settled in California. However, their journey to the West coast was

fraught with hardship and in 1884, they gave birth to their son Lee degreeer, having still not reached their destination. What happened to the other groups is unclear.

In 1886, Scott boone checks on the tree. It did not sprout as expected and was taken for dead.

The American Meridian

When John Lee and Mercy Degreer arrive in California in 1886. They plant the tree in California hoping it will rise again. Mercy Degreer makes a vessel from the clay taken from the foot of the original Bodhi and uses it to water it. John Lee records some of the tradition of the Meridian. They pass these roles down to their son, Lee. 20 years later, in 1906, Lee Degreer returns to his childhood home after University and finally sees it sprouting. Unfortunately his parents are long deceased. He decides to restart the society and bases his ceremonies, which he names Apogee, on the notes taken by his father and the stories told by his mother. In 1910, Lee's wife Camilla Smith, Meridian name the Rogue, gives birth to Anne Degreer.

The first initiation rites of the Meridian take place in 1916. Lee inducts himself as chairman of the New Meridian. He inducts his friends, one of them is Richard Ericksson, the thinker 1st of his name. The inductees that year are known as the 12.

In 1926, Lee, the architect 1st of his name conceives of a clubhouse type structure or the Meridian complex. He inducts his daughter, Anne, the seer 1st of her name, who is 16 into the society. That year, Brian Masters, the doppelganger 1st of his name, is inducted by one of his friends. This is the last year before Hayes that outsiders were inducted. 20 people were inducted in total in 1926. In 1936, the Meridian complex continues to be constructed. more legacies are inducted. the Meridian numbers around 30 members with 10 new inductees that year. In 1946, Anne, the seer 1st of her name is the first person born on American soil to receive Chairmanship. More legacies are inducted. numbers rise another 10. The Total membership is 50. Benjamin Crowley is inducted, he is the brother-in-law of Brian Masters, who was inducted in 1926. In 1956, Emma Rochester is inducted as the Fallen, 1st of her name. She marries Benjamin Crowley, who is already a member of the society. The society numbers around 60 people, if inactive members are counted.

In 1966, Hayes, the thief 2nd of his name is inducted with another ten people, Amelia Rochester is one of them, she is 12 but she is the only daughter of recently deceased Emma Rochester who was inducted in 1956. Steve Ericsson was 25 and inducted this year as well, the son of Richard Ericksson. In 1976, Classes dwindle

as both rates go down, in 1986 Hayes, the thief 1nd of his name becomes chairman. Anne becomes inactive and goes to be a hermit. In 2006, Poppy rochester-Ericksson is inducted. She is 19, but a clear leader and choice for the Chairmanship. She is one of 3 new members, the other two are single legacies.

The Beliefs of the Meridian

The purpose of the meridian is to grow the tree.

The beliefs of the meridian spring from their motto the light is in the mind. The meridianites are obsessed with the idea of time. Light and time are in fact inextricably linked. They believe that bad energies can be purged by forgiveness of the self. Each member is seen a sapling, capable of the conducting the energies of the main tree.

The number 12 is also important for the meridian as the first 12 and the number of meridianites present at the apogee. 1 chairman, 1 chairman initiate, 5 elders and 5 acolytes.

Relics of the Meridian

The Journal of Living memory:

The Second Oldest Relic of the bunch , the book contains the earthly names and stories of all past members of the los angeles meridian and stories of the original society written down by LEE Degreer, the first chairman of the current incarnation of the meridian. Each initiate class adds a new chapter to the journal. It's pages are made from fallen leaves of the Bodhi. It is kept in the current chairperson's possession, only taken out each ten year cycle to have a new chapter added, or when it is passed along to the next chairperson in the Awakening ceremony. It is one of the four objects the chairperson is expected to name and describe in the rite before they begin a new section. The Elder of roots safeguards the Journal of living memory.

