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Introduction

Welcome to the fourth volume of the Order of the Serpent newsletter! It has been almost one year since we released an edition of The Imperishable Star. Lots has been happening within the Order as well as its members, and we wanted to make sure to take the time and make a newsletter worth sharing!

Things are going incredibly well for the Order. Our Left Hand Path dedicated forum hit 1,000,000 views recently, and we had our most activity ever last month. O.S. official pendants are on their way once we can find a worthy producer to work with. The Obsidian Tablet – the first hardcopy book of the Order – is back on the table and will be in progress once this edition of TIS is released. As always the recommendations library has continued to expand, including links to where you can buy most of the texts on the list.

Esoterically the Order is investigating in more directions than ever before, including Acosmic Satanism, the Draconian Tradition, Vampyrism, Arteism, a rebirth of the Our Lady of Endor Coven, and more. As many know, Co-Founder Xepera maSet has even released the first edition of his book, Behold: The Prince of Darkness!, which is now available on Amazon. It has been an exciting year for us to say the least!

The Order is very excited to be sharing this edition with you. We added a new feature which is guest papers, such as those here by MindMaster, Kapalika, and Frater V.I.M. We did so because we have never believed the O.S. to be a requirement for knowledge or growth. The entire point of creating the Order was to gather, present, and share esoteric occult information with depth and practicality. This volume is one step closer in that direction. We also went with a more “classically Satanic” aesthetic this time around, in honor of the massive focus on Satanism in this volume and the Halloween release date.

Who says esotericists can’t have fun!

As always we are extremely grateful to members of the Order of the Serpent, all those who engage in our wonderful and informative forum, and all those who support us in our endeavors – even if not directly. We proudly present this edition of The Imperishable Star
to continue increasing and spreading the knowledge and wisdom of the Stellar Tradition / Left Hand Path, for free and for all, which other individuals and humanity as a whole may use to continue along the path of Self-Directed Self-Evolution with an even greater toolbox than before. Please feel free to join us on the forum to discuss any of the topics within with the authors themselves and community at large! As always we hope you benefit from the information and efforts provided within!

The Path of Darkness Leads to Enlightenment!

Like the Ancient Serpent So Too May You Endure!
Invocation of Set

By that most Ancient Name of Set
I enter into the Realms of the Prince of Darkness
And shall Drink from the Grail with Impunity
As I become One with the Eternal Master

I, Chosen of Set
Renounce all Fear and Doubt
And Reclaim that which is Rightly Mine
The Gift of the Black Flame

I, Mindful of Set
Shall Inherit Wisdom from the Master
My Higher Self shall be made Manifest
And become Unlimited in Potential

I, Brother of Set
Do not Kneel or Bow
For We are Kindred in Spirit
And Unnatural in Essence

I, Honored of Set
Have Risen above the Mundane
My Altar of Glory has taken Form
In the Shadow of the Great Pentagram

I, Black Magician of Set
Beckon the Gates of Hell to Open Wide
Woe to the Cosmos
As My Will Comes Forth into Being
"Let the future tell the truth, and evaluate each one according to his work and accomplishments. The present is theirs; the future, for which I have really worked, is mine."

-Nikola Tesla

Introduction

This is a cursory guide on how to create "trapezoidal" (or "angular") environments for ritual workings, inspired by Anton LaVey's "Law of the Trapezoid." It has become one of the foremost Satanic concepts for me, as it can be applied in so many ways.

My main motivation here is to suggest trappings that lend themselves to working in a very dark environment, which is my preference. To follow is a collection of ideas related to Trapezoidal Magic, use them to your advantage as you may.

Law of the Trapezoid

In The Theory and Practice of Satanic Magic (LaVey, 1969, p.110), Anton LaVey used the term "Command to Look", presumably inspired by the famous book about photography of the same name, which stresses the effect of four geometric shapes to the subconscious mind because of their relationship to ancestral fears (Mortensen, 1937, p.26).

He proposed a fifth shape, the Trapezoid, which through its acute and obtuse angles symbolizes anything perplexing or irregular. The Die Elektrischen Vorspiele ritual (LaVey, 1972, p.113) is the de facto primer text, followed by additional explanations of the concept in The Devil's Notebook (LaVey, 1992, p.111).

"These people say the Shining Trapezohedron shews them heaven and other worlds, and that the Haunter of the Dark tells them secrets in some way."

The *Ceremony of the Nine Angles* (LaVey, 1972, p.179) mentions low-key/ultraviolet illumination and trapezoidal symbolism. And its Lovecraftian themes are a perfect match for those inspired by the mythos.

From *The Haunter of the Dark*: "These people say the Shining Trapezohedron shews them heaven and other worlds, and that the Haunter of the Dark tells them secrets in some way." It was also called a "crazily angled stone" and a "window on all time and space" (Lovecraft, 1935).

The future-mindedness of the late 19th and early 20th centuries also offers an ideal magical paradigm to work within. In all its possible manifestations, the Trapezoid is an ideal gateway into non-Euclidean magical realms.

**Thoughts on Magic**

The brain stores memories in locations aroused by the five senses. Therefore actually *doing* something may have a more profound effect on the subconscious mind than merely fantasizing about it. Nevertheless, the unique subjective experience of Trapezoidal Magic is effective in removing one from the everyday mundane routine, a bit of self-trickery which helps one to remain focused.

Grimoires may make for interesting reading and inspiration, but tend to be full of long-winded recitations and unnecessary intricacies. It can become more about
performances than reaching a magical state of mind. The Black Magician may also safely dispense with cliché Satanic imagery altogether or combine paradigms to their satisfaction.

The keys to the endgame are planning and the ability to adjust. There is nothing worse than having "Satan's roller-coaster" derailed by some unforeseen technical issue. Make things as simple or as complex as you wish, but also make every attempt to control the business instead of allowing it to control you.

**Ultraviolet Lighting**

The trichromatic nature of human vision is incapable of perceiving ultraviolet frequencies. Its effects are only seen indirectly through the phenomenon of fluorescence. A black light is able to reveal the unseen.

While not mandatory, I cannot stress enough the usefulness of a black light. It ensures that words can be read in the dark without resorting to huge fonts and excessive ambient light from candles. An inexpensive 25-watt fixture above the altar is probably enough unless more coverage is required. Compact-fluorescent screw-bulbs are also available that work in any ordinary lamp. It doesn't take much UV to allow reading text on small sheets of bright white paper, so there is no need to go overboard.

**Other Lighting**

If an actual flame is desired, it's hard to beat Sterno. The resulting flame is rather dim but broad and active, and safe to use indoors. It is also a gel which can be applied to surfaces, for example I often use a small amount on the ritual dagger to ignite the Black Flame, and extinguish all other candles once it is active.
Examples of low-key electric lighting include plasma globes, Jacob's ladders, Tesla coils, laser shows, LED strips, planetariums, strobe lights, lava lamps, etc. High-voltage apparatus tends to produce a lot of ozone - the signature aroma of the Mad Lab. If safer forms of lighting are preferred, one might consider using an ozone generator to mimic the effect. However, exposure to ozone should be kept to a minimum, as it is known to cause various health issues.

**Optics**

Visual distortion may be obtained in a number of ways. A flexible Fresnel lens assists in the "bending" of reality, while the chromatic aberration of a prism offers unique perceptions of otherwise ordinary things. Projectors and 3D glasses also come to mind.

Optical illusions of any sort are also welcome, from the geometric representations of Vasarely to the realism of Escher. And don't forget that a picture is worth a thousand words, and a well-chosen one can serve as a "Rorschach Test" for the mind.

**UV Reactive Materials**

Inexpensive UV flashlights are available in finding reactive objects and materials. Here are some known examples:

- Fluorite: Not every stone is reactive, so check with the vendor first. And some glow more than others, for example I have an obelisk that glows but is rather dim in its response.

- Lacquer: Glows a greenish color which is similar in hue to uranium glass, and is easy to apply. Linseed oil is similar in nature.

The keys to the endgame are planning and the ability to adjust. There is nothing worse than having "Satan's roller-coaster" derailed due to technical issues.
- Neon Colors: Think highlighter markers, "hot-pink" fabrics, etc. Some specialty shops sell paint in a complete array of reactive hues.

- Plastics: Blue plastic in particular, or neon-colored.

- Tonic Water: Some brands of tonic water glow under a black light.

- Fabric Softener Sheet: Glows blue, not sure what you'd do with it.

Noise

One definition of noise: "A musical sound or note is a continuous, uniform, and pleasing sound, such as is given out by one string of a piano; while a noise is an irregular, fitful succession of shocks to the ear..." (Gage, 1887, p.189-190).

Discordant noise may be achieved in a variety of ways. One might set up a couple of audio oscillators to produce an eerie ambient tone, like the resonant gateway in the movie Phantasm. An improperly tuned radio is an easy way to obtain background static, which is particularly interesting if an old one prone to superheterodyne howling is used. It's easy to find old analog radios at antique junk stores on the cheap.

Noises are not required, I prefer things rather quiet most of the time. But if you're going to make a bit of a ruckus, make it count. Of course, a computer can be used to generate any number of sounds, but there is something special about having real objects in the room doing the work.
Themes

Here are some scientific, pseudo-scientific, and fictional themes one might use in designing the psycho-dramatic elements of a working. I chose a few which hearken back to an era of both scientific evolution and new inventions of fantasy based on that progress:

Time-Travel: Obtaining a sense of time-travel is not that easy, and requires a lot of imagination. Use objects or symbols from the desired period, set clocks to the wrong time, enter into a "Tardis", etc.

Psychotronics: The study of currently unexplained interactions which occur at a distance (Zdeněk, 1977, p.42). One must be prepared for any "extraordinary manifestations of the human psyche" (Ostrander and Schroeder, 1970, p.418) or "supranormal" results of their magical efforts.

X-Ray Vision: Few phenomena reveal the unseen like X-Rays, first researched by Wilhelm Röntgen. (Gage, 1887, p.342). X-Ray Vision would be more of a psychic phenomenon though, perhaps aided with special glasses.

Luminiferous Aether: Before Einstein, physicists accepted the notion of an incompressible, absolute medium through which electromagnetic energy propagates (Gage, 1887, p.206; Martin, 1893, p.148-149). Sir Issac Newton also spoke of an "aethereal medium" (Newton, 1704, Qu. 22).

Psychokinesis: In Stephen King's Firestarter, the girl (and her father) possessed incredible skills of mental domination over both people and things. In the real world, many frauds have surfaced over the years and you can be the next.
Fields: The previous installment of The Imperishable Star contains an extensive paper on Life Fields, a concept which was later extended to Thought Fields (Aquino, 2016, p.70). Fictional fields are numerous: "walls of resistance", "tractor-beams", etc.

Chemistry: Test tubes, flasks, and the like. As mentioned tonic water glows under UV light to good effect.

Conclusion

You can get away with a lot in the dark, therefore bringing excellent and unusual aesthetics to the altar or ritual chamber need not be a difficult or expensive pursuit. The surface has barely been scratched, and there are no rules for how to apply or build upon these ideas. Step outside of the ritual box, enter through the gateway of the Trapezoid, and may the future be yours.

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Liber Draconis: The Acosmic Path of the Serpent

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Acosmic Draconian

Introduction

My current path and paradigm is very much influenced by Acosmicism in general, but a more “middle-path” syncretic approach has developed due my own beliefs. I also must thank the wonderful variety of views held by my friends and colleagues at the O.S. forum, and Michael Kelly’s Draconian writings. While more nihilistic views such as Chaos-Gnosticism and Thursatru make up the core of my Acosmic position, they are balanced out but not negated by the integration of the Slavic Sinister Path, Setianism, the Draconian path, and Albert Camus’ Absurdism. While my philosophy is still very Acosmic, I reject complete nihilism and have arguments which advocate that we enjoy this material world, as illusionary as it may be. I believe this perspective on Acosmicsm offers one of the strongest paths towards the self-deification often sought after by those of the Left-Hand Path.

Illusory Reality

‘I opened myself up to the gentle indifference of the world. Finding it so much like myself—so like a brother, really—I felt that I had been happy and that I was happy again.” -Albert Camus

The Demi-Urge is not a mystical demi-god or supernatural enslaver who cruelly constructed our material prison. He is the false ego within ourselves that enslave us to our own material prisons. This false ego is not to be confused with the gift of consciousness which all Left-Hand Path practitioners seek to strengthen in many ways. Consciousness, also called the Black Flame, constantly seeks growth and liberation, whereas the false ego binds us to lower desires that stagnate us and distract us. If one wishes to truly embrace
the Black Flame within and strengthen their own consciousnesses then they must slay their illusions and to free themselves of the evil Demi-urge within and without. While I posit that the Demi-urge without is not some mystical being, he exists within every religion and idea meant to control and blind men – which makes his association with Yahweh incredibly fitting. *The Great Perfection Doctrine*, a book on the Slavic Sinister Path, sees the demi-urge within any good or religion in which you worship something external to you and your true nature. Any God not of the demi-urge is best honored by pursuing your own wisdom, truth, and Black Flame. I, however, would like to extend this idea not just to religion but philosophy, politics, and almost everything of worldly concern.

Albert Camus’ Absurdist philosophy highlights just how difficult it is to escape the world of illusion and why it is so important to do so. The Myth of Sisyphus is Camus’ essay as a response to his problem with Existentialists. In it he states “At any street corner the feeling of absurdity can strike any man in the face. As it is, in its distressing nudity, in its light without effulgence, it is elusive. But that very difficulty deserves reflection.” For Albert Camus, to experience the Absurd was to open yourself up to “the gentle indifference of the world” and to see it as it is when the stage sets collapse. When we break ourselves of our illusions for the first time, the natural human response is to search for a “why?” Many people choose settle for a religion or philosophy, and Existentialists often create their own meaning. Yet they simply commit philosophical suicide and fall for the delusions of the Demi-Urge for the sake of comfort. This philosophy is where I begin to differ with the typical Nihilistic Anticosmic Satanists, as Nihilism is another worldly philosophy and leap of faith. To say that “Nothing is true” is a logical fallacy as that would imply the statement itself is indeed a lie and denies the Absurd nature of existence. However, it is important to note that while truisms do exist, what is often inferred from this truisms are wild leaps that cannot be proven.
What is Absurd nature of existence? It is not to be found within man nor the universe but in the relationship between Mankind and the universe. Humankind is born grasping and fumbling for meaning in a world which is indifferent to the pleas of man and can offer no objective answer to the question why or to the meaning of life. As Camus said: “The world in itself is not reasonable, that is all that can be said. But what is absurd about the confrontation of this irrational and wild longing for clarity whose call echoes in the human heart. The absurd depends as much on man as on the world. For the moment it is all that links them together. It binds them one to the other as only hatred can weld two creatures together. This is all I can discern clearly in this measureless universe where my adventures take place.”

As an Acosmic Gnostic, I do not reject the world in and of itself

Camus also states that “From the moment absurdity is recognized, it becomes a passion, the most harrowing of all, but whether or not one can live with one’s passions, whether or not one can accept their law, which is to burn the heart they simultaneously exalt – that is the whole question.” In other words, once the Absurd is recognized and embraced, it is hard to escape, and the question rises of if man can live with it. The answer is that a universe as cold and indifferent as it is to man’s plight will offer no escape from the Absurd. If one is to kill themselves, then they are taking a leap of faith and declaring for a fact that life is not worth living despite the universe offering no evidence of this. There may be no stronger leap of faith than suicide as it is impossible to come back from and its very existence is the proof of absurdity. Therefore, to commit either literal or philosophical suicide does not just enslave us to the demi-urge, but proves the Absurdity of the universe by highlighting man’s desperate cry of “why?” Camus concludes that “the absurd is an experience that must be lived through, a point of departure, the equivalent, in existence, of Descartes’s methodical doubt.” So as an Acosmic Gnostic, I do not reject the world in and of itself, but I do reject all the illusionary leap of faiths that are so often associated with the material world by modern society. I acknowledge that it is my nature to pursue meaning and know that the
universe will not offer it. This is why the universe is seen as an enemy to Chaos-Gnostics and Acosmic Satanists.

