

Report of the Inner Guard 2026

Good evening, everyone—both here and at home! Happy 127th Convention!

The position of the Inner Guard symbolizes responsibility to the feminine aspect of manifestation: the nurturing, connected, indwelling spiritual force.

The theme of this year's Convention is *"Gratitude and Obedience, Both Inviolable to the Creative Law."*

As we learn from the Temple Teachings, everything in the Universe is nothing but vibration.

Every emotion carries a particular rate of vibration. Denser emotions, such as fear, shame, resentment, and anger, are low-frequency and linked to suffering. Gratitude carries a high-frequency vibration, often associated with love, happiness, and joy, which are among the highest vibrational states humans can experience. Experiencing gratitude can shift your mindset, improve emotional resilience, and enhance your overall sense of well-being. Gratitude attracts more of what you love.

There is a saying: *"It is impossible to be grateful and unhappy at the same time."*

In spiritual teachings—especially within the Advaita Vedanta and Yogananda traditions—the "vibration of Obedience" refers to the inner, subtle frequency or resonance that arises when you align your will with higher guidance, divine law, or universal principles. It's not about blind submission, but about harmonizing your inner OM vibration with the same frequency that permeates Creation.

Biblical obedience is more than mere rule-following; it is a heart-level surrender to God's will, motivated by love and trust rather than fear or compulsion. It demonstrates faith and aligns believers with God's purposes. Obedience is an expression of a relationship with God, showing that one's actions flow from trust in His wisdom and character rather than from a desire to earn favor.

In my observation, over the more than 28 years of attending Study Classes, whenever the notion of *obedience* is brought up in the Temple Teachings, it immediately generates the "yes, but..." discussion in our classes. We all know that "yes, but" often means "no." I have always been surprised by the palpable resistance that the notion of obedience generates among members of the group. I always find myself asking: if we do not have such faith and alignment with the purposes of the Great Lodge of Light—the Masters—then the real question each one of us needs to answer honestly is: *Why am I here?*

Inviolable acts of obedience are actions that are sacred, binding, and cannot be broken without violating the Creative Law. These are not merely rules to follow, but expressions of love, faith, and trust in the Masters' and the Lodge Agent's authority.

Perhaps gratitude and obedience are not two separate virtues at all, but two expressions of the same inner realization. When we are truly grateful for the guidance we have been given, obedience becomes a natural response rather than a burden. And when our obedience is rooted in gratitude, it ceases to be an obligation and becomes a joyful participation in the Creative Law. May we each strive to cultivate both, so that our thoughts, our actions, and our lives may come into ever greater harmony with the work of the Great Lodge of Light.

Thank you.

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Inner Guard