The Box of True Vision

The newest Relic, the box was introduced in the ceremony of '56 by The chairperson of the time, anne degreer (1946 - 1976), Meridian name the seer 1st of her name. She had the initiation class of '56 make the box for their test and then used it to store the other relics during her leadership. During Hayes leadership (1976 - 2016), meridian name the Thief, 2nd of his name, the box is used for an unknown purpose. The Elder of the Eye safeguards the box.

The Pentacle of Truth

The Pentacle of Truth is a coin shaped object with the crest inscribed on one side and an image that represents the lore of the Meridian on the other. It was made with material found on the spiritual centers of nature in Southern California by the first chairman, The architect 1st of his name. It represents the traditions of the Meridian society. The Elder of Yin-Yang safeguards the pentacle.

The Vessel of Spirits

The vessel of spirits was made from clay made from the soil at the base of the original Bodhi tree in the old world. It is the oldest relic and dates back to the 1870's when the First Chairman's parents, John Lee and Mercy Degreer, brought the clay with them when they crossed the seas with their bodhi sapling. Once they had reached the New World, The First Chairman's mother sculpted the clay into a vessel that she used to water the sapling. The Elder of Chai safeguards the vessel.

The Timekeeper

The most mysterious relic, it is said that Lee Degrerr, the Architect 1st of his name, received as a present on his only trip back to the old world. He introduced it in the Ceremony of '36. The Timekeeper is safeguarded by the Elder of time.

The Sacred Deck

New Relics, introduced by Hayes, the Thief 2nd of his name. When he traveled back to his home country, England to look for historical records of the meridian, he found remnants of the society. Along with some records, he also unearthed this deck of tarot buried in the place he believed was the last place the bodhi sprouted in the old world. Hayes also believes that the tarot was made from the bark of the old bodhi and that the ink contains the blood of the former member who was the designer of the cards. He however is still unable to prove these theories as he did not encounter any live members.

Characters

Hayes

Chairman of the meridian (1976 - 2016). Hayes was born under another unknown name in England sometime in the 1920's. He served in WWII in Intelligence and emerged from the war as a shell of his former self. Traveling around the globe in search of himself, he was adopted by Anne Degreer Chairwoman of the Meridian (1946-1976). Hayes found peace and was initiated with the class of '56 under the Meridian name of the Thief, 2nd of his name. He is mischievous and cares deeply about the Meridian. However, he does not believe in the lineage system of initiation that the Meridian has adopted since '36. His favorite poet happens to be T.S. Eliot.

Poppy Rochester-Ericksson

Chairwoman of the Meridian (2016-2046) A double-legacy, Poppy has been groomed her entire life for this position. Her Father was Steve Ericksson, The Teacher, 2nd of his name, and son of Richard Ericksson one of the First 12 inducted in '16, the Thinker, 1st of his name. Her Mother was Amelia Rochester, the shadow 2nd of her name, daughter of Emma Rochester, the fallen, 1st of her name.

The Elders

Elders are chosen from the chairman and current elders from past acolytes of their corresponding element. In order to become an elder, one must pass the test of the respective element administered by the current elders and then the ordeal of blood and Aether, which is administered by a committee of 5 Meridian members chosen at random from all active members and helmed by the chairman.

The Elder of Roots

The Elder of Roots is tasked with safeguarding the Journal. They are former wood acolytes, who are most drawn to the Traditions of the Meridian. They serve as the unofficial historian of the Meridian. The current Elder is The Scholar, second of her name.

The Elder of the Eye

The Elder of the Eye is tasked with safeguarding the Box. They are former metal acolytes, who are most drawn to the resilience of the meridian. They are often athletic and will choose to lead other meridianites in the martial arts. The current elder is, the investigator, 1st of her name.

The Elder of Chai

The elder of Chai is tasked with safeguarding the vessel. They are former water acolytes, who are most drawn to the adaptability of the meridian. Their tea table often serves as the unofficial gathering point for meridianites who seek advice. The current elder is the shapeshifter, 2nd of her name.