Liberation of the Black Flame

“One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there’s something stronger – something better, pushing right back.” – Albert Camus

As I brought us to this point using the Absurdism of Albert Camus, it only fitting that I use another of his quotes to lead us to the answer: “To understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion.” The answer to this lies in several Acosmic and Anticosmic philosophies such as The Slavic Sinister Path, Thursatru, Chaos-Gnosticism, and the Draconian current, but also in the Temple of Set’s reverence for the divine gift of consciousness. Set – a God that is best worshiped by the transformation and growth to reach your full potential instead of an external worship – cannot be of the Demi-Urge. Therefore Set’s Black Flame is not a gift of the demi-urge and his indifferent material universe, but the gift from the true source of creation of this universe: Chaos. Set himself is a God of Chaos and therefore is a manifestation of Chaos itself along with Apep, Apophis, Thursian powers, and many darker Gods and Princes(ses) of Darkness sometimes associated found in Left-Hand Path beliefs. In the Norse Creation myth, the gaping abyss and yawning void existed in the form of Ginnungagap until the fires of Musphelheim and ice of Niflheim created the world. Musphelheim and Niflheim are the realms of the Acosmic Fire and Ice Giants who oppose the Asatru, a form of demi-urges, and the material universe to bring about Ragnarok. If the very forces of chaos itself created the universe, then it is part of it and flows into it. Norse Mythology saw these forces of chaos as poisonous to reality which is perhaps best symbolized

From the moment absurdity is recognized, it becomes a passion, the most harrowing of all
by Nidhogg gnawing at the roots of Yggdrasil to poison it and bring about Ragnarok.

There are two ways that the forces of Chaos seep into reality; the Acosmic forces as well as the Black Flame that is ever-present in you.

Taking inspiration from The Slavic Sinister Path and The Great Perfection Doctrine, it is not necessary to destroy the world for enlightenment as advocated in many Anticosmic philosophies. According to the Great Perfection Doctrine, the Right-Hand Path is defined as “the path away from one’s True Nature, the external work” and the Left-Hand Path as “the Path of Return to one’s True nature, the internal work.” It offers a third option: “The Path of the Great Perfection, or the Path which is not the path in itself – a way to remain in one’s True Nature without separation between the one who remains and spiritual inactivity.” Volhv Veleslav defines this path by positing that what he calls the Unborn is eternally within everyone, but as it is an Acosmic force, one must turn away from the material universe to access it. In other words, there is no need to grow the Black Flame, it burns at its full strength inside you eternally. You will never be without it, only distracted from it by worldly illusions.

So how does one go about slaying these illusions to liberate the Black Flame? Self-sacrifice, or to be more exact; sacrifice of the self that is not the self.

There are three sacrifices anyone walking this Acosmic path should take. The first is of the animal within. One must learn to subdue and command one’s own animal nature. The second is the sacrifice of the human within. This is the shedding of the false ego which is often associated with the imagery of decapitation. Aleister Crowley wrote the “Headless Rite” also known as “Invocation of the Bornless One”, and the HGA of the Thelemic System may be one’s Black Flame. While this may appear a heretical take on Thelema, it is important to note that its worship of Babalon as a Saturnine figure is very similar to the way Acosmic paths worship their deities as detailed earlier. Volhv Veleslav also instructs the sacrifice
of the human within to
“section off the head of the
false self with the Sword of
True Knowledge, off it to the
Great Dark Mother Morena, -
to Her, Who reigns in Death,
which She will impale on one of her
pickets palisading Her abode.” Finally,
you have the sacrifice of the God within in
which you go beyond any idea of God,
overcome the limits of the “human, all too
human” conceptualized apprehension of
the Divine.

If one is to seriously accomplish all
of this, simply turning away from
material universe and living as a monk is
not enough. The Left-Hand Path, and the
Acosmic path, is the worship of the true
self within and the Black Flame of that
true self. To worship the external world is
to deny the true self and the Black Flame
of Consciousness. However, to worship
Acosmic forces such as Set, Loki and his
kin, and Draconian powers is not to
worship the external. It is to worship the
forces of the destruction of worldly
illusion and their Promethean Fire. Make
no mistake, to worship Acosmic forces is
to bring about the destruction of the
world but not the macrocosmic one, the
microcosmic one. As Donald
Tyson once said: “In my
opinion the apocalypse…must
be primarily an internal, spiritual
event”

Various traditions have different
takes on which Acosmic Gods to worship
and even as to why. Michael Kelly’s
Draconian tradition suggests a God of
Consciousness, a Saturnine Goddess of
Lust, and a Serpent or Draconian force
for his cold gaze as a balanced formula
that best taps into the Draconian current.
A Setian may select Set, Babalon, and
Leviathan or Apep whereas a
Thursakyngi may select Loki, Hel, and
Jormungandr. A Thursakyngi may also
select which Thurs to work with by which
self they wish to sacrifice – such as Fenrir,
the wolf, to tame the animal within, or
Hel to slay the human within and unleash themselves from logical, emotional, and sensual dependencies. The Great Perfection Doctrine simply advocates working with the Slavic Gods Veles and Morena whereas the worship of Qayin can be found in N.A.-A.218’s Liber Falxifer series. Whichever deities you choose to assist, you must put in the work of knowing thyself through the practice of Zen, self-sacrifice, and continual growth if you wish to embody the Black Flame within. After-all, the philosophy of Anticosmic Satanism which Acosmicism stems from is often compared to a dark form of Zen in philosophy and practice, as it leads to a similar praxis when it comes to meditation and mindfulness.

The Draconian tradition suggests a God of Consciousness, a Saturnine Goddess of Lust, and a Serpent or Draconian force for his cold gaze as a balanced formula

Redemption of the Material Universe

“How to teach immortality? The same way that I told James Lewis: by not dying. But you do not truly know the life that you have. The Children of Set are not bound in the flesh; they exist outside of Space-Time. You find it hard to grasp this true mind of yours, for it remains Outside and reaches through to influence the flesh in which it rides. Do not mistakenly call this your Higher Self: it is your only Self. It is all that has coherence. Nor deny it the flesh; you choose this path for joy, not for sorrow. But learn to keep your senses open, your mind open.”

“When the rules of the game displease you, sweep aside the pieces and play a different game.

“Xepera Xeper Xeperu” – Saying from Old Kingdom Egypt

Received wisdom of Apep from The Apep Workings performed my Michael Kelly:
The message of Set to Man is: ‘Who gives a fuck?’"

The time has finally come to detail why a complete rejection of the material world is not only misguided but a huge mistake. This is best demonstrated by looking at the praxis of Acosmic Sorcery in various traditions. The most world-affirmative philosophy that can be categorized as Acosmic is Michael Kelly’s Draconian tradition. Not to be confused with the broader Draconian tradition, this is a philosophy based on his received text from The Apep Workings in which he scryed the 30 Enochian Aethyrs to communicate with Apep. In this philosophy, one is to commit themselves into strengthening all of their senses before “Opening the Eye in the Void.” To open the eye in the void is an indescribable, unique, and unpredictable experience that initiates one into the Draconian path as well strengthens their sorcery. For me personally, I unexpectedly opened the Eye of the Void in the middle of a Thursatru ceremony dedicated to Loki. After one goes through this experience, it is now customary to open the Eye in the Void in the beginning of operations, as it calls on the Acosmic Nature of the Black Flame. It is the ability to destroy reality and recreate it in your own image. In fact, the core of the Draconian Path can be summed up by the word “Lust.”

While Michael Kelly makes convincing arguments for “Lust” being a “Lust for immortality” using the nature of saturnine goddesses such as Babalon, this article will focus more on the praxis of Lust. While the Acosmic philosophy focuses on sacrificing our lower selves and dependences on external desires, it should not reject those desires themselves. If one is to truly ascend the universe, there would be no space and time and therefore no growth – and
while the Black Flame is burning within us, we require growth in this world to liberate it as much as we require the need to reject the world and turn inwards to liberate it.

When an individual experiences lust and desire for something, then they usually commit to obtaining their desire. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this, but then people hoard their material gain like the dragon Smaug in *The Hobbit*. This leads to stagnation, the decrease of ability, and the fear of change. The Old Icelandic and Anglo-Saxon Fehu rune poems are warnings of this. The Icelandic Rune Poem for Fehu states: “Wealth is a source of discord amongst kin and fire of the sea and path of the serpent.” When put together with the Anglo-Saxon version states Wealth is a comfort to all; yet must everyone bestow it freely, if they wish to gain honour in the sight of the Lord.” The meaning becomes clear and quite Draconian. If growth is the main thing of value in the material world, then we must give away wealth to increase opportunity for change and new forms of wealth. This is not limited to the material gains and experiences sorcery can give us but also to outdated wisdom from old initiatory experiences that we may begin to see for the illusions they are.

The logic then follows that if the best thing we can do with material things and worldly experiences is to give them away and constantly pursue them, it is the pursuit of the material that is valuable, and the material itself completely worthless. As Albert Camus concluded in the *Myth of Sisyphus* essay: “The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.” He compares the entirety of human
existence to the fate of Sisyphus
rolling a boulder up the hill every
day just for it to fall back down.
Yet, Sisyphus and humankind
must continue pushing that same
old boulder up the hill day after
day, but that very pursuit is what
can give us meaning. To the true
Draconian practitioner who has
shattered the illusions of the world
in a true Acosmic fashion, the
world now becomes a playground
where one can test and grow
their abilities. Michael Kelly used
Kabbalistic knowledge to translate
a numerological section of The
Apep Working into the formula
for re-immersing yourself in the
world and achieving Xeper. He
translated the numerology into
Tarot and arrived at the following
formula:

VIII LUST Desire is the
beginning of the process
IX HERMIT Channeling from the
isolate Core Self
XIII DEATH Causing change and
transformation
0 FOOL Leading to a new
beginning with a blank slate
XII HANGED MAN A fresh
immersion in a new arena of Play,
sacrificing self to Self
IX HERMIT So that Self may
learn new lessons through
manifestation
V HIEROPHANT And
Understand the Mysteries it Seeks
IX HERMIT Taking them deep
within its Being, making them a
part of itself
0 FOOL So that it may gain yet
more Being
XIII DEATH And trigger another
Remanifestation, a Fresh Cycle of
Becoming

The message of Set to Man
as “Who Gives a Fuck?” can be
interpreted in multiple ways, two
of them being applicable to
sorcery. The first being “Who
give a fuck about this cosmos?”
The first interpretation is a question you must ask yourself to test if your gifts and wisdom in your occult path is really worth anything. To any insight or progression you may come across, ask yourself “who gives a fuck?” If you can’t justify it to any other person, then it is merely an illusion worth nothing to you either. I personally interpret this as a rejection of the universe due its absurd nature, which fosters the Demi-Urge’s illusions, and is always a handy tool to guard against delusion that sometimes accompanies poor revelation centered magick.

In the Draconian tradition, you open the Eye in the Void and consume the venom/blood of the Serpent which is symbolized a goblet of wine alchemically bestowed with the power of Apophis or Leviathan. In Thursakyngi, you work with the destructive powers of Niflheim and Muspelheim, but it was the combination of these two destructive forces that formed creation in the first place. In addition to using herbs such as Juniper, Blackthorn, and Dragon’s Blood for Musphelheim workings and Yew, Belladonna, Hemlock, Myrrh, and Mistletoe for Niflheim workings, Thursakyngi also advocates one to learn the Runes. This demonstrates that they view the Chaotic and Acosmic powers exist in the material world and can

It was the Acosmic forces that truly created this world, and not the evil Demi-urge that attempts to enslave us.
be harvested from interaction with materials such as plants. After all, it was the Acosmic forces that *truly* created this world, and not the evil Demi-urge that attempts to enslave us. For that reason, work with nature that operates on a level of mutual respect is encouraged in Thursakyngi sorcery. Furthermore, the Runes themselves are essentially equivalent to seeing the “code in the Matrix” and make up the world we inhabit. The Demi-Urge Odin had no knowledge of the Thursic Wisdom or Runes until he sacrificed an eye to the giant Mimir, and himself on the World Tree. Everything in Norse myth points to true knowledge coming from the primitive Acosmic forces in Niflheim and Muspelheim. Any knowledge and sorcery worth pursuing comes from the true creator, Khaos, and its true manifestations in deities who are the great liberators of the Left-Hand Path. You may very well use it to gain what you lust after, but the true treasure will be the growth and freedom you gain from the experience as well as a playground to test your skills and abilities.

This article is dedicated to the Gods of Consciousness Loki and Heru-Set, the Goddesses Hel and Babalon, as well as the Draconian forces of Apep and Jormungandr. A special thanks to the O.S. members and their diverse beliefs for helping me progress along the Left Hand Path with an open mind.

Recommended Reading

If you wish to know more about Acosmic and Anticosmic philosophy or its influences the best sources are the following:

- Thursakyngi, Thursakyngi: Loki, and Gullveigarbok by Ekortu.
- Panparadox by Vexior
- The Great Perfection Doctrine by Volhv Veleslav
- Liber Kaos, Apophenion, Octavo, and EPOCH by Peter J. Carrol

Open the Eye in the Void and consume the venom of the Serpent
Church of Satan State of the Union (Part I)

W. Adam Smythe

(Satanist)

There are a couple of Satanic anniversaries in the works. One is the twenty-first anniversary of the passing of Church of Satan founder Anton Szandor LaVey. The second upcoming one is the fiftieth anniversary of the release of The Satanic Bible.

Likewise, there are also some things going on that echo’s a return to what Satanism once was. I would say, “Making Satanism Great Again”, but... well that phrase has too much baggage. As much as I would like that to be a sentence of tongue in cheek, ironic humor, we will see that indeed it is going to be relevant to some of the things we will be talking about, so hang with me.

Michael A. Aquino recently partnered up with Dianne and Stanton LaVey to write a complete revision of the 50th anniversary of The Satanic Bible. Stanton is doing podcasts, hosting live events, and brought his grandfather Anton back as an artificial human companion. Boyd Rice appears to be somewhat back on the scene and rumor is that he is going to have a book out about his friendship with Anton LaVey. Nikolas Schreck has recently released his The Satanic Screen in Germany. He has also recently been featured in a book, Satan Superstar by David Flint, which also features Boyd Rice, Lucien Greaves, and Lydia Lunch among others. Nikolas Schreck also is planning on releasing a book on Satanism to be announced.

With all of the goings on, one large absence looms, or so it would seem: The Church of Satan and its hierarchy. The reality here is that they already had most of their goings on back in 2016 to celebrate the 50th
anniversary of the founding of the Church of Satan. You didn’t hear of any of these? Well, that’s because unless you were a member of the Church of Satan™ you weren’t invited. Even if you were a member you were charged “several hundred dollars” to be able to attend the conclave that was held in Washington DC. Granted this did include your meal and live entertainment, beyond that it paid for you to watch other members of the CoS talk and pat themselves on the back about how relevant that they still are. There were several other events throughout 2016, all with fees attached to their card carrying members, with the climax of the final one consisting of being able to watch Peter Gilmore be given Anton LaVey’s walking stick (or so was claimed), and him giving himself the new title of Maestro. This is in addition to Magus, and High Priest.

If my tone sounds disdainful of the CoS™, it is.

Having talked to many folks involved in Satanism for slightly over twenty years, I can tell you that the feeling of disdain is a shared one that has steadily increased within the last decade from those both within and without, or for those who have crossed over from within to without (myself included).

How many of you have found The Satanic Bible and other writings by Anton Szandor LaVey, found yourself there?

How many of you thought you understood and recognized yourself in those writings?

How many of you that fit in both of those categories, then went on to find the CoS™, only to have it directly stated or implied by members of the cooperation, the hierarchy, or both that nope, you didn’t know a thing?
Despite the fact that you studied before you ever contacted the cooperation on any level, you were told that you had the terminology wrong. ‘There is no such thing as LaVeyan Satanism’ even though you could have sworn that you ran across that term in some of their own canon. You may have thought that anyone (including you) could identify yourself as a Satanist regardless of whether or not you possessed a CoSTM membership card. Then you found out that ‘Once you have been accepted as an Active Member, the Church of Satan acknowledges that your presentation of yourself fits our definition of “Satanist.”’ As such, without a CoSTM card you find yourself being quickly shut out of discussions. If you have genuine questions concerning some of what you are being told, you are not given a personal answer, instead you are directed to the FAQ page on the web page and if you have questions about that, then you are just a ‘poser’, a ‘pseudo’, or someone who just isn’t capable or smart enough to get it.

You see that this doesn’t only apply to you. Due to the rude treatment that you have been given (unless you are ‘one of the few’ who will suck up your own thoughts and opinions, kiss ass, and parrot everything that the CoSTM says without question) you begin to look around for other organizations or groups that may actually have understood these things the same way you did. As you begin to find other groups, as you do research and study, you see that the CoSTM calls them ‘pseudos’ why? Because the CoSTM doesn’t recognize these groups as being Satanic because Anton Szandor LaVey created Satanism (he didn’t) they own The Church of Satan™, the Sigil of Baphomet design (which the CoSTM didn’t create) and the term Satanism itself.

Does any of this sound familiar?

As these various anniversaries approach, I would love to be able to include the CoSTM in the celebration and festivities. However, when it comes to the CoSTM, I cannot.
This current group of people have had over twenty years to get their act together and they haven’t. Instead, they are little more than a bunch of people with persecution complexes. Sure they have been rude, mean-spirited assholes and know-it-alls, but something like this writing? Oh, they would whine that it was an attack. They would then go on to say how that they have to defend themselves of such attacks and onslaughts all of the time.

The sad arguments, aside reveal that Lesser entirely on them. It if maybe they would pretentiousness that need to give them on.

This series will largely focus on the current CoSTM, only relying on the past as needed. The reason is that much of the past has already been put out there and documented by other sources. The intention of this series will be to expose some of the hypocrisies, inconsistencies, and outright lies that the CoSTM is perfectly content with as long as they pacify their faithful followers.

The key things to remember here are that:

1.) You do not need a card from any organization to consider yourself what you know that you are. If you are confident that based upon the writings of Anton LaVey that you are a Satanist, that is all of the validation that you need.
2.) The Church of Satan™ is a separate business from Anton LaVey’s Church of Satan business that was dissolved in 1990. So by joining the Gilmore cooperation you are in no way a part of anything that Anton LaVey created.

3.) The Church of Satan™ does not own copyright to nor do they receive royalties from The Satanic Bible, The Satanic Rituals or any of Anton LaVey’s other writings. The copyright is held by Avon books and the royalties are split between Karla, Zeena, and Satan Xerxes Carnacki LaVey.

4.) The Church of Satan™ does not own copyright on the Sigil of Baphomet design. This was created and used long before the CoS™ came along. You cannot copyright something that you did not create. It is trademarked for use on the one thing that the CoS™ can sell: membership cards bearing the words “Church of Satan.

It is from the above standpoint, that I do agree fully with the CoS™ on the following, albeit for different reasons, the CoS™ is not LaVeyan Satanism. The likely reason that they do not recognize it is because they can’t trademark a last name.

“But I don't understand: what does CoS™ have against The Satanic Temple?”

This is a question that I recently ran across via a social media page. I think that this is an ideal place to start, simply because, while questions surrounding Gilmore’s handling of the CoS™ began circulating after his first couple of years, it was when The Satanic Temple began to gather momentum that he and the CoS™ really began to come under the magnifying glass.

I answered:
“Mainly because it gave them a run for their money. They were faced with a group that was actually out in the real world doing things in the name of Satan.”

When one stops and considers how many times that they accuse others of being “coattail riders” or “ cribbing off of our success”, and also how critical that they are of any other Satanic group in general, then one has to ask the current CoSTM what they have done?

Since the passing of Anton LaVey, the current CoSTM did nothing but ride the coattails of a history that most of them (a bunch of Johnny-Come-Latelies who bought their titles) weren’t around for to begin with. They cribbed off of Anton LaVey’s writings and photographs that they still pepper their site with.

At first it was understandable. However, as years went by it became obvious that next to nothing was being done for the CoSTM to stand solely upon the advancements or achievements of its current management team. Sadly, this is still the case. Imagine where the CoSTM would be today if they only relied upon photographs of their current Hierarchy and members, or at least more upon them. Suppose that their membership cards no longer bore the name of Anton Szandor LaVey (which one must wonder aside from looking like a fan club card why it does) and instead bore the name of its current High Priest Peter H. Gilmore. Do you still think they would sell as many memberships or even be as relevant as they still are (which isn’t much)?

Yet, all of these folks, by way of their writings, tell the would-be follower to stand on their own two feet.

Memberships were very slowly processed and depending who one believed
this was either because there were so many people joining that they couldn’t keep up or they were testing your patience. To this day when ordering merchandise from most of their prominent official dealers the wait times and customer service is pathetic. Yet, these folks are supposed to be superior, elite, prominent people.

Any of their Internet presence has largely relied on the Church’s heyday and past prominent members who were no longer there, such as Zeena and Nikolas Schreck, Karla LaVey, Boyd Rice, Diabolus Rex, and Vincent Crowley – all of whom held prominent titles within the Church while they were there.

Finally in 2006, they held an event on 06/06/06. The sad thing is that since then Diabolus Rex is no longer a part of the CoS™, and one of the people who was instrumental in putting the event together is no longer a CoS™ member. No less, it looked as though the CoS™ may be finally coming out of a slumber no matter how much of a cheap ploy the baby step looked like. But to their credit, it was the first notable thing that the post LaVey hierarchy did on its own merit.

Once The Satanic Temple started to really gain footing with the Oklahoma Ten Commandments debate, it was obvious that the CoS™ felt threatened if not outright jealous.

After that, there was the release of a documentary titled “Inside the Church of Satan.” This was such a low production film that it made Satanis look like it had the budget of a Lucas film. It also revealed that Magister David Harris was still too afraid to tell his parents he was a Satanist. During Gilmore’s interview, he spent a large portion of it trying to whitewash various things that Anton LaVey had once said to fit his own tamer narrative. The film also confirmed something that Nikolas Schreck and Zeena had said some time before – that Anton LaVey, contrary to his story, shaved his head on a dare from Dianne. The film ended with a Ritual led by Magister Robert Lang, who made a point of saying that he used two nude altars,
only to end up using none. It was long, drawn out, and boring, while trying to be spooky. In the end, everyone went out of their way to say how that they could get along just fine with Christians and in the words of Gilmore, rather than being elite, they were pretty much like anybody else.

Then Gilmore came out with a book called The Satanic Scriptures. Essentially this was a way of charging for every single essay that he had put onto the website offering nothing new. The only exception being a section on classical music that drug on and on. Plus there were also a few rituals.

After that, it seemed that aside from a few of the members self-publishing here and there, that the CoS™ went back to sleep.

Once The Satanic Temple started to really gain footing with the Oklahoma Ten Commandments debate, it was obvious that the CoS™ felt threatened if not outright jealous that another Satanic organization was getting more press coverage than they were. What went over the tops of their heads was that as a whole the CoS™ hadn’t really done anything that notable in decades. It was no longer the 1960’s where it was absolutely shocking to see people declaring allegiance with the Devil in such a tame way. The Satanic Panic of the 1980’s was long over. After the world was shocked by the events of September the 11th, 2001, it was going to take something a bit more than writing a book or having a private dress-up party at one’s home for Satanism to really get any kind of attention.

Since the 1975 crisis of the Church which lead to Michael A. Aquino leaving, taking most of the priesthood with him and forming his own Temple of Set, Anton LaVey or the Church of Satan went largely unnoticed. This is save for those who were courageous enough to be on the front lines publicly defending Satanism during the widespread Satanic Panic, such as Zeena and Nikolas Schreck, Karla LaVey,
Boyd Rice, Vincent Crowley, and Michael Aquino, among others. For that matter, even Michael Aquino found himself having to pick up for lack of Church of Satan’s presence. Peter H. Gilmore (future High Priest) and his wife Peggy Nadramia (future High Priestess) were technically on the Geraldo special. However, it was a brief shot that focused on Geraldo as they were coming back from a commercial break. You can see them for a split second in one of the middle (not even front row) with Gilmore glaring at the camera. Watch close though, if you blink you will miss them. By 2014 all of those people had long left the CoSTM behind.

At this point, what became apparent was that while Gilmore may be addressed as a High Priest by some, it was time for him to put on his legally recognized CEO hat and attempt to compete with his business competition. The CoSTM began looking for various social media outlets after having shunned them for years. This included Facebook and Twitter. It also resulted in the CoSTM holding more sanctioned public gatherings. Plus, like any good business knows, the customers are the best form of advertisement, and so it was through these outlets, along with YouTube, that the CoSTM began to make itself known again.

What had many people who had been in Satanism puzzled was “why now?” Many had criticized Gilmore for not really doing much, with Satanic International Founder Zach Black even pointing out that at the time the CoSTM YouTube channel only had one video while other non-affiliated channels had more video content related to Satanism. Likewise, the CoSTM had blown off Myspace all together, trying instead to form its own social media platform SatanNet. Yet, here it was with a Facebook page, a public Facebook group, and a closed Facebook group, not counting the many Facebook groups that have since been formed by CoSTM members. Likewise, the CoSTM has made such a strong presence on Twitter that one website called “The Ringer” ran a story titled *How The Church of Satan Mastered Twitter.*
Today, YouTube has so many podcasts put out by CoSTM members that it has become on par with that of televangelism. Finally there were the various sanctioned group meetings. This included everything from the anniversary conclaves to various art shows, tattoo exhibits, and musical performances. The final one being significant because it forced Gilmore to betray his own words.

He wrote, “Satanists are amazingly diverse individuals and they may share very little in common beyond the fact that their approach to living leads them all to adopt the label “Satanist.” This is the reason why we do not have large gatherings of Church of Satan members, nor do we have conventions of any sort, as this group of individuals would never get along with one another en masse. Look at the evidence for this in the ghetto of online Satanism, which is a very small subset of people who call themselves Satanists. This bunch is the most contentious and cantankerous collection of curmudgeons ever seen in one place. So the very idea that these people could ever work together as a community is completely naïve — misguided idealism, rather than Satanic pragmatism.” (Gilmore, 2007, p.170)

Like other things CoSTM related, it is important to note that although the CoSTM and Gilmore clearly changed their stance on the issue of ‘community’ that they will never admit to it and will gladly criticize anyone who would say that they were a part of the Satanic community, pointing them to that very essay.

However, with social media presence (or for that matter, any online presence and fact checking available to all) comes great responsibility. This is a point that the CoSTM should recognize quite well: Responsibility to the Responsible. However, in the coming essays you will see that they are quite content to play word games, use implication, misdirection and so forth, to the point where it becomes clear that the current CoSTM would much rather be a Church of Atheists, but they likely wouldn’t
make much money with that.

To Be Continued…

The current CoST™ would much rather be a “Church of Atheists”, but they likely wouldn’t make much money
Psychologist Abraham Maslow came up with what he called the “Hierarchy of Needs”, referring to the needs required for a human being to reach “Self-Actualization”. This hierarchy is laid out as a pyramid with five levels to it representing all the needs of an individual human being. The needs at the bottom of the pyramid need to be met first as they are the foundation, otherwise the pyramid will collapse on itself. This short paper will look at the hierarchy and discuss my views on it as relate to sociology, politics, and religion.

From most basic to most complex needs, Maslow’s Hierarchy is:

- **Physiological needs**, such as food, water, warmth, and sleep. All life needs these things in some variation, human beings included. Not only is it the foundation of our pyramid, but the foundation for all of life.

- **Safety needs**, such as security, shelter, and protection. This applies to a great deal of life as well, though less. Some animals for instance don’t necessarily make shelters, and some are their own and only protection.

- **Belonging and Love needs**, such as friendships, intimate relationships, and social support. Even a smaller amount of animals fall into this category to our knowledge. Much life on the planet never gets beyond the first two needs – they consume and reproduce, and that’s about it, part of the cycle of life. On the other hand humanity has the most advanced version of these needs. This can perhaps best be seen in human marriage which tends to be very public, costly, and ritualistic-symbolic.
- Esteem needs, such as prestige, feelings of accomplishment, and recognition. To my knowledge only a few close relatives and a few other mammals, such as elephants and dolphins, experience these types of needs. These are high level needs requiring advanced culture and higher consciousness, such as what human beings have.

- Self-Actualization, which is an individual achieving their full potential including in creative activities. It is possible that this stage only applies to human beings or a small few other species. It requires the utmost dedication, reasoning, and self-understanding.

It is my personal belief that the bottom two levels – the “Basic Needs” – of the hierarchy should be rights, not privileges in the modern world, unless one loses their rights due to abandoning their morality and therefore humanity. In our world, nobody should have to go hungry, die of dehydration, freeze to death, or be without a place to rest, and we all deserve to have our basic rights protected, among other things. These are problems that humanity should have long surpassed if we could keep our focus on Self-Actualization, but that is not how our culture thinks. I do not have any problem with things like wealth divide, I do not mind some making more than others. But nobody should have to suffer or struggle to meet their basic needs for any other reason that their own individual fault.

I also do not think that anyone should become rich off of services related to these Basic Needs. It should not be $10 an apple, or $1,000 for a life-saving or even life-improving medication. People who have worked hard and/or served their country should not be living on the streets begging for food, water, and clothing. People should not be able to take your property or in any way violate your free will, nor should those protections lead to or in any way resemble extortion. This sets us up not only for a better species as a whole over all, but it sets us up with equal opportunity from the start. The more we thrive as individuals the more we will thrive as a society and species, which feeds into the very concept of Self-Actualization and its importance.
Equal opportunity is not equal outcome, which would be socialism. Equal opportunity allows everyone to start in the same place – with food, water, medicine, shelter, safety, protection, etc. – and be judged solely as an individual on their own merit and that alone. This means no race, economic standing, medical problems, nature of your parents, physical location, or anything of the sort could hold one back or be used as an excuse – nothing but the individual worth of that one person should be considered. There is nothing reasonable about judging an individual based on circumstances beyond their control, only what is within their control.

Nobody should have to suffer or struggle to meet their basic needs for any other reason than their own individual fault.

This leads us into Belonging and Love needs. This is something that cannot be provided by some kind of State, God, or anyone for you – it is a privilege not a right. Love and belonging can be lost and there is no way to buy it back or be provided it, no way to even steal it. The individual has to work to achieve and maintain these needs, which will be rooted in nothing but their own personality and efforts, as their Basic Needs will theoretically have been met. Rather than your social circles being determined by sociological factors they would be determined by the individuals and nothing more. An important example of this would be a poor child born to bad parents and trapped in poverty, who to stay safe and provide for his family is forced to join a gang. Something like this should not have to occur. Instead everyone should have the opportunity to find a good place for them to belong.

The same can be said of Esteem Needs, which again have to be earned and maintained by the individual. At this point in the hierarchy there will theoretically be a support system in place which makes attaining Esteem needs easier to accomplish, which is why it is higher up the pyramid than those Belonging and Love Needs. Once you have loved ones, friends, and family, you can start including professional communities as well, or professors, contacts, all of which will also help with attaining Esteem needs. Belonging, Love, and Esteem needs are “Psychological Needs” – whereas Basic Needs are related to the body, Psychological Needs are related to the mind.
What we do for a living is a very important example of Esteem Needs. Imagine if you wanted to be an artist but were forced to going into mathematics like your father before you. Even doing well in that field you may never feel the prestige and accomplishment you would had you gone into art as you desired. Or imagined if you had an arranged marriage instead of marrying someone you loved – it would lead to lower feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment. All of this can interfere greatly with Self-Actualization.

Finally we come to the top of the hierarchy: Self-Actualization. This is a term that was also used by psychologists such as Carl Jung. It more or less refers to becoming the perfect version of one’s Self – best at your job which you should enjoy, best for your loved ones and family, best at whatever extra talents or artistic endeavors you wish to achieve. Whereas Basic Needs and Psychological Needs are the body and mind respectively, Self-Actualization or “Self-Fulfillment Needs” can be related to the soul, the higher self, the Platonic Form, the Daemon, or any of the numerous terms for this perfected state of Being.

Some of the characteristics of these Self-Actualized individuals include:

- Tolerance of uncertainty
- An efficient view of reality
- Know who they are and what they need/want
- Unusual sense of humor
- Very objective
- Concerned for the welfare of humanity

Self-Actualization can be related to the soul, the higher self, the Platonic Form, the Daemon, or any of the numerous terms for this perfected state of Being.
- Appreciative of basic life experience

- Strong relationships and supports

- Need for alone time

- Strong moral values

I feel a lot of these speak for themselves. Self-Actualized individuals have a consistent view of reality that works for them (Pragmatism) but does not contradict objective reality – or at least they recognize where it is at odds with objective reality (such as in magic). They may seem a bit aloof and removed, but have a deep care for the well-being of not only loved ones but the human species as a whole, and life as a whole in many cases. These individuals will be creative and “dreamy” but also able to experience the here-and-now, the day to day and moment to moment aspects of life.