The Elder of Yin-Yang

The Elder of yin-Yang is tasked with safeguarding the pentacle. They are former fire acolytes, who are most drawn to forgiveness of the meridian. They tend to be able to see things from another side and other serve as arbitrators in meridian and non-meridian settings for other members. The current elder is The puppeteer, 1st of her name.

The Elder of Time

The Elder of Time is tasked with safeguarding the timekeeper. They are former earth acolytes, who are most drawn to the commitment of the meridian. They are often the seers of the meridian, lost in time. They also design the initiation rites every ten years. The current Elder of Time is a USC alumni, rumored to have majored in philosophy, and is still heavily involved in the university. The current elder is the warrior, 2nd of his name.

The Acolytes

Acolytes are meridianites who choose to give their physical lives in service to the meridian for a time. The meridianite will choose the value and corresponding element that they are most drawn to at the time. They are then required to take a vow of silence for the period that they choose to serve. Acolytes have served between 5 months and 10 years. During the period that they serve as acolytes, they will be housed at the Elder of their corresponding elements. House, where they will perform chores and other apprenticeship kind of works for the elder. There can only be five Acolytes at a time. It is not required to be an acolyte but only those who have been acolytes are eligible to become elders. Acolytes are also an integral part of any initiation rites and apogeas, because they serve as representatives or counterparts to their elders. When acolytes finish their term, they may be given other responsibilities by their elder. Meridianites may serve as different acolytes, but not at the same time. This is not very common, but many chairman's have done so.

The Wood acolyte represents tradition.

Poppy Rochester-Ericksson once served two years as a wood acolyte. Her Father Steve Ericksson served 6 months.

The Fire acolyte represents forgiveness.

Hayes served 3 years as a fire acolyte, very soon after he was first inducted.

The Water acolyte represents Adaptability

Hayes also once served 9 months as a water acolyte. Usually water acolytes choose to serve the shortest terms.

The Metal acolyte represents Resilience

Poppy Rochester-Ericksson served two years. Poppy's mother, Amelia Rochester serves 10 years as the metal acolyte.

The Earth acolyte represents commitment.

Anne Degreer once served 10 months as the earth acolyte.

Lookbook

Phases/Schedule

Initiate phases

May 1 - 7 : The Season of the Hunt

Choice Between

May 3 : High Noon Rite

May 5 : Sunset Rite

May 6 : Midnight Rite

May 7: Sunrise Rite

May 12 - 19: Leaked Video of Apogee available

Behind-the-Scenes Schedule

Thursday April 28: Play-test hunt

Shoot The Apogee

Rites

May 5 - 11 Video Editing

May 12 - 19 Make Video Available

The Hunt

Outline (Detailing Mixby Integration/Artifacts)

The Invitation

Collect with Secret password at university Club

Content of invitation

The Phone Number

Last four digits carved on the tree in front of heritage hall

Content of Phone Message

The Beacons

The philosophy library and the T.S. Eliot Poem.

The cafes

The Fountains

The Parking Structures

The Safe Zone - Ground Zero

Path of Wisdom

Path of Courage

The Little Chapel of Silence

The keys hidden

The Library - Special Collections

The journal of living memory hidden.

The Initiation Rites

Invitation to Rites

The Rite

The Calling of Names

The Exchange of Keys

The Meditation

Talent Component

(One acolyte stands in each corner of the chapel and one guards the door. Clockwise from the center facing the door, they should be in CRAFT order. The tree is in the center. Hayes is slouched in the right chair in the front of the room, thinking. The tarot cards should be laid out on the left side of the table. Poppy is not present. The people should be guided in, and directed by the acolytes to sit in the pews. In order to Poppy to get her cue, we're going to have her listen in on a phone call from a hidden phone. The lights are out, and the acolytes' candles are lit.)

(When enough people have entered, Hayes should get up from his chair and walk to stand in front of the tree.)

Hayes: Hello, and welcome. Your strength, tenacity, and willingness to offer yourself to us had led you here.