As a Setian on the Left Hand Path the hierarchy is extremely important. It can almost be compared to something like the Tree of Life in Hermeticism, except it has much greater and supported real world applications, and it can be entirely secular. At the base level we have the things that are more related to the Horus- rather than the Set-Aspect of reality. Physiological needs go beyond any conscious control over our bodies – we absolutely must have food, water, warmth, and rest in order to keep functioning as a human being. Security and safety is also a basic, physiological need that needs to be addressed whether consciously or not. Even plants, with their very minimal consciousness (if any), have defense mechanisms to keep them safe.

It is when we get into Psychological Needs and Self-Actualization that the Left Hand Path, the Set-Aspect of the universe, comes into play. In order to form relationships we have to (for only a few examples):
1. Know what type of relationship we want

2. Know what we want from and will give to a relationship

3. Understand those you wish to befriend/be involved with

4. Present yourself in a way that fits

5. Uphold the relationships over time and possibly space

All of this requires higher conscious thought. Some may argue other life does this, but in most of those cases (if not all) it is simply due to Safety Needs – animals and early humans naturally bond for safety and security. As we know, human relationships can get far more complicated with traditions, money, social media, other human beings, etc. and so on. We have to build support systems which can handle financial issues, emotional management, and more could never even fathom.

Esteem needs are even more obviously Left Hand Path as they require us to not only attain and achieve, but to be proud of it and strive for even more. We should never cease growing, never turn our eyes back down to the ground. We have to work hard, sometimes we have to play the game of life and wear masks to hide our true natures and faces, impress people we normally wouldn’t care to impress. We must continue our education, continue to experience. As anyone on the Left Hand Path knows well, this is a difficult and never-ending fight, playing the game, learning to get your ideas across to other people with very different views of the world.

Then finally, with Self-Actualization, we see a Magus of the Left Hand Path come into being.
Then finally, with Self-Actualization, we see a Magus of the Left Hand Path come into being. The successful Magus of the LHP is at peace with uncertainty, able to use what works for them and them alone. They are not concerned or upset with the Mysteries, but revel in their glory. This pragmatic stance gives them an efficient view of reality which has allowed them to reach this level in the first place. Yet at the same time they are very where of “objective truth” and “facts of reality.” To the Magus this seeming contradiction is of no concern, and they efficiently utilize both. Further, a Magus is generally recognized by “Uttering a Word”, creating a new Aeon/mindset for humanity. For Crowley it was Thelema, for LaVey it was Indulgence, for Aquino it was Xeper, for Flowers it was Runa, and these are but a few. This is done for the betterment of humanity, in favor of our individuality, freedom, and growth. The Magus also can enjoy the simplicities of life, finding that very precise balance between the esoteric and the everyday. They have communities of support, and are opened with and supported by friends and loved ones, as well as possibly coworkers, employers, etc. And last but not least, the LHP Magus is above all moral, leading no crusades, abusing no children, manipulating no politics, stripping free will from nobody.

In conclusion, I believe Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs” is an efficient tool for the Left Hand Path practitioner. It should not be confused with something like the Tree of Life which needs to be followed and memorized, and it is backed by psychological science. It’s not doctrine to be followed, but a map to help guide one through uncharted territory. And if there’s a group that’s all about uncharted territory, isn’t it us on the Left Hand Path?

A Magus is generally recognized by “Uttering a Word”, creating a new Aeon/mindset for humanity. This is done for the betterment of humanity, in favor of our individuality, freedom, and growth.
The Shift from Seth and Atman to God and Adam

Agape Therion
(Thelemite)

Seth, expressed in the form of a Platonic entity, is the Form which represents all that which defines consciousness. As with all Platonic Forms, others can interact with this one to create myriad unique subsets that combine multiples of pure Forms. Thus, every person is a cross between Seth's Form and many other, lesser forms. This is almost entirely like the description of Atman in various Hindu schools, save from Atman's usual equivalence to Brahman, ultimate reality. Seth, just as Atman, is the most essential Self, the deepest defining characteristics of mind, no more, no less. And, as with Atman, the various layers on top of that underlying base are what we call typically the "self": the tastes, traits, and desires of the person. This Platonic form style deity, however, bears nearly no resemblance to the God of the Abrahamic and Zoroastrian faiths. The discrepancy between the two has an interesting history and a plethora of potential causes and roots, but finds itself best situated in a transition from an amoralist tit-for-tat society and a moralistic, state-run society, and the hangups of the ruling class in the latter.

Early, pre-state moral systems weren't what we would describe as "moral" in this age, and were far more based in economic equivalence than in punishment or rehabilitation. Tribal societies treated accidental deaths exactly like murders, and most intertribal reparations consisted of either the death of the person at fault, the death of another person, or the giving of a child to the grieved tribe. If a tribal conflict was disputed, revenge killings would cross from tribe to tribe until a peace was met. This was largely kept intact in the first legal
systems, notably Hammurabi’s Code. In this early example of written law, deaths can be paid for with money, or a similar death. A child who dies from shoddy building was not met often with the death of the builder, but usually rather the death of his son, a system which seems appalling since the advent of individuation in the Enlightenment. Prior to this period, especially that far back, people were seen as far more a collective than a collection of separate entities. So, the killing of a son for the death of a son makes sense economically, though not morally. And that distinction is where the Ahura Mazdas, Yahwehs, and Allahs of the world come, quite possibly.

Seth, just as Atman, is the most essential Self, the deepest defining characteristics of mind, no more, no less

In early pagan religions, the struggle is nearly always a struggle of man against nature. A common theme is chaos, of a bad sort. Apep, the destroying serpent of Egyptian myth, is a symbol of natural calamity, as are Typhon in Greece, Ba'al in Caanan, and Fenris in Germany. All have parallels to perceived disasters: Apep and the setting of the sun and storms, Typhon and typhoons, Ba'al and floods, Fenris and the eclipses. Each of these would be seen by ancient peoples as "bad" in an economic sense, but not a moral one. There is no evil in a hurricane, only mindless destroying, because a hurricane cannot choose to be harmless. However, as humans grew more and more acclimated to settling, we grew better at working against the grain of nature, and civilization was birthed. Concentrated groups of people lead to unforeseen issues, and governments sprang up to control people through law. It was a while after this time that the first seeds of moral thinking took hold. While people have a natural feeling of "good" and "bad", "justice" and "evil" are invented concepts. Good and bad are based in sympathy pains and pleasures, but justice and evil go beyond this to an assertion of absolutes - some things are always good, others always bad, and general mutual
acceptance of common good and bad leads to greater social cohesion. Along with this, though, came the changes in religion. If justice and evil are supposed to exist, and to be incompatible opposites that people are capable of, they must come from incompatible sources. And from that notion sprang the polar, Osirian gods.

The various thought-representing gods became relegated to the background or even called evil

Set was bastardized in Egypt to no longer represent thought and the "man" aspect of "man vs nature", instead becoming the form of "evil" that the Egyptians accepted when Osiris was the head of the pantheon. While Osiris was justice and power, Set was portrayed as treacherous and even inferior, becoming the subversion of justice in a smaller form. In like manner, the Zoroastrians split off from Vedism, taking their branch of gods as one God and many angels and the gods of other Vedists as Archdemon and many demons. The God was justice and good, and the Archdemon was evil and bad. This also happened in Israel, as the Jews congregated around an amalgamation of El and Yaweh in one god called both names, calling all surrounding deities demons and the like. And in this way, the various thought-representing gods – Atman, Seth, Prometheus, and their ilk – became relegated to the background or even called evil, some more than others. With a cultural atmosphere so bent on justice vs evil, the very fabric of reality seemed to these peoples to reflect their views, each incompatible with the next. The least harsh fate of these consciousness gods was that of Atman, who retained the thought type of deity, but lost any notion of Platonism when whitewashed to be an essentially inner Yahweh, totally good, and the only thing preventing all from being good is the veils over him. Some Osirian religions go so far as to describe the exact nature of their all-perfect God, as in Sufism, where Allah is described as beyond the senses, but also as being the most joyous of sights, sounds, smells, and sensations. The obvious notions of God’s moral good expressed
throughout Abrahamic faiths are so painfully culturally significant that I need not touch on them.

In a society facing this sort of transition, the death of consciousness-based gods in favor of good and evil ones seems inevitable, but as all ideas resurface, it was only a matter of time before the non-dualistic and mind-based gods returned. That briefly happened in the first century CE, when various Gnostic sects asserted, to the early Catholics' horror, that there was a union of Satan and God that was beyond all opposites, beyond good and evil, beyond man and nature, and represented perfect mind, called by various names, notably Abrasax, often misspelled Abraxas. Platonic Form type gods briefly resurfaced and then died out at the sword of the Catholic Church by the third century CE. Chan and Zen Buddhists sometimes linked the demon Mara (illusion) with Buddha in a way that would confuse any Theraveda Buddhist, often asserting that Mara was as much a part of Buddha-mind as a lack of Mara, and otherwise generally rejecting mental duality, and while atheistic, seemed from this to have a concept of the Seth archetype. There is also the obvious Crowleyan assertion of the Seth archetype in various guises in the modern era.

My goal in presenting this information is to show a possible causal link between our global shift from amoralism to moralism to the same shift from amoral gods, notably those of the consciousness-representing type to those of the Osirian age, heavily moralistic in tone and biased in depiction.

Zoroastrians split off from Vedism, taking their branch of gods as one God and many angels and the gods of other Vedists as Archdemon and many demons.
Four Alternative Symbols for Left Hand Path Use

Xepera maSet

(Ophite Setian)

Path of the Serpent

The Path of the Serpent is based on “The Dragon Book of Essex,” and uses the constellation of Draco, interpreted with 14 stars, as a symbol for the initiatory path. I was actually led to this after posting an image of my Draco constellation tattoo, and was drawn in by the synchronicity of my tattoo randomly having 14 stars and the Path of the Serpent having 14 steps. This path was the number one thing that caught my eye, and I wanted to reinterpret it in the Left Hand Path manner.

The Tounge – Beta Draconis: Antiquity and Future; Truth and Lies; Wellspring of the Stellar Elixirs; Illuminated Mankind.

The first star on the Path represents the Serpent bringing knowledge and change to the universe. Not only does it take in nutrients through its mouth, but things pass its lips as well. The book states “the Dragon came as a many headed-serpent, its fiery tongues bearing forth speech into all kingdoms of the Earth.” This is similar to the mythologies of texts like The Diabolicon and Luciferianism, as well as the Ophic tradition in general – it creates a mythology behind the Left Hand Path aspect of humanity and how the tradition arose
rooted in the Ancient Serpent. It is also similar to the Gift of Set in Setianism, where Set somehow or in some metaphorical way bestows mankind with higher consciousness. Only the illuminated members of mankind are aware of even this stage – so from the start the Path of the Serpent can be seen as a more elite, higher order or “Inner” path.

Left Eye (Draco’s Right) – Gamma Draconis: Lunar gaze of enchantment; fantasies and dreams; the watcher within; Spirit of the Draconian Pact.

Draco’s right eye represents the spiritual and creative aspect of the practitioner, and is symbolic of one’s commitment to the Left Hand Path. It is the subjective universe, where one creates their own reality irrelevant of the objective world. This is representative of “Greater Magic”.

Right Eye (Draco’s Left) – Nu Draconis: Solar gaze of control; perceives the interplay of forces; excerpts intent of the sorcerer in accordance with Will; vision of design.

Draco’s left eye represents the material and ritualistic aspect of the practitioner, and is symbolic of one’s controlled “Lesser-Self”. First you must master yourself and your own will, then you can set about to master the cosmos. This represents less of the way Greater Magic inadvertently affects others, and more of the way a practitioner willfully utilizes Lesser Magic. It is more aligned with the Solar than Stellar aspects of reality, but the LHP magus must master both. The left eye is also the objective world where the right was the subjective.

Head – Xi Draconis: Mediator between the magician and magical current; psyche of the Dragon; Seven heads of the dragon.

As quoted above, the concept of the “Many-Headed Dragon” is important to the Dragon Book of Essex. It is the literal Will of the Serpent, which is to help illuminate mankind. This is the practitioner’s connection to the esoteric and purely spiritual, where the power of the Stellar Tradition flows through them. They also come to understand the Serpent as it comes to understand them.

“"The Dragon came as a many headed-serpent, its fiery tongues bearing forth speech into all kingdoms of the Earth"
Left Horn (Draco’s Right) – Delta Draconis: *Eternal and undying fire of initiation; from where the seed of the Ancient Serpent is cast forth; the black serpent; the masculine*

Draco’s right horn represents the Black Flame itself, which can only be understood after understanding who and what the Serpent is – in whatever form. The “seed” is metaphorical for the symbolic children of the Serpent – the walkers of the Left Hand Path. It further symbolizes the esoteric/spiritual Male Principle, including action and illumination.

Right Horn (Draco’s Left) – Epsilon Draconis: *Falling lightning bolt of magical power; spark of Gnosis; the red serpent; isolate centers of activity; the feminine*

Draco’s left horn is the feminine aspect of the esoteric and spiritual, including receptivity, mystery, open-mindedness, and so forth. It itself symbolizes the act of the Serpent illuminating mankind, bringing them the Black Flame. The imagery here can be compared to the Serpent of the Tree of Life, which ascends the ten spheres from Malkuth to Keter.

Heart – Hi Draconis: *Represents body of the perfected initiate; Ancestral Rites; States of awareness attained through the path; the LHP itself*

This star is the Left Hand Path itself, the Ka or “divine spark” within each initiate. For this reason it also encourages the practitioner to look at those who came before, from Masters of the path to random people in their own lives. This can be compared to the Baphomet image created by Eliphas Levi, with a Left Hand Path understanding. Higher states of awareness are not experienced through the senses but through empathetic experience, which is the “awareness” discussed in the book.

The Black Flame itself can only be understood after understanding who and what the Serpent is – in whatever form

Left Claw (Draco’s Right) – Zeta Draconis: *“Going forth of the sorcerer into the unruled company of every obscene abomination”; the witch’s clasp; the spiritual*

Draco’s right claw is the realm of spirituality itself, and can be seen as being in “the company of hell.” This is
where the faces of the Princes(ses) of Darkness / the Ancient Serpent reside, the hell created within the Diabolicon when Lucifer left heaven.

Right Claw (Draco’s Left) – Eta Draconis: 
*Gesture of power; the objective universe and manipulation of it; Self-recreation; perception through which knowledge is extracted*

Draco’s left claw is magic and will affecting the universe, as well as representing the universe of matter as opposed to what is spiritual. It is science as well as Xeper – the goal of the Left Hand Path. For if the LHP practitioner does not seek to overcome the OU and change it with their will, what is the point?

Left Wing (Draco’s Right) – Theta Draconis: *Flight into celestial spheres; connection between states of awareness; body of light*

This is the journey of the individual into the realm of the divine, the stellar realm. The myth has been seen in everything from Set in Egypt to Randolph Carter in Lovecraft, and everywhere in between and since. It allows for diverse states of awareness and is where the “Ka”, “astral body”, “higher self”, “soul”, or “holy guardian angel” resides (among many other possible terms).

Right Wing (Draco’s Left) – Iota Draconis: *Journey into subterranean realms; place of shades; Shadow*

As opposed to the upwards, celestial journey of Draco’s right claw, the journey of his left is that into the earth and into the underworld itself. It further represents all which is hidden from the practitioner themselves, and which they must discover and confront to succeed in whatever their Great Work may be.

Left Hindleg (Draco’s Right) – Alpha Draconis: *Cross every boundary; through the gates; cross the threshold; Beginning, middle, and end of the LHP; entrance into the greater mysteries of the Serpent*
Alpha Draconis is also known as Thuban, the pole star when civilizations like Egypt and Sumer were beginning their rise. The very concept of the “Fall Mythology” (see TIS v.I) is rooted in Draco “falling” from the keeper of the pole star and giving way to stars in Ursa Minor – now Polaris specifically. It is the entrance into the elite and elect, the acceptance among the gods which has been spoken of since the Pyramid Texts.

Right Hindleg (Draco’s Left) – Kappa Draconis: Stellar Tradition; within and beyond the limits of time

The left hindleg of Draco represents completion along the path of the Stellar Tradition, literally apotheosis itself.

Tail – Lambda Draconis: Creates the tide of past and future; union of individual with the LHP

The deified LHP individual creates their own reality from here on out, and is not slaved to Nature.

The Sigil of Lucifer interpreted

![Sigil of Lucifer](image)

The first part of the Sigil of Lucifer can be seen as a chalice, or more specifically the Grail/Graal itself. It contains the essence of the Black Flame which burns eternally in practitioners of the Stellar Tradition. This symbol also represents the immortality of the Self, the Great Work of the Left Hand Path practitioner, both masculine and feminine energy (both straight and curved lines), and even the descent of spirit into matter (also known as the Gift of Set). Finally it can be used as a stylized “L”, as we will see.
The second part of the Sigil of Lucifer can first be seen as symbolizing the word “Verum”, meaning “truth” in Latin, and matching the name of the text the Sigil was found in (Grimorium Verum). It is also the Roman numeral 5, representing humanity and its unique nature. Similarly, it can be seen as representative of an inverted pentagram, centered and balanced on its point in internal harmony. Additionally, it can be seen as representative of the planet Venus, the morning star, which Lucifer was associated with and which is central to Luciferian symbolism.

The third part of the Sigil of Lucifer can be seen as the balancing of opposing forces. It is a centered and self-actualized individual. It can also be seen as 1 and 0 – duality. Within the full Sigil the X is both within and outside of the Grail, representing both the subjective and objective aspects of the universes and magic. Finally, it is the point of isolate intelligence, the individual self.

Together these parts of the Sigil spell the Latin word “Lux”, meaning the light of enlightenment. This is, of course, the paradoxical Black Flame which burns of eternal darkness. Order of the Serpent Co-Founder Setamontet once states “The Path of Darkness Leads to Enlightenment” which became a saying of the O.S. In this sense, the Sigil of Lucifer can be seen as the embodiment of this idea – it is Setamontet’s saying in symbolic form.
THE PATH OF DARKNESS LEADS TO ENLIGHTENMENT!

The Separator Symbol

This symbol was used to symbolize Set in both the Pyramid and the Coffin Texts. Especially with the latter, this was used instead of Set’s name or the Set Animal because he had already been demonized – one in several times it would occur. Herman Te Velde, among others, translated this symbol to mean “Separator” or “Isolator”. This fits with Set being a deity outside of the cosmic order, separate from the other gods. The symbol is closely related to the “fishtail lance”, which was used to sever the umbilical cord of newborn children. The umbilical cord was seen as Apep, tying the child to the Primordial Chaos, and the symbol of Set severed the connection. This is also why Set has a forked tail.
Order of the Serpent Insignia

The insignia of the Order is an inverted pentagram, representing that point of inner-consciousness where the individual Self exists. The pentagram is within a circle representing the physical shell of the Self, but the points of the pentagram do not touch this circle, symbolizing the continued separation between Self and Body (inspired by the Temple of Set). The separation of the metaphysical (pentagram) from the physical (circle) exists because the elements of both are independent and distinct from one another. Stemming from this pentagram are five symbols, from Norse, Sumerian, Egyptian, Chinese, and alchemy – which translated literally spell Draco, the Ancient Serpent. It is meant to represent the diversity of interests within the O.S. We are not simply a single Left Hand Path tradition, but a place for such individuals to help each other grow, and help share useful information.
The Plague of the Satanic Hegemony
MindMaster
(Theistic Satanist)

Introduction

I've been a practicing theistic Satanist for twenty-two years. My areas of interest are the classical grimoires, demonolatry, and both chaos and theurgic magick. On occasion, I've also contributed to podcasts and posts to religious and Left-Hand Path forums.

The Nature of the Plague

The plague in question is the domination of popular media by various Satanic groups. They have taken upon themselves to berate, belittle, and disenfranchise others. They lie and distort the truth but claim authority in such matters – as if there is any authority that matters but one's own.

Hegemony is a curious word that describes our poison. However, what does it mean?

Hegemony (noun) -

1. preponderant influence or authority over others: domination
   battled for hegemony in Asia
2. the social, cultural, ideological, or economic influence exerted by a dominant group

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary

The second definition provides the context for the rest of my musings on this subject. Together, we will study the tricks of these hucksters and their methods.

We Invented Satanism

First, we must establish what “Satanism” is across the board. It is the application of absolute freedom and individuality. It's the rejection of moral subjectivity and the herd-like behavior of the masses. Satanists deal with the changes in life by modifying themselves to
suit their needs. Even one's acts, beliefs, and thoughts are not immune from scrutiny. They remain adaptable, open, and critical of their understandings. They also realize the truth of the right and right now. These efforts may be painful and take a Herculean effort, but our idealized Satanist charges ahead in search of wisdom -- that principle is the driving force behind their entire existence!

Now that we have a clear idea of what Satanism is in principle, where can we find it in history? In *The Bible*, Eve is tempted to self-realization by a snake-like creature. All she has to do is eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Here she portrays the first Satanist and will gamble against the status quo to receive the truth. Earlier, in Genesis, our power-couple of Adam and Eve live according to Jehovah's wishes. At that moment [with the apple], Eve proclaims her independence. She gets to choose between her own will and the rules of the pissed off grandpa upstairs. Eve now knows of the will and self, and receives the gifts of menstruation and the pain of childbirth as a reward. Adam and Eve then get kicked out of the Garden of Eden, and they must toil for their food. Even our snake, who tempted her, loses its wings and has to slither on its belly.

That knowledge angered biblical Jehovah so much that he had to punish all three of them instead of one. If that is in the first book of *The Bible*, then it illustrates that this concept of seeking the forbidden knowledge is ancient. The goal of any religion built on these scriptures is to try to put those genii back in the bottle; they aim to live in ignorance and slavery, to atone for the sins of the primordial father and mother.

The assertion that either the Left-Hand Path or Satanism was born of the twentieth century is absurd. The seeds of these lines of thought begin in [at least] 700 B.C. in Hesiod's *Theogony*, and his story of Prometheus, who stole the divine fire from Mount Olympus. From then on, many have followed along the path quietly in the darkness, either spiritually or philosophically. Nietzsche wrote of his Übermensch from *Thus Spoke*
Zarathustra, who presides over the death of God and fashions, from the vacuum of nihilism, a new self-serving morality; his only goal to achieve the pinnacle of human development. Crowley expressed these ideas with, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.", and his libertine lifestyle. LaVey, inspired by these predecessors, had incorporated many of these ideas into the Church of Satan.

While these thinkers didn't always identify themselves as Satanists, per se, they carried the torch. It's disingenuous to portray any organization as having a monopoly on the truth. To some degree, we must respect individuality in the absolute sense, or we become hypocrites. Pageantry and open hostility towards others only serves to stoke the ego and prove one's foolishness. If a group ousts you for challenging their coveted ideas, they're not Satanists. If they expect you to oppress others or humiliate them, they are bullies. If you take up these behaviors independently then stop pretending; you aren't fooling anyone.

In retrospect, it seems silly to have to delineate what it is so apparent. It is mentioned here because without this you're lost. Cultivate your will, teach others to do the same, and tolerate their understandings. Become a beacon of free thought and individuality – not for only yourself, but for everyone.

Atheism versus Theism

Detractors also use theism to exclude others from the Left-Hand Path. The absurdity of this argument lies in the fact that both the atheist and theist have the same fundamental beliefs. We, as Satanists, have no business denigrating anyone else's subjective reality in the first place. Attempting to make others conform to one expression of Satanism is demanding herd conformity, dogma, and displaying hypocrisy simultaneously. When we aspire to this level of freedom through a spiritual interface, is it not as valid as a mundane approach? The means by which we achieve our goal is aesthetic.

Cultivate your will, teach others to do the same, and tolerate their understandings. Become a beacon of free thought and individuality.
and irrelevant outside of what we find pleasurable. A materialistic worldview is a cage for our theist, but a lovely filing system for our atheists. Our atheists would see the spiritual worldview as nebulous, un-relatable, and indeterminate. Why must we haggle over our expressions of these principles? One paints and another chooses to play guitar to provoke the same feeling; do we argue that one of them is incorrect? Isn’t it the meaning that the artists are attempting to convey which more important? These misconceptions are the fundamental flaw in this line of reasoning; it’s evident that these forms are merely the vehicle that carries us along our path and nothing more.

Theistic Satanists seldom convert from other religions, so let's slay this myth here and now. They are far more likely to start agnostic or atheistic. Theism only begins when they know of Satan directly in some way. The mechanism by which that happens isn't something we can teach, but it isn't a product of blind-faith. You either perceive a Satan, or you do not. It's not what you’ve heard that matters here, but what you feel.

Learn from what you do not understand, support the base principles, and enable others to do so as well. We should always favor the high road over the path of divisiveness. Don't dampen the expression of others even when it offends your desired aesthetics.

“Anyone who says ‘we must try to understand those who make life miserable for those undeserving of misery’ is aiding and abetting a social cancer!” - Anton Szandor LaVey, The Satanic Bible

You're A Reverse-Christian, Not a Satanist

The idea of reverse Christianity is another myth promoted by the hegemony. Theistic Satanists do not believe in the Christian scriptural elements or their theology. I paraphrased a story from The Bible to illustrate the core principles of Satanism. It doesn't mean that we, as theistic Satanists, value those texts or regard them as truthful. These stories are only windows into the thoughts of these old minds. Accepting those beliefs would make one a Christian that is betting on the Devil to win. These people are not reverse Christians; they believe in the biblical narrative completely. One would
have to ascribe to the doctrines of salvation or sin, for example, and use that as a map of what you should do next. In reality, this only happens when a Christian doesn't get enough attention. They feign demonic possession or make Faustian pacts as an act of mental masturbation. What better way to achieve the status of an attention whore? Eventually, all of a sudden, they claim born-again status to celebrate their victory over the Devil, and pat themselves on the back.

Reinforcing one's own confirmation biases is not the way of the theistic Satanist. Our theist doesn't forgo the discernment of the Left-Hand Path; they need to apply it more due to their psycho-spiritual interface. They may borrow from texts like the Al-Jilwah, The Satanic Bible, classical grimoires, demonolatry or even paganism; though none of that is required, some people need a scriptural or historical context to inspire them. For others it's merely a curiosity.

Worship in Satanism doesn’t involve the sycophantic behavior of mainstream religions. It's like paying homage to a respected teacher or ancestor. One is grateful, but not subservient. We do our will, not Satan's. This misunderstanding causes a great deal of trouble for our atheist friends!

The persecution is, in this regard, counter-productive to our community. These actions are no more justified than the inquisitions and bigotry of the days long passed. We must rise above this or emulate what we despise the most.

"Intolerance is evidence of impotence." -- Aleister Crowley

Pimping Satanism for Fun and Profit

It seems popular amongst the forces of the hegemony to ride on Satan's coattails. Some groups are using it as a front for their Nazi beliefs, while others are using it to line their pockets with membership fees. Many are using Satanism as a facade for some eviler-
than-thou gobbledygook – they would drop Satanism for something like Islam if that appeared more extreme. Another masquerades as a temple but operate as one giant social activist organization. They use Satanism to trigger the “normies”, but at least seem honest about and aware of that fact. How does one become more independent or wise through the involvement with this nonsense?

Undoubtedly, some could argue that these are some type of antinomian manifestations, but I beg to differ. They are profiteering, deceptive, and/or off-topic diversions that make us seem foolish. When are we going to take our religion seriously? It’s this ignorant poisoning of the well that seems to go unaddressed. New people approach the Left-Hand Path all the time, and we greet them with a total shit show. They don’t see wisdom when they look at Nazis, nor independence in a cult of personality formed around some Magus. Is there superiority in being the advocates of violence or intimidation? Where is the rejection of conformity in the appropriation of Satan toward political ends? Successful activism is forcing others to live according to your beliefs. Whether those ideas are related to noble causes of personal sovereignty or the resistance to religious indoctrination is irrelevant. Preoccupying yourself with meddling in other people’s lives is not congruent with any manifestation of Satanism. If those in your vicinity enjoy spiritual slavery, why are you a stick in the mud? Let them have it; they’re probably happy!

Reconciliation

I’ve stepped on some toes, and now it’s time to offer the olive branch. The point of this treatise wasn’t to draw more division between us, but to encourage folks to stop taking the bait. If Satanism, as a path, is to move forward, then we must murder these sacred cows. The others that came before us provided a model, but we must perfect it and remain adaptable. If not we’ll learn all about social Darwinism the hard way.

The first thing we can do is stop sabotaging ourselves by beating each other to the ground. We are all limited by...
the extents of our understanding of the subjective and objective world and are modifying this as we go. It is not a fixed perception, nor should we presume that to be the case when we deal with others. None of that justifies the hostility toward those who merely dare to disagree with us on any matter. We have to learn to meet them where they stand and walk with them, not undermine or embarrass them. Our sacred duty then is using our powers to red pill everyone. We cannot do this through aggressive means, or we invoke The Backfire Effect and work against ourselves.

"The backfire effect occurs when, in the face of contradictory evidence, established beliefs do not change but actually get stronger. The effect has been demonstrated experimentally in psychological tests, where subjects are given data that either reinforces or goes against their existing biases — and in most cases people can be shown to increase their confidence in their prior position regardless of the evidence they were faced with." -- RationalWiki

To combat this, we must ask more than we tell, explain the benefits of our ideas, and allow tempers to cool when things heat up. While The Backfire Effect is associated with persecution complexes, it is not just an affliction of our common religious zealot. Many of those who identify with the Left-Hand Path are equally likely to succumb to this trap. An extremely wise individual may be able to distance themselves from the subject matter, but an even wiser one avoids placing the other party of a conversation in that position. If our goal is to represent the freedom of the Left-Hand Path then how do we achieve it by shoving others toward slavery and delusion? Besides, they probably won't find a single fault in the value of the ideas; they'll presume the one uttering them is an asshole. It won't even be absorbed deeply enough to be considered. Master this lesson or waste countless hours of your life working against everything you claim to believe!
Secondly, we must reject the charlatans. The groups representing Satanism and the Left-Hand Path must devote themselves to this end. No pimping, no sell-outs, no activists, no hate groups, and no dogma. They’re not developing the path, instructing others, or building us up. They are cancer! Their past successes don’t indicate future results. Seemingly, they have failed to realize that it doesn’t matter who was first, but who is the best. The only business of a Satanic group should be in the making of the future masters of that path. However, to be clear, I don’t mean that hierarchically. Giving titles, seeking the approval of others, and stoking egos are all wasted efforts. All those actions display is the insecurities inherent in these groups. Their quest for status has made them slaves to a collective, and they no longer serve a purpose. Nothing is more patently antithetical to the nature of the Left-Hand Path.

Lastly, that begs the question of who are these Masters? How will you know them? They’re the ones with nothing to prove and can debate the subtler points of any subject without taking it as an offense when you disagree. Nor do not need to win you, because they’ve already won themselves. Never will they demand that you believe them, but work within the context of your understanding. They teach seeking no reward except helping another on to the path. Our master never forgets they are a still a student. They are still honing themselves until their last breath, and are continually evolving. They will take the old and the new ideas to the battleground, murder them all, and loot the spoils from either. They have not only harnessed their conception of the universe, but their emotions as well. They are not vain, arrogant, offensive, lewd, demeaning, or egotistical. Those are the traits of school-aged children, not these elusive masters!

Stop paying homage to the corpses of the long-dead icons and the organizations that they spawned. Free yourself from all limitations and show others how to do the same. Only then, does one embody the essence of Satanism and the left-hand path!

*May The Black Flame always point you toward the truth!*

*Hail Satan!*

- M
The Paradox of the Black Flame

Setamontet

(Setian)

First we should consider that the Prince of Darkness (known to us Setians as the Egyptian god Set) infused His Essence within a biological creature (humanity). As basic humans we are animals with natural instincts just like all other Earthly creatures. However, we are become, as enlightened beings, Gifted by Set, a duality, a combination of both natural/physical and non-natural/metaphysical attributes. We have been artificially endowed with sentience and have developed and continue to evolve higher intellect. Like other animals have a heightened sense of sight, sound, smell, we have been artificially endowed with a heightened Sense of Self.

Here lies the paradox, a double-edged sword scenario: as we continue to Xeper, both individually, microcosmically, and macrocosmically as the human race – as we continue to evolve more and more in being, as we must in order to keep the Black Flame burning – we are strengthening its powers within us. Thus, in the process our intellects and ambitions, our emotions, our human/animalistic predisposition for dominance over the world and control over other weaker creatures are magnified.