(Based on time of day):

Your desire to be initiated at sunrise highlights that you are going through a rebirth, and thus the Meridian shall be your guide into your new life.

Your desire to be initiated at noon highlights that this is a transitional period in your life, and thus the Meridian shall be the bridge to help you cross over.

Your desire to be initiated at sunset highlights that you are letting go of a part of yourself, and thus the Meridian shall be a way to help ease the transition.

Your desire to be initiated at midnight highlights that you have forgotten something important, thus the Meridian shall be a way to help you remember.

Whether by fate or destiny, you had been invited to partake in a journey, and after completing our challenges that have helped you discover your person, you are now ready.

Poppy burst in through the door, turns on the lights, and walks in to stand next to Hayes

Poppy: Uh, Hayes, what's going on? Why are all these strangers here? I *thought* we were having a meeting.

Hayes: We are. *Gestures to people* Meet the newest members of the Meridian.

Poppy: You're kidding right? Hayes, this is *not* the time for—

Hayes: I'm serious, Poppy. We already staged the Hunt.

Poppy: ...I cannot believe this is happening. I *told* you that we needed more time to prepare!

Hayes: Well, in case you've forgotten, I'm still the Chairman. You have yet to ascend.

Poppy: That's true, but—

Hayes: I organized this rite specifically for you to gain some experience. You can't be the Meridian's next leader without any practice.

Poppy: WHAT!?! But I don't even remember all the proceedings... you did this on purpose to catch me off guard.

Hayes takes out a book and hands it to Poppy

Hayes: Here. I assumed as much.

Poppy fumbles with the book to get it to the right page, then looks up

Poppy: The journal of living memory! For you to have this means... the elders were in on this, too? Are you all intentionally trying to sabotage me?

Hayes: No. Quite the contrary. We all organized this because we have the Meridian's best interests at heart, and knew that the tree couldn't wait much longer. Don't worry; you'll do fine. I've seen how diligent you study.

Poppy sighs

Poppy: Okay... Okay, I think I can do this. I'm still mad that I'm doing this *now*, but whatever. *Poppy turns to look at people* We can't leave you all waiting, after all.

Hayes: I leave it to you. *Hayes walks off to the side and sits back in his chair*

Poppy: Well... thanks, I guess. Anyway, hello everyone. You all are here (today/tonight) to be initiated into the Meridian. We are a society dedicated to preserving the Bodhi Tree and the power it contains within; but, as you can see, it's not currently in the best shape. Every ten years, we go through a new recruitment

period to bring new life into the tree. We trust that you all are ready and able to take on this responsibility.

Poppy: You'll each be initiated individually, starting with those on this pew *gestures at left pew* and continuing clockwise. We will go down the pews from the outside in; when it's your turn, please make your way to the table to draw a tarot card. Then, please hand Hayes your key so that he can unlock your potential and come stand in the middle with me. Hand me your tarot card and turn to look at our five acolytes you see throughout the room. They each represent a different aspect of our CRAFT; as a quick reminder, I'll briefly reintroduce them to you. *Each acolyte should step forward as Poppy introduces them*

The acolyte of Earth, representative of Commitment.

The acolyte of Metal, representative of Resilience.

The acolyte of Water, representative of Adaptability.

The acolyte of Fire, representative of Forgiveness.

The acolyte of Wood, representative of Tradition.

Hopefully, you have an idea of which acolyte you are inclined to. After giving me your tarot card, you should then approach the acolyte you most resonate with. The acolyte will then briefly pass their candle to you, and I will recite your alignment in the Meridian and present you with your honorary title. You are welcome to a moment of silence to reflect on the decision. Then, when you are ready, please return the candle go back to where you were sitting. This will repeat until everyone has been initiated.

If there are no questions, we will begin.

(The water acolyte near the door should turn the lights back off.)

What to Recite During Initiation:

Take acolyte statement + tarot card statement + name statement. Five sentences.