It is human nature for the strong to enforce its superiority over the weak. It is a part of our nature to kill and war with one another in our quest for dominance. Nazi Germany of WWII is a prime example of this predisposition of human nature on a mass scale in modern times, and nature, as we know, can be extremely cruel and apathetic. The Nazi regime was a terrifying glance into the savageness of human depravity and a dire warning of misdirecting the awesome power of the psychic energies of higher intellect combined with our natural instincts for conquest and dominance.
And now, with our ever advancing knowledge in mathematics, science, and engineering, we have developed the ability to annihilate the entire human race and lay waste to the Earth itself. I think the Prince of Darkness was well aware of the consequences of Gifting, then, prehistoric humans. Earthly creatures whom he understood could possibly be the most receptive of the Gift, and benefit from its powers. We can either use the Gift to evolve and bring into being our highest, most noble, and divine aspects and possibilities – or we could choose to use it to develop new ways to conquer and control others, destroy at whim, and possibly end up obliterating ourselves and our world. It is the most fatal of choices.

Of course sometimes destruction can be beneficial and necessary, to make way for the new. But then, it has always been easier to destroy than to create. However, you can only destroy so much until there is nothing left to destroy but yourself. Creation has infinite possibilities. We, the members of the Order of the Serpent (as well as the great nobles of other Fanes of the Dark Lord) aspire toward the Quest of Xeper. Our collective ambition is that the membership of the O.S. also serve as guardians of the Black Flame and collaborates with the Prince of Darkness in the Infernal Mandate of re-creating the Cosmos in the glory of the Imperishable Will!

Why is it that the Dark Lord neither seeks nor desires to be the new "God"?

There seems to exist another cosmic paradox which concerns the Supra-natural One. In my understanding, the Lord of Darkness is the Ageless Intelligence of this Universe, the Highest of Life, who, with the force of his own mind and will, could recreate the Cosmos in his own image and become the new "God" or Cosmic Order. Set, however, is the First Principle of Isolate Intelligence, the supreme manifestation of the Prince ("First") of Darkness, the divine essence of singular identity and independent conscious existence.
If Set were to become the new "God", if Set were to him Self displace the Cosmic Inertia, he should be forced to become a new measure of consistency. Set would cease to be One for he should become All. He would lose that which identifies him as a unique independent consciousness, as he would be responsible for the new All, the new Cosmic Inertia, Set would lose his independence and his very identity. However, Set, the Greatest Black Magician in the Universe, in order to keep the Black Flame burning, in order to continually nurture and evolve his essence, Set must create, he must cause change to occur within the Universe, else the Black Flame becomes stagnate and dwindles.

There is a theory in some Setian circles that when Set understood this detrimental scenario it played an essential part in his brilliant decision to create others of the Dark Fire, i.e., Gifting that which would become mankind, in order to cancel this imbalance. Leaving a Void in which true creation could take form not just as Set but also as the independent individual minds and wills of the kindred of the divine spark. Spawning other beings to collaborate with him in the re-creation of the Universe in unique and unpredictable ways. Hence, Set would remain One, singular, independent, free from the All responsibility for the re-making of the Universe as a vast province more reflective of the Powers of Darkness; i.e. the new God or new Order of the Cosmos.

The Majesty of Set neither seeks nor desires to be the new "God" - the omnipresent manifestation of the new natural order of things. Although, he exalts and nurtures the singular presence of his own independence and unique mind and will, and that of His Own Kind - the Elect... us!

Xeper and Remanifest.
Gnothi seauton.
Immersive Theater as Melodrama and Ritual

NEMO 93

(Acosmic Draconian)

I’m standing a bar that looks like I’m inside 1920’s Jazz Club, sipping a glass of Absinthe. Suddenly, I’m told to finish up my drink to be ushered inside what would become an exploration of my shadow and an invocation of Hekate. I have no choice but to sling back the tall glass of Absinthe, creating a lucid dreamy effect before walking through darkness into a surreal world with the message “fortune favors the bold.” Occultism and theater have always been entwined. In the Planetary Magick volume of Gems from The Equinox, a series of 7 Planetary rituals that Crowley wrote almost short plays for, and designed to be performed seven nights in a row at a theater. Shakespeare is also notably linked to the Occult both by the inspiring sections and title of the Book of Oberon, an old Grimoire from the time of Shakespeare, and MacBeth. MacBeth is known as “the Scottish play” and it’s known to be a cursed play, where it is seen a bad luck to say the name of MacBeth [in a theater]. This is sometimes linked to the famous conjuration by the three witches. These witches and their worship of Hekate has also led to rumors of the play being divinely inspired by Hekate herself. In fact, once I finish that glass of Absinthe which puts me in a shamanic state of gnosis, I’ll be immersed in the world of MacBeth for two hours.

So what exactly is immersive theater and how will I be transported to the world of the cursed Scottish play? Immersive theater dates back to circa 2008, give or take a few years, in which the first famous immersive theater event was put on and gained attention. It started out as an alternative to traditional Halloween houses where you would walk through with a

Occultism and theater have always been entwined.
group and have people pop out and scare you. In fact, said Halloween Houses have evolved into a million-dollar industry with sets and props to rival immersive theme parks – like a twisted nightmarish version of Disney World, but they’re lacking an important thing: intimacy. You see, a typical haunted house is much like a theme park ride, you’ll gain some adrenaline and see good make up and effects, but you won’t have too many personal interactions, nor the ability get truly lost in this world. That’s where Alone, the first immersive theater event, comes in. To set it apart from other houses it required you to sign a waiver and go completely in. This waiver allows the actors in the house to touch you as well document the consent to mature and adult situations. It’s not uncommon to see challenging or difficult sexual contact in the wave of Extreme Haunted Houses inspired by Alone. In addition to this, going in completely by yourself allows you to forget that this is a haunted house for a few hours.

While the Extreme Haunted House business has certainly taken off, it wasn’t the alternative of an R-rated House that made it so popular. It was the intimate nature of this performance, a show that you experience completely by yourself and that you yourself become the star in. This is there industry began to mature and split off. The theater portion became the more prominent half in more artistic hot spots such as New York City and parts of England. Theatre company, entitled Punch Drunk, began to put on these high budget interactive plays throughout England, including a retelling of Faust. There was a night when only 3 people showed up to their performance of Faust, which involved being stalked by elusive creatures in the woods and the climax of running to a field where fireworks are launched off the coast and you see you are surrounded by living scarecrows. Emursive was impressed
in offered them the funding to put in a show in New York City entitled *Sleep No More*, the Noire retelling of MacBeth I described earlier in the introduction. Darren Lynn Bouseman, the director of *Saw II-IV* and *The Devil’s Carnival*, attended *Sleep No More* and fell in love deciding to blend the high quality intimate theater production with extreme haunted houses instead emphasizing intense psychological terror. The success of this has lead to a prominence of theater and psychological format in Extreme Haunted Houses, rather than the purely physical experiences that have popped up in certain areas such as New Vegas.

What does this new form of entertainment have to offer for the occult? The ability to literally face your demons in physical form, rather than astral, and the ability to know thyself by testing your limits. My experience in *Sleep No More* would lead me to describe it as a massive ritual. It’s not uncommon to hear about acting as a form of channeling. In addition to rumors about how Heath Ledger’s method acting the role of Joker may have affected him, actors such as Johnny Depp have confessed that the roles of Hunter S. Thompson and Jack Sparrow have taken a permanent place in his psyche and will repeatedly come back. A true actor, even if it isn’t method acting, gets incredibly deep inside the head of the character and portrays it to the point where it feels incredibly real. This happens more so in theater, where they have to portray the character every night or every other night for a long duration of at least one year. The chemistry these actors form is often felt in person. This becomes even stronger when the fourth wall is demolished and you’re participating the play. If you combine the idea of ritual as performance, theater as performance that taps into certain energies, and a play rumored to be divinely inspired and cursed by Hekate – a goddess associated with witches – then you get the perfect
storm for a real ritual. Particularly when Hekate is written as the center of the show, and a practicing occultist already experiencing frequent synchronicity partakes in chemognosis of an alcohol that creates a dream-like effect.

Sleep No More is quite unique in the way it is performed. The play is performed in complete silence favoring interpretive dance and takes place across 5 floors with different sets. It is my opinion that this focus on physicality and dance is what creates an effect similar to an invocation, as the whole performance is giving reverence through sacred silence and dancing is often linked to shamanism. Those who are attending the play are given masks to mark them as guests and to create a sort of comfort in anonymity. You see, as the play takes place throughout 5 stories, the viewers of the play are invited to walk freely out as they please and follow whichever actor catches their fancy and pick up and examine any props as they like. In my two hours within Sleep No More, I was able observe an orgy at a Witch’s Sabbat, follow the Goddess Hekate as she manipulated events, communicate with an actor playing the shadow self who wants to befriend and redeem me – I completely empathized with the actors. It is again the focus on dance that allows the empathetic transfer of energy between actors and audience that creates a personal, intimate touch. As the choreographer herself stated in an interview: “I think dance can express humanity directly [more] than any other art form, it is one thing when someone says to you… ‘I’m depressed’, but when you see someone grief stricken, or ecstatic, or in agony, you recognize their state immediately before they say anything.”

I would highly recommend any occultist within road trip distance of an interactive theater not only attend the event but perform a ritual or statement of intent for it to be a magical experience, or whatever I was able observe an orgy at a Witch’s Sabbat and follow the Goddess Hekate as she manipulated events.
their way of tapping into the synchronicity wavelength might be, as that is exactly what I did. I will begin to share personal details of my interactive theater experience to show how eerily accurate it can get and the benefits of it. In a way, it seems that when you are given anonymity and empathy your subconscious guides you, and actors skilled in this intense form of improv can react to it. At the time, I was dealing heavily with temptation in repressing my shadow. I was honestly not aware of how much I was repressing it at the time, and the play became a ritual that led to my acknowledgement of it. It all started when I walked into a room where a man was performing a dance that seemed to indicate he was convulsing from poison on a pool table.

Everyone gathered and watched the high energy performance, but as I explored it from different angles, I saw my shadow sitting back at a table. I had no indication this actor would come to represent my shadow at the time. He was the bartender sitting down at the table washing two glasses rather coldly, which indicated he had a drink with the man convulsing on the pool table and poisoned them. Rejecting the show on the pool table, I instead sat opposite of the bartender and observed him throughout the night.

The themes of MacBeth were really relevant in my life at the time: a femme fatale, shadow selves, occultism, lust – not in a sexual sense, but as worldly desire given too much value that now controls you. It would be no surprise that the next important scene I stumbled across was the witch orgy in the graveyard. In the original play, this is where MacBeth is given prophecies regarding his rule and downfall. However in Sleep No More it is depicted as a rave with strobe lights, EDM, and simulated sex. When theatre is silent, visual symbolism often takes prominence and the loss of innocence recurring in Sleep No More. The climax of the rave begins with the depicted sacrifice of a
baby, and evolves into a frenzied orgy only rivaled by those in the Dionysius myths. MacBeth, accepting his fate as murderer, gives a simulated blowjob to a naked man wearing a goat head portraying either the Devil or Baphomet. In retrospect, all that pops into my head is Crowley’s “O Satan! O Phallus! Give me suck!” from Liber Samekh. While the way I describe this may seem like too on-the-nose symbolism and a mixture of absinthe, well designed immersive sets, and the ability to literally get lost has created this incredibly surreal view of events – It also highlights how unique one’s experience is, as several people who have attended Sleep No More have not experienced the witch’s ceremony. Also, in the back of the graveyard Hekate sat at the table watching over the preceding.

At the end of the hour the play climaxes, then begin the cycle again allowing you to take more in. Having created an extreme gnosis using Absinthe, shock from the orgy scene, and empathy from expressive physical movements I was now ready to begin my personal role in the play. After wandering through the sets unable to find action, I come across the bartender as before, participating in normal bartender duties. I watched as this character had intrigued me earlier. Then it happens – he recognizes me. He holds out his hand to me and I take it, he pulls me in then pushes me away and walks back to a door behind the bar. I follow him in and he closes it behind me and takes off the mask and shushes me making me feel vulnerable. He pours me a shot of whiskey and shows me a card trick where he miraculously chooses the exact same hand as me. It’s that vulnerability that allows his message to stick when I stand up to have him pull me to him where he whispers “You and I are both alike, ruled by our darkest desires” as he points to the cards and empty shot glasses respectively.

One of the notable experiences is seeing a tailor turn all the mirrors away from us in a hallway before going into the childrens’ room and

Audience members take the roles of the spirits
sewing up a teddy bear. To me, that was the perfect description of a refusal to acknowledge the shadow, and the longing to reclaim innocence by repairing any harm a repressed shadow does. The other was when: I was following the bishop, who was a dwarf, creating a Twin Peaks vibe around, when the Bartender comes in to receive the package containing the poison. The Bishop gives him a crucifix to persuade him not to do it. He examines it and I just happened to be standing in the exact spot that was next to his mark for the scene, so he recognizes me and looks at me as if he was meeting an old friend. He gave the crucifix to me, looking as if he was longing for redemption but couldn’t acquire it, telling me to find it and not make his mistakes, with nothing more than an action before preceding back to the bar and poisoning the man from earlier.

Researching what happens in the play provided that the Bartender’s story, which I never actually saw, proved eerily accurate to mine at the time, and the cyclical nature of the play involves a time-loop where these characters are destined to play out their downfall repeatedly. The unnoticed voyeurism as the audience behind masks, as well as a performance retelling the monologue where Lady MacBeth reaches out to ghosts, illustrates that the audience members take the roles of the spirits. Incidentally enough, I had just finished reading The Invisibles, where King Mob astral projects back to the 1920’s. If Hekate can inspire a divine play, can she be invoked into an actress performing her surrounded by imagery that same play and fill it with magick?

The other valuable offering that immersive theater gives is a safe but challenging arena to test our limits in the form of extreme haunted houses. The house by Darren Lynn Bousman, The Tension Experience, started an ARG using social media and impromptu, real-life interactions between
actors and people on the streets. The use of social media allowed them to data mine participants so that they would be able to make the experience more personal. Among many scenes in the house was a scene where the audience member is made to stare in the face of a man and hold them, as an actor screams at the participant that this man is mortal and will die one day, just like you, and everyone and everything you love. It is in intense in ways that would prompt an existential breakdown in many people. There’s haunted houses that allow actors to grab and carry you off, in a particular house there was an actor who put a participant’s hand in front of what appears to be a running buzz-saw. However, if I wanted to test my physical limits, I would run an obstacle course.

To me, these houses provide a psychological equivalent of an obstacle course. It’s extremely important to know your limits as an occultist, particularly your psychological ones, and there is no better way to test it then to leave your comfort zone. Michael Kelly suggests seeing how far you can run before you can’t anymore. To be aware of physical limitation, I recommend confronting your fears and darker parts of the collective unconscious.

I recommend confronting your fears and darker parts of the collective unconscious ask what I believed in the afterlife before being forced into a closed coffin, blindfolded, was forced up against a wall where I had my comfort zone invaded by someone who resembled Buffalo Bill, was stated to be a pedophile earlier in the show, had actors attempt to convince me I had dissociative identity disorder, and was threatened with “electroshock therapy” where I had to place my hands in a sink full of water before strobe lights went off and speakers filled the room with the
sound of electricity. As I
said before, it was truly a
psychological obstacle
course designed by a
Sociologist, but it offered
many fruits. I was able
to healthily confront
fears that lay in the back
of everyone’s mind, as
well as learn how I would
feel within certain
situations, and test my
own ability of composure.
If to work with the
Cthulhu mythos is to
expose yourself to all
your deepest and darkest
fears in your
subconscious, then to go
to an immersive theater
is to face those
subconscious fears in
physical form.

To work with the Cthulhu mythos is to expose yourself to all your deepest and darkest fears
The Rite of Blasphemy aka The Guide to Going to Hell Forever

MindMaster
(Theistic Satanist)

Since there seems a lot of interest in Satanic Rites as of late, I went through the trouble of summarizing one of mine. Feel free to use it as you see fit. Feedback always welcome.

The purpose of the rite is to formally reject the beliefs you've been subjected to. You could modify it to any faith, it's just a framework. It's even pretty useful in the context where there are some residual beliefs remaining. I'm a Theistic Satanist, so it's written to that direction, but I have no doubt you could modify it to work for anything. I don't believe in The Bible, but this is just in case some part of you does unknown to you. A spiritual sanity check, if you will. :D

The Rite of Blasphemy aka The Guide to Going to Hell Forever

Introduction

I may first caution the reader in that this procedure is powerful and irrevocable if done in the right frame of mind. This has a permanent effect, and its purpose is to cleanse the remaining inhibitions from your soul so that it may be purified in darkness and by fire, and dedicated to Satan. This should not be attempted if you would possess any regrets should you do so. The best time to do this is once you know this is your path and you are never going back. You may even repeat it occasionally if you feel the need to reinforce your beliefs. If you are not a Traditional Satanist then you may modify the prayers below to fit your viewpoint, but I am what I am so this how I write.

How we're going to hell...
Apparently, there is only one way to make sure you are going to hell; you must blaspheme the Holy Spirit. We may as well quote the Christian Bible here and make sure we are driving the point home. Whether or not there is a literal hell is irrelevant; the point is that you will never be able to be turned back to Jehovah.

Matthew 12:31-32

31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mark 3:28-29

28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemates against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.

Now, there are all sorts of exemptions for clauses where you may have been in anger and said harsh words, so what we are going to do is called premeditated blasphemy. We are going to make an effort to acquire things for the rite, and spend several days thinking about it before we engage. This should be done in a way that if any of this information from the Bible were true there would be no going back. You must intellectually and spiritually completely reject the faith which you are blaspheming without any reservation, and know that no matter what your fate it is better than that of an eternal slave!
The Holy Spirit is, unfortunately, a rather nebulous thing, especially since most of us have learned of this in our youth. It is rather formless and nonspecific. The Holy Spirit basically has four classic traits:

- **It has a mind and is a person!**
- **It bears witness to Jesus**
- **It intercedes (speaks) between the saints & Jesus (when he was mortal), and Jehovah (the father)**
- **It is symbolically represented by a dove.**

This concept, needless to say, is a rather ridiculous one from the start – that aspects of a god needs an intermediary. I am sure you can find plenty to reject and insult at this point. The Holy Spirit seems mostly concerned with delivering the message of the Hebrew god, whether it’s good or bad. Any questions not made clear here can be explained somewhere on Google. Determine what this means to you and what you dislike the most about it. On to the ritual framework!

**Ritual Items**

You will need to obtain three symbols or offerings of the faith which you reject. These can be crucifixes, Bibles, pictures of Jesus, or anything else that will burn. Anything that is a symbol of that religion which can be destroyed or defiled is usable for this purpose. It is important that you go through effort to acquire these things, since that supports our premeditation clause. Obtain a black or red candle to be used during your prayer and meditation.

**Rejection**

You shall repeat this for three days in a row... Why three? It traditionally is the number of success. It also may be helpful to reinforce your act of retraction a couple of times.
The Prayer or Plea

Light the candles. Face the west, and pray to Satan to assist you in overcoming the false Christian teachings you have been subjected to. Use your own words, and make a point to address the things that you have found particularly troubling and contradictory. The more upsetting to you the better. Take your time with this really get into it. You should do these things verbally. I have found that the inner layers of our psyche are much more receptive to sound.

Renounce the Trinity

Face east. Spit. One by one, renounce Jehovah (or your name for him), Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Mary (if you are Catholic). It is best if you use your words for this. Take your time and feel free to swear, curse, and exorcise as you will. See and feel your ties to these things being destroyed. During this process you may destroy one of the pieces of junk you have obtained in any manner you enjoy.

The Prayer of Acknowledgement

Face west again. Pray again in your own words and thank Satan for his aid and liberating force. Whatever that means to you makes the best prayer. Put out the candle... and you are finished!

In Closing

There remains another reason to do this ritual -- it is possible for others to pray for you on your behalf. As long as you 'can be saved', technically you can be redeemed by the acts of others! When you die you may not know where your body ends up, or it may not be handled with your wishes in mind, and then you shall have a priest performing last rites.
over you. To most Satanists this is a completely disgusting concept, and this process of rejection shall forever take away any effect of this. Once you have followed this process there is no way back no matter what other people may do to you. Of course, you may decide that you don’t believe in all that; well that’s OK, then consider it a symbolic rejection.
Crowley’s Satanism
Frater V.I.M.
(Thelemic Satanist)

“I was not content to believe in a personal Devil and serve him, in the ordinary sense of the word. I wanted to get hold of him personally and become his chief of staff.”

- Crowley, Confessions

*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.*

Of all the topics associated with the Great Beast 666, perhaps the most divisive among occultists is the existence or non-existence of Crowley’s “Satanism,” and if it can be evidenced to exist, to what extent is it important to Thelema as a whole. Sparse as they are, Crowley’s direct discussions of “Satan” unashamedly rush to the very core of Crowley’s cosmology and worldview, and are not hard to find. But those who can’t stomach equating their Deities too closely with the “Devil” of Christendom will always find a way to shove the whole issue under the rug, usually by the method of denying all “Devilish” aspects to the word “Satan,” treating it only as the generic Hebrew term for “Adversary,” or, aimlessly wandering into discussions about the Arabic species of Jinn known as “Shaitans,” anything to get away from the figure of “THE Devil.”

In *Magick in Theory and Practice*, Crowley famously stated the oft-quoted line:

“The Devil does not exist. It is a false name invented by the Black Brothers to imply a Unity in their ignorant muddle of dispersions. A devil who had unity would be a God.”

Many see this line, rejoice that they have finally found the truth about Crowley’s views on Satan, and consider the case closed. Obviously, anyone who comes to such a conclusion from this line neglected to read the footnote to this passage on the very same page:
“‘The Devil’ is, historically, the God of any people that one personally dislikes. This has led to so much confusion of thought that THE BEAST 666 has preferred to let names stand as they are, and to proclaim simply that AIWAZ, the solar-phallic-hermetic ‘Lucifer,’ is His own Holy Guardian Angel, and ‘The Devil’ SATAN or HADIT, the Supreme Soul behind RA-HOOR-KHUIT the Sun, the Lord of our particular unit of the Starry Universe. This serpent, SATAN, is not the enemy of Man, but He who made Gods of our race, knowing Good and Evil; He bade ‘Know Thyself!’ and taught Initiation. He is ‘the Devil’ of the Book of Thoth, and His emblem is BAPHOMET, the Androgyne who is the hieroglyph of arcane perfection. The number of His Atu is XV, which is Yod He, the Monogram of the Eternal, the Father one with the Mother, the Virgin Seed one with all-containing Space. He is therefore Life, and Love. But moreover his letter is Ayin, the Eye; he is Light, and his Zodiacal image is Capricornus, that leaping goat whose attribute is Liberty.”

Now, for some reason, many of those who have noticed this supremely important footnote have seemed to somehow either not comprehend the gravity of this short statement, or purposefully try to downplay the importance. It is clear here that Crowley is not saying that an entity popularly known as “The Devil” does not exist. He is saying that the Christian concept of an anti-deity of pure moral “evil,” responsible for all the ills of the world, does not exist. Crowley clearly does not believe that the “God of any people that one personally dislikes” is non-existent just because you don’t like them. What does not exist is the false Christian characterization of “the Devil” as the enemy of Life, Light, and man. Also, Crowley is certainly not trying to say that Aiwaz does not exist in implying that it is a case of Aiwaz and Satan; nobody made that identification but Crowley himself.

What Crowley is referencing here by “confusion of thought,” and what has led to it, is the long, complicated, and often muddled definitions of who and what the Devil is. Crowley was more than acquainted with this long history and its confusions, and therefore opted to

To Crowley, Satan is Aiwaz, the author of the Book of the Law
“state simply” who and what “Satan” and the “The Devil” is to him. And, to Crowley, Satan is Aiwaz, the author of the Book of the Law, and is equated with Hadit, and also the “Spiritual Sun” behind Ra-Hoor-Khuit. Crowley is not arguing a case of mistaken identity here. He is arguing a case of mistaken character. He is not saying that it’s silly to equate Thelema with Satan because Satan is a concept of “evil” not shared in Thelema. He is saying that it is silly to equate Satan with a concept of “evil” not shared in Thelema.

Many will still object that the passage refers not to the individual Spirit known as “The Devil” popularly, but to etymological roots of concepts. I really hate having to repeat and emphasize parts of this footnote that everyone is familiar with, but I don’t really know what else to do in this instance. “Satan.” “Lucifer.” “The Devil.” One could get away with turning it all into a reference to Roman Venusian deities, Hebrew slurs, and Arabic demonology, if it were not for the fact that all three terms were used deliberately by Crowley in the same sentence. Crowley was more than aware of the history of those terms, and knew very well that if you use all three labels together for the same entity, (in this case for Aiwaz,) it makes it unmistakable who and what he means.

The uncomfortable (for many) conclusion, if one takes Crowley’s words seriously, is that Satan is literally the heart of Thelema. It is often objected that “Crowley never calls his religion Satanism.” This we will concede; he never did. However, Crowley’s vehement reactions to being labelled a “Black Magician” are legendary. Yet, for all the times he was openly called a “Devil Worshipper,” and the religion he preached, “Satanism,” Crowley’s righteous indignation is virtually non-existent.

I am not implying that Crowley was dishonest and his entire religion really is an inverted Christianity devoted to the worship of a fallen rebel from the court of JHVH. I am instead insisting that Crowley, while identifying the central figures of his religion with Satan, was teaching a radically different notion of who and what this being is, while maintaining that it is indeed the same being.
I think it would be useful to add a selection of excerpts from Crowley's diary entries during his stay at the Abbey of Thelema. Published in the rarely seen *The Magical Record of the Beast 666*, these diary entries exhibit even further Crowley's complete identification of Aiwaz with the Devil:

“This Ayin is then my phallic will, my Holy Guardian Angel, Aiwaz, who was afterwards called Satan.”

“Come, Come, Come, Aiwaz! Come, thou Devil Our Lord!”

“My light! O my father the Devil! It hath made all things one, being perfect, even as doth the Darkness!”

“And Her Concoction shall be sweet in our mixed mouths, the Sacrament that giveth thanks to Aiwaz, our Lord God the Devil…”

“I sing for God, our Devil, our Lord, Aiwaz.”

“. . . and know that all my joy, perfect, transcending sense, is given of Aiwaz, whom we call the Devil, whose name is Will, loud-uttered by cocaine, is Love.”

“Our Lord the Devil's their Word, the Word Thelema, spoken of me The Beast.”

And from *Liber Samekh*:

“Now this word SABAF, being by number Three score and Ten, is a name of Ayin, the Eye, and the Devil our Lord, and the Goat of Mendes. He is the Lord of the Sabbath of the Adept, and is Satan, therefore also the Sun, whose number of Magick is 666, the seal of His servant the BEAST.”
To this we may add further from *Magick in Theory and Practice*:

“The exalted “Devil” (also the other secret Eye) by the formula of the Initiation of Horus elsewhere described in detail. This “Devil” is called Satan or Shaitan, and regarded with horror by people who are ignorant of his formula, and, imagining themselves to be evil, accuse Nature herself of their own phantasmal crime. Satan is Saturn, Set, Abrasax, Adad, Adonis, Attis, Adam, Adonai, etc. The most serious charge against him is that he is the Sun in the South. . .

“We have therefore no scruple in restoring the ‘devil-worship’ of such ideas as those which the laws of sound, and the phenomena of speech and hearing, compel us to connect with the group of ‘Gods’ whose names are based upon ShT, or D, vocalized by the free breath A. For these Names imply the qualities of courage, frankness, energy, pride, power and triumph; they are the words which express the creative and paternal will.

The objection to using the same terminology Crowley was comfortable with ultimately rests on “but Aiwaz is NOT ‘EVIL’ and NOT A FALLEN ANGEL” hence “not the Devil.” It seems that not many are content to follow Crowley’s lead and simply “let names stand as they are” when it comes to someone’s worship of what they acknowledge to be “the Devil.” Many insist that ”Devil Worship” has to bear the meaning of “childish worship of nastiness for nastiness’ sake,” a nihilistic, religious manifestation of frustration towards the Life itself. But this is an absurd and misguided distinction to insist on making because it assumes the only way to define “Devil Worship” is by using a slanderous and negative definition of “the Devil.”

For too long it has been assumed and taught that for one to say “Satan wrote Liber AL,” it means one is defining who and what Aiwaz is by Christian theological concepts of Satan. But the exact opposite is what I am proposing: I am insisting that the theological concepts of
Liber AL should define who and what SATAN is, not that Christian myth should define the author of Liber AL.

To stress this point again: Proclaiming Satan as the author of Liber AL is NOT an assertion that Liber AL was written by a fallen god of “evil” rebelling against the Cosmos. Proclaiming Satan as the author of Liber AL is INSTEAD an assertion that orthodox religions have been entirely wrong as to THEIR characterization of the being known as SATAN, and Liber AL is HIS Gospel to man, whom He Loves.

Many Thelemites (and others) insist Crowley was “not Satanic” by sticking to the most narrow and Christian definition of Satanism they can. If Satanism isn't defined as the criminal, murderous idea that Christians have of it, and if the orthodox Christian theological viewpoint of Satan as a rebel angel who hates mankind is not accepted, then it's “not Satanism” to these guys. Basically, if the being Crowley refers to as Satan and the Devil repeatedly doesn't hate man and isn't a flunky angel, He’s “not Satan,” and the reverence of this “not Satan” Satan isn't a form of “Satanism.”

The hypocrisy of this stance is laid bare when the SAME individuals discuss gnostic, heretical (as they often do). Apparently, to these guys one can certainly be a “real” (indeed, sometimes even MORE real) “Christian” or follower of Christ if one does NOT accept orthodox Christian doctrine concerning Christ at all. Christ can be totally removed from Pauline conceptions and still be Christ, and his worship still a form of “Christianity.” But Satan?. Satan HAS TO BE exactly what He is in character and mode of being in orthodox Christian doctrine, or else he isn’t “Satan” at all, and His worship and/or veneration isn’t “Satanism.”

Another common objection against the notion that Crowley's system is Satanic consists of admitting that while Crowley did occasionally praise Satan, he also invoked numerous other deities from all sorts of cultures and traditions even more often. From Hinduism to

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*It was Satan, “the Devil our Lord,” who was repeatedly and bluntly identified with Aiwaz, the author of Liber AL.*
Greco-Roman paganism, Crowley did it all. He worked with Hermes, Astarte, Thoth, Shiva, etc.

This is all well and good, and very true. However, none of that changes the fact that it was Satan, “the Devil our Lord,” who was repeatedly and bluntly identified with Aiwaz, the author of Liber AL. And whatever else Crowley may have done, Liber AL is the cornerstone of his entire system and the foundation of Thelema.

Nor does it change the fact that Thelema is not merely non-Christian in a normal pagan sense. It is openly and actively ANTI-Christian. As Crowley himself explains in *The Djeridensis Comment* to Liber AL:

“There is no pre-existing “holy text” that Satanism was founded on for Liber AL to be in conflict with

“Aiwass leaves no shadow of doubt. He says with utmost clearness ‘Tear down that lying spectre of the centuries: veil not your vices in virtuous words: these vices are my service; ye do well, & I will reward you here and hereafter.’ . . . He does not merely tempt mankind to do what Christians call evil, he says that these vices are of the priesthood of Hadit, means to invoke Him, ways of coming to truth, ladders to climb to Godhead. We shall not be punished for doing wrong, as they call it. Both here and hereafter our reward is sure.’

Liber AL is not contradictory to classical Satanism, because after all, what is “Satanism” historically besides a term that covers any religious manifestation of the conscious worship of “Satan?” We have no written creeds or rules of conduct and morality from medieval witch-cults (which were explicitly centered around worship of the Devil, despite the fantasies of Margaret Murray). Their Satanism was not a “revealed religion.” There is no pre-existing “holy text” that Satanism was founded on for Liber AL to be in conflict with. If anything, the witch-cult could be seen as one of the many precursors or foreshadowing of the Law as encountered in the Old Aeon. And in the opinion of this author, the moral and theological concepts of Liber AL work to enrich Witchcraft/Satanism with a higher purpose and focus.
that was (as far as we can tell) only vaguely perceived by Satan’s cultists in centuries gone by.

I think any reader without an extreme prejudice towards the Devil and His works will at this point have no serious objections to the statement that Crowley considered “Satanism” to be completely in the bounds of what could be considered “Thelemic.” Hence Diabolists who have accepted the Law of Thelema are more than justified in practicing and promulgating forms of “Thelemic Satanism.”