Acolyte Statements:

Earth: You have chosen the element of Earth, representative of Commitment. You will be blessed with the ability to withstand any obstacle while retaining your own integrity and strength.

Metal: You have chosen the element of Metal, representative of Resilience. You will be blessed with the ability to maneuver your way in and out of any situation while keeping your values in sight.

Water: You have chosen the element of Water, representative of Adaptability. You will be blessed with the ability to freely change your idea of Self while always remaining whole.

Fire: You have chosen the element of Fire, representative of Forgiveness. You will be blessed with the ability to command respect while still empathizing with others.

Wood: You have chosen the element of Wood, representative of Tradition. You will be blessed with the ability to perform even the most complicated of tasks while making sure they are done with grace.

Tarot Card Statements (Major Arcana Cards Only):

Reference Site: <http://www.ata-tarot.com/resource/cards/>

In addition...

Fool: Your unconscious inclination towards the Fool arcana shows that you are the one to set plans in motion. You have nothing to hide, and will be the one to guide us toward a brighter tomorrow.

Magician: Your unconscious inclination towards the Magician arcana shows that you are the one that will build the future. You need the help of others to realize your visions, but your visions are powerful and will leave a profound impact on the world.

High Priestess Your unconscious inclination towards the High Priestess arcana shows that you are the key to unlocking potential in others. You can guide people into the deepest parts of their mind and draw out strength that they wouldn't have thought they had.

Empress: Your unconscious inclination towards the Empress arcana shows that you are present and acutely aware of the life around you. You possess the ability to create and lift others up through your unconditional love.

Emperor: Your unconscious inclination towards the Emperor arcana shows that you are the commander of the spoken and written word. You are a leader and the key in grounding any team in the present.

Hierophant: Your unconscious inclination towards the Hierophant arcana shows that you harbor a personal wisdom and a strong set of values. You are a mentor and are encouraged to propagate your knowledge, although keep in mind that not everyone may want to listen.

Lovers: Your unconscious inclination towards the Lovers arcana shows that you have a strong mind and spirit. You have ties to love, and while love is a beautiful and complicated thing, remember to always approach your emotions with caution.

Chariot: Your unconscious inclination towards the Chariot arcana shows that you possess the ability to channel your emotions towards the greater good. You are very disciplined, and can use your sense of control to help balance others.

Strength: Your unconscious inclination towards the Strength arcana shows that you possess strength of character and the fortitude to triumph over all obstacles. You can endure nearly any situation, so long as you have the patience for whatever is to come.

Hermit: Your unconscious inclination towards the Hermit arcana shows that you are currently seeking answers inside of yourself. You may fall into darkness for a time, but you will eventually emerge in the light with a new sense of who you are.

Wheel of Fortune: Your unconscious inclination towards the Wheel of Fortune arcana shows that you are currently at the hands of fate. You are unsure where life is taking you, but rest assured that change is happening soon.

Justice: Your unconscious inclination towards the Justice arcana shows that you are facing the consequences of your actions. You are at the mercy of right and wrong, like everyone else, and your present and future are strictly dependent on your past.

Hanged Man: Your unconscious inclination towards the Hanged Man arcana shows that you are going to have to make a sacrifice. You may find it hard to accept, but it will allow you to look at the world in a new and profound way.

Death: Your unconscious inclination towards the Death arcana shows that you are currently going through a difficult change involving the unknown. You may find it scary, and it is not always good, but it is something that you must face on your journey.

Temperance: Your unconscious inclination towards the Temperance arcana shows that you are currently rebuilding something that you have lost. You will learn to appreciate both the good and the bad in life, and can help others to gain the same perspective.

Devil: Your unconscious inclination towards the Devil arcana shows that you are currently struggling with a negative aspect of your character. You need to be conscious of your mindset when navigating through your life, and be aware of denying different parts of your character.

Tower: Your unconscious inclination towards the Tower arcana shows that you are currently in a situation where you have to let go. You will only hurt yourself if you struggle, so it's best to prepare yourself and face what must be done.

Star: Your unconscious inclination towards the Star arcana shows that you are lost and trying to find your way back on your path. You are being guided, though, and will be led in the right direction.

Moon: Your unconscious inclination towards the Moon arcana shows that you are facing uncertainty at this point in your journey. You cannot see where you are headed, but where you go depends on who you are, not what you see.

Sun: Your unconscious inclination towards the Sun arcana shows that you are confident in your abilities to get you through your journey. You know that, no matter what, life will go on, and that universal truth guides your overall way of thinking.

Judgement: Your unconscious inclination towards the Judgement arcana shows that you are going through a period of reflection. You look back at your past, and strive to move towards a better future.

World: Your unconscious inclination towards the World arcana shows that you are have just completed an important part of your life. You, having reached this stage in your journey, can now rest and prepare for life's next chapter.

Name Statement

Based on these attributes, you have been officially inducted into the Meridian as:
(See Excel Spreadsheet)

Poppy: Congratulations on your initiation and new titles. Let them and your attributes guide you on your journey. Now, we will begin a short meditation in order to unite us in thought and spirit. As members of the Meridian, it is crucial that we are able to freely release our distress in order to participate in brief moments of peace. (The meditation is guided, but it will be largely based on feel. There shouldn't be too much guiding by Poppy. Basically, after the first two lines,

Poppy should throw out a question every 30-45 seconds or so. During this time, Hayes will go around and blow out all the candles and exit the chapel.)

Please, close your eyes.

Take deep breaths. Clear your mind. Focus on my words when you hear them. I will ask you a series of questions; do not answer them aloud, but please contemplate them.

Why are you here?

Who are you to yourself?

Who are you to others?

Are you the same person to others as you are to yourself?

Are you happy with where you are?

How well do you relate to your role in the Meridian?

What do you wish to change?

What is holding you back?

How prepared are you?

What do you think of your past?

What have you forgotten?

Who do you love?

Where have you been?

Where are you going?

What do you desire?

Has the Meridian helped you?

Etc. etc.

Poppy: Open your eyes, and when you are ready, stand up. *pause for ppl to get up* I hope you have taken advantage of this time of reflection and become more familiar with the spirits around you.

For the final part of this rite, I will call you up by your title to concentrate our power and bless our sacred tree. Just place your hands in mine and recite the line, "I lend you my strength to light the way." Then, you will be handed back your key and may return to where you were standing.

(everyone is called up n shit)

Now, fellow Meridianites, with our power combined we will reinvigorate the Bodhi tree for the beginning of this new era (Poppy turns around and does a hand motion; tree lights up. Poppy returns to facing everyone). And thus marks the start of something new.

You all have be blessed with the power of your chosen acolyte; we implore you to go out and help better the world with your newfound strength. This is the end; you are free to go.

Tarot cards: They will be laid out on the table for people to pick any of the 22 they are drawn to. They will be reshuffled between people so that no one can predict which they will draw. They must show Poppy the tarot card.

On the key, the other side of the tag will have their title written on it as it is announced (by another hand or the acolyte themselves). This is how we will be able to easily give their keys back to people at the end. Group keys by titles in case we have more than one person with the same title.

The Apogee Ceremony

The apogee ceremony does not occur every ten years. It happens when there is a transfer of power, either a new Chairman, a new Elder, or a new period in the Meridian's growth. Ceremonial Garb is required. The Elders will wear their white ceremonial robe. Acolytes are required to wear their masks and black acolyte robes.

The Apogee ceremony has 5 phases. In the **First** Phase The five elders form a loose circle around the Chairman, who commences the ceremony by facing the tree. The elders then sit in their correct positions around him, facing outward with their Relics in their laps. The five acolytes and the future chairman then form a three person triangles on opposite ends of the the circle, thus forming a shape that looks like an eye. They will walk one full circle the inner circle. The future chairman will exit the circle and go to meditate close to the tree. Then the Acolytes will then remove their keys and kneel so they are lower than the elder to give their keys to their corresponding Elders who will then rise to give all the keys in their possession to the chairman.

In the third phase, The Elders and the chairman will call out "where is the light". From the distance, The future of the chairman will answer "In the mind" and the current chairman. The Chairman will Turn in the direction of the north. All the elders will turn to the north as well and All the acolytes will turn to the south as the Elder of Yin-Yang calls out "What is Forgiveness?". The Future Chairman will answer "the Fire in our Hearts". The elders will turn to the north-West and the acolytes will turn to the South-west While The Elder of the Eye will call out "What is Resilience?". The Future Chairman will answer "Resilience is the steel in our wills" The elders will turn to the South-West and the acolytes to the the North-East While the Elder of time will call out "What is the Commitment?" He Response "Commitment is the earth on our bodies". The elders will then turn to the South-East and the acolytes of to the West the Elder of the Chai calls out "What is Adaptability?". The Future chairman will respond "Adaptability is the Water in our souls". The Elders will all turn to North-East and the acolytes to the South-west and The Elder of Roots will call out "What is Tradition". The response "Tradition is the Tree that grows in our minds" With Each call and reversal of direction, The

future Chairman will take a step in the direction that the elders are turning. She will circle around the group with a long branch in her hand, brushing the acolytes and elders lightly as they shift and call. Once this is finished, she should end up in the south-west corner.

The Fourth phase is unique to the purpose of this specific ceremony and is crafted by the one who called it. She will then walk towards the middle as The chairman takes a small steps back and the elders gather in a trapezoid behind him. The acolytes will gather in a trapezoid in the opposite direction, so that the final formation looks like an hourglass. They will sit. The future chairman will remove her black veil. They will swing around so that she is in his place. Exchange done.

In the final phase, The elders will gather in a circle with a tail facing south around the new chairman and the acolytes will gather around the retired chairman in the same formation but tail facing north. They will dance, Exchanging their sacred relics amongst themselves and claspng shoulders at random. Everyone is allowed to fall out of formation at this moment. Then everyone will crowd around the retired chairman and give their energy to him. The new chairman will say “Here as you are, Stay if you wish”. But The Retired chairman will hug her and then turn to leave, and they will part the South-West side of the circle and allow him to leave. The Acolytes will reform a circle around the new chairman and the elders will form the five points of the star outside. The New chairman will lead the final meditation, she will face the tree again and everyone will be facing towards her. They will breathe together for five breaths.

Inhale.

Exhale.

Conclusion

Lessons Learned

Structure is important.

Procrastination is bad.

Teamwork is hard.

VISUAL**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOPcNCMRa_8

Steadycam shot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtaTWt5esrY>

- Slow mo

Drone shot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtPu-EAJf6s>

2:23

DRONE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISPIGSEZ36M>

-The space is empty of living things except the breathing tree. It's young. It glows underneath a black veil.

-There's a soft spotlight on the tree. Sheer fabrics fall from the sky. Bright raindrops twinkle in midair as if the time stopped moving.

-Camera Boom up to the sky and we see Hayes entering into the light and walk toward the tree (Drone and Steady).

-When Hayes reaches the tree, five Elders appear a single file line, each holding an object, and surround tree, then whirls out to make a circle- Drone and Steady

-When the Elders surround the tree, the Acolytes and walk toward the light from five points - and walk around opposite direction as Elders until they form staggering circle. Elders face outwards, Acolytes face inwards. Meanwhile Poppy makes her way toward the tree, standing opposite of Hayes. Elders and Acolytes trade face sides.

-Poppy sits on the floor.

-Acolytes walk to stand behind Hayes then sit

-Elders walk to stand behind Poppy

-Hayes blesses Poppy

-Poppy stands and Elders sit

-Poppy and Hayes unveils the tree, looks up.

BLACK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GXoifAedKQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECTjU7NeZpk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxtcEsIFqVA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDs39db5Aho>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-8HCPaAW24>