A few words need to be said for those who try to skirt around everything discussed above by conveniently asserting that the Holy Guardian Angel is merely Crowley’s “Higher Self,” and hence not an objective reality outside of Crowley’s psyche. A far younger, far more naive and inexperienced Crowley was content to flirt with the idea that spirits and gods are nothing but parts of the mind. But, experience tends to cure one of false notions. And in Crowley’s case, this certainly happened as he grew in knowledge and experience. Crowley’s dealings with Aiwaz-Satan, his “Holy Guardian Angel,” over the course of many years from 1904 onward made him convinced of the external reality of his HGA. This is probably the Crowley quote that bothers a lot of his fans more than even his admissions that Aiwaz is THE DEVIL:

“The Holy Guardian Angel is not the 'Higher Self' but an Objective Individual. . . .”

Taken from Magick Without Tears, Crowley’s final work, this statement represents Crowley’s final position on the matter. A position informed by decades of living with the spirits, and not an opinion formed while he was still wet behind the ears and experimenting with the Golden Dawn system. While I’m aware most love early, “seeker” Crowley, it’s more than worthwhile to see where all that seeking eventually took him. And where it took him was a rejection of mere symbolism, and a rejection of the concept, beloved by so many, that it’s ultimately “all in your head.”
In his introduction to a modern edition of Crowley’s *Magick*, the current head of the O.T.O., William Breeze (Hymenaeus Beta), goes to great lengths to try to downplay Crowley’s Satanism, even going so far as to assert that “Crowley nowhere says that Satan dictated *The Book of the Law*.” Seeing as how Crowley explicitly identified the author of the Book, Aiwaz, with “Satan,” “the Devil,” on more than one occasion, Breeze’s insistence on the contrary is a tad dishonest. He knows better. Curiously though, on the very same page where he makes the above remark, he also goes on to concede that “if he [Crowley] were a Satanist, it was on his own terms.” And to this, I would wholeheartedly agree. That’s ultimately all I’m trying to really get at with this article: Crowley’s beliefs were a form of “Satanism” by the most basic definition of the word insofar as he placed Satan at the heart of his own spirituality, and devoted his life to a Holy Text that he believed was dictated by none other than Satan, whom he called his “Master.” And Crowley was certainly entitled to forge a Satanism “on his own terms.” When Crowley received *Liber AL*, and was confirmed as the Beast 666 by its author, Crowley had in effect achieved his stated goal of getting hold of the Devil personally and becoming, for the time, His “chief of staff.”

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Satana Vobiscum!

Frater V.I.M.

When Crowley received *Liber AL*, and was confirmed as the Beast 666 by its author, Crowley had in effect achieved his stated goal of getting hold of the Devil personally and becoming, for the time, His “chief of staff.”
On Life Being Death – Interview with Sutekh

Sutekh

(Satanist)

This is a short interview of mine that I have decided to develop also as an article to contribute to the Order for members and non-members to take a look at.

Interviewer: Ok, let’s start this from the very beginning. What drew you to your fascination of Death and the symbolism of it?

Sutekh: Well when I was little, I developed a fascination for skulls. I recalled seeing a friend of mine wearing and showing off a belt with a skull as the buckle. The symbolism of the skull drew my attention of what it meant to me. Of course he told me to get this at target. My parents however chose to raise me traditionally conservative, they would never allow me to get a skull or other things that they deemed bad or inappropriate.

Later on, I went to an Evangelical Christian school. They were also oppressive when it came to things that you wanted to freely express on. At that time I wasn't allowed to wear things that was considered poor taste to their fucking views. This of course made my curiosity expand, being locked up in a controlling conventional environment.

I started to explore the Metal subculture at a young age, I developed an early taste in old school Metal including Black Metal. Over time as my tastes expanded in the Metal world, I started to find out about Melodic Death Metal, Death Metal, and Deathcore. Those three genres inspired my interests on Misanthropy, Sadism, and Death. It also influenced my viewpoints the most, the way I viewed humanity.
As I started reaching slowly to my adolescent years, I was freely exposed to the outside environment on the artworks of death including parts of the Day of the Dead designs. Growing up in California you'll find everything that a person who was never raised in the State may find strange and interesting.

My exposure to Music, the arts, the symbolism, including Slasher films, influenced my interest and the symbolism of death.

Interviewer: What made you realize that life is death?

Sutekh: Everything in life kills you, ranging from Car Accidents, drug overdoses, risks, smoking, drinking, certain STDS, cancer, the flu, freak accidents, etc. We all try to avoid death, knowing that we want to still keep and enjoy our livelihoods.

But not all of us can’t, we live in fears of death. Many of us are hypocrites, I’ll give you an example. My peers that I have known would say that smoking kills, but they are killing themselves by drinking liquor. This is what I mean by hypocrisy, on one hand they try to avoid the other way of death by also embracing the current way of death.

A lot of people may consider life just regular life, but they do not realize that we are at times the manufacturers of death. Clear examples of that is we produce weapons, we create wars, we create accidents, we produce drugs that kill, we make alcohol that slowly kills, we make cigars or cigarettes that can cause lung cancer, the list can go on.

To put it in words, we are producing the fields of death.

We are at times the manufacturers of death
Interviewer: You mentioned the concept of embracing death, can you doodle this out for us a bit?

Sutekh: Sure thing, you should never try to fear the ways of death that you may choose to explore. Instead you should embrace it whether you die or not. But a lot of us have trouble embracing some ways of Death, based on the panics, and worries of it.

Often times we may contradict ourselves saying that we don't give a fuck whether we harm ourselves in a slow process. But instead we become afraid if we are caught in another class of death.

I'll give you an example, a person might not care whether he is damaging his own body by drinking, smoking, or using drugs. But that person the next day who realizes that he has aids would live in fear dying. This is what I mean by contradictions. To wrap it up, its hard for us to say that we embrace death wholly but instead we only embrace the half of death.

Interviewer: One last thing I wanted to ask you, as I understand that I want to try to make this article short. This may sound slightly off topic, but would you say that your path has played a role concerning your beliefs and lifestyle?

Sutekh: I would say so, earlier in my academic initiatory studies of the LHP, certain group ideologies such as the ONA played a role in my beliefs of Antinomianism against my generation and society. I don't applaud or sympathize with the ONA and I would prefer to keep myself distant from the mentioning of them, but this is my honest answer.

Another fact is my adoption of the values of the counter culture, the concept of rejecting everything that your parents taught you, including the Conventional values that
are instilled in you are discarded away. The counter culture is the WLHP, whether others like it or not.

Interviewer: All right, it was nice meeting you.

Sutekh: Likewise!

Often times we may contradict ourselves saying that we don't give a fuck whether we harm ourselves in a slow process. But instead we become afraid if we are caught in another class of death.
Snow, Blood and Water

Snow had already fallen, maybe four inches as I stood on a hill at the edge of the woods. I didn't have a proper plan, exactly, but I had a rough idea of what I should do. The first thing I did was speak my invocations before shedding my blood onto the sigil embedded in my blade. Soon after I heard a voice in my head, directing me, telling me what I had faced and what I was to face as it entranced me and sucked my soul into the woods.

It was a very dark night, as most Winter Solstices are. I was happy to follow the path revealed to me cutting through briers, mud, ice, water and snow. I eventually came to follow a stream to follow it to "the source", which I assumed was a lake I once came across. I did so until I came across something parallel to the stream, tired and cold, that sapped the rest of the fire out of me. I turned back leaving the task unfinished. I was faced with something I couldn't accept.

"I've been a Satanist for almost two years!", I figured, "I am beyond what happened!". Parallel to the creek was something I would instantly recognize as a symbol of that which bound me like chains. As a symbol of hatred, ignorance and the past. I was effectively told that I needed to stand alone on the Left Hand Path and that I wasn't as mighty or as unfettered as I imagined myself to be.

I stubbornly refused that there was an issue to face, because it didn't fit with my conception of who I was. It even threatened and challenged some of my paradigm's underlying assumptions! My first ever working with Kali and I wasn't prepared to deal with the ramifications of what the fierce form had to show me. It was as if she decapitated...
my personal demons over my head, who likewise gushed their blood into the kapala that might as well been my own psyche. I did, however, finish following that path long after the snow had melted. I didn't like what I saw then either, but by then I was able to accept all that I saw along the creek until it reached a river, this time without her guidance.

Upon the Altar of Ash and Bone

There were other times as well, that I wasn't accepting of what the Darkness illuminated to me. At moments this could be when I would peer into mirrors during rituals in near pitch blackness, facing only my Shadow and what demons both real and metaphorical that wanted to come out and play.

One of my most unfortunate of these events was being performed over an old, dignified vanity set. This ritual space was adorned by countless pieces of art, charms, knives and even bones, blood and ashes surrounding a candle, Laxshmi idol, and an old jewelry box.

Peering at myself in the mirror during the ritual I saw forms in the mirror change, and I had a strong sense that I was soon coming across something much more primal and ancient than consciousness itself. I saw a flurry of demons and dark forces of whom's company I enjoyed on an athame's edge between fascination and pure terror.

I was pulled into a hadopelagic pit in the deepest depths of Leviathan's Abyss.

Before I knew it, I felt as if I was pulled into a hadopelagic pit in the deepest depths of Leviathan's Abyss. I had seen something abstractly Lovecraftian among the pitch black waters of the Cosmos. My entire being couldn't handle it sober let alone in its drunk, hypnotic state. I snapped as glass and wood shattered. It didn't matter what I might destroy, all that mattered was stopping the ritual!
I believe that we and our focuses both become vessels and mirrors during certain types of magical work. That Solstice night Kali had become a mirror for me, as I became a vessel for her. Similarly I had become a vessel for demons inside and outside of me to act upon as I stood in front of that mirror I would eventually destroy.

Are the Gods real?

Some might consider this a high form of psychodrama in the vein of LaVeyan magic, others the torment of the demonically possessed, or even a series of Jungian Descents. Contrary to but not mutually excluding any and/or all of those (depending on my mood and audience), I consider myself an explorer of magic and mind.

I stopped trying to drive myself too insane by trying to prove or disprove the existence of the 'gods' (or any spirit). I'm a pantheist, maybe even a transtheist. For me, knowing that Satan is real is all I need to know. In my view everything flows from and to him, like rivers completing the cycle of precipitation back into the ocean. Satan itself is transcendent of, but imbued in everything, even deities.

Despite my views though, what really matters is the efficiency of the practice and the results, not towards any specific limited effect but rather towards an overall increase in exploration and development of magical aptitude. This advancement is concurrent with discovering the transcendent "true self" and experiencing it. While development increasingly accurate models is a worthwhile goal, it is secondary.

To compare this, one of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy, Yoga (not to be confused with the bullshit pedaled by western "Yoga Studios"), sees personal deities (Īśvaras) as "tools" so to speak. This is not dissimilar to my view, considering Tantra's influence from Yoga. In other words in the world of magic, truth theory leans pragmatic.
Concept vs Reality

We Left Hand Path types have a tendency to think of the self as a philosophical object. While philosophy has its use, this approach can lack practical application. Although I would liken the fundamental nature of the self as a kind of microcosmic "Ground of Being"[1], so to speak, I would say that it's something that can be directly experienced and that also has certain immutable and mutable characteristics. In other words the "Self" isn't just some abstract concept of the fact that we exist as dualistic subjects, it's also literally who we are as both people and eternal souls.

In my view that experienced, lived self is comprised of energies which predate and give rise to said life-based consciousness. I believe that to have a "true self" experience is to tap into those fundamental forces of the Cosmos itself, even if only briefly or partially, in one of its myriad of manifestations.

I believe that this experience can happen on different levels with different amounts of "purerness" so to speak. I am by no means an expert at producing these experiences, but none the less I have done so before by way of magic and meditation. The most pure of these experiences are as if, if not, channeling the gods themselves and seeing yourself become aligned with them, like a series of geometric patterns orienting to create a symmetry between individual and divine. The specific experience will depend on the deity, energy or manifestation with which one is aligning and identifying with.

This is where many, like I had, start to shun what they see in their own reflection, by what the magical experience reveals. They are perturbed by the symmetry, seeing themselves perfectly mirroring the deity and believing that they might cease to be. It is, in my opinion not a monistic event. Of course it's distinctly different, but I would compare the experience to something akin to communion or possession.
To put what happens in this symmetry, in the words of King Satan's song Satanize:

[2]

I am not me before I kneel before thee
As thou is the concept of all of the selves
As to be what you are and not the one who you think you are
You might need little help from the god of this world

This leads us back to my story of the ritual in the woods. I wanted to be who I thought I was, this concept I created about myself. I was angry when instead of experiencing my projection, I experienced an unpleasant side of reality. The cause of this, and what I needed more of was a "little help from the god of this world." I needed more practice within Satanism and less theory.

Leviathan, Serpent of the Deep!

So how do we go about that? I would recommend that, while theory is important, we put ritual and magical work at the forefront. I once knew a person who would yo-yo between Satanism and Catholicism. When I finally met them in person I found out the reason; they never had done any magic or rituals as a Satanist. In their own words, they were just into the "philosophy. Without practice, they were never a Satanist! It's like saying you are a sea diver because you read books and watch tv shows on the subject, but unless you've been sea diving you are not a sea diver.

Huge changes in pressure, currents, just descending down into the ocean can be dangerous without preparation just the same as the Left Hand Path. Both contain an Abyssal realm even. The ancient Hebrews and Babylonians had no word for "nothing" but instead words meaning "watery chaos"; even in Hinduism there is references to the world as we know it being surrounded by a vast primeval ocean.[3] So there was waters, "as above, so below" in a manner of speaking.
In the Septuagint the world was formless in its initial state, the "waters of the void" (Tehom) being the foundation of reality itself. Even the Abyss was below Sheol, the underworld and grave of ancient Judaism, what would later be known as "Hell". If you can't even wade into the metaphorical photic zone in the ocean of magic, you won't ever find Hell. This is where the importance of preparation comes in.

Traditionally in Hindu Left Hand Path sects (known as Vāmācāra or Vāmamārga) there is an emphasis on the darker aspects of spirituality. They, being privy to the dangers of this, had a strict system of initiation and ritual rules. Despite this, there are lines of unbroken esoteric lineage deep in the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, save for when a human sacrifice catches the attention of authorities (as rare as it is).

To contrast, ever since Crowley western esotericism has essentially ceased to exist, and has been replaced by an "open occultism" so to speak. Before us, we have almost any text freely available. We are in a situation where we have a wealth of information. This leaves us in a unique situation that is both filled with potential and danger.

Hello, my name is Magician

I would say that the first step towards the deeper levels of magical work, that leads one to true self experiences is knowing who you are as an ordinary, mundane person. Just as the ocean exists on different levels down to the abyssal and hadopelagic layers, so might we say that we exist on levels. For the sake of this article I will only concern ourselves with our ordinary selves, our unconscious selves, our carnal selves and our "true" selves.

Magic can be used to discover any three of these, and perhaps the easiest form of magic is exploration of the ordinary self. In each case an exploration there are further levels of understanding, with the fullest understanding coming with sufficient time in the layer below.

Just as the ocean exists on different levels so might we say that we exist on levels
In the ancient Hebrew cosmology, when described literally, there would of been in the ocean floor for water to rise up from the Abyssal realm. This is where the water coming from underground were supposed to have originated in the Noah's Flood story. In my own symbolism, the Abyss is above the hadopelagic shafts that lead to "The Pit" that exists beyond it. So know when I speak of the Abyss, it's not the deepest level, or the primordial chaos of ancient Hebrew belief.

Some at this point might instantly draw parallels with Crowley's Abyss. This is an area I had to brush up on as I'm by no means fluent in Thelema, but from what I can tell, my hadopelagic zone is not totally dissimilar but I can't say it's an analog. This realm in/beyond the pit is needed to understand our own "True self" on the fullest level but it's not necessary to know or experience the True Self on a partial level.

Naturally reaching such a place, one would need to "cross" the Abyss in order to reach its deepest, watery depths from which no light and hence no sight would penetrate. Interestingly in my research for this article, I found out that Crowley said that crossing the Abyss prepared the magician for what he called "Shivadarshana"[4][5] which would be "Shiva sight" translated. In Kashmir Shaivism (Trika) we believe that realizing our identity with Shiva is the ultimate thing one can do, and thereby becoming, in western terms, the ultimate magician.

Know Thyself or cease to be

That said, I would disagree with Crowley, as I would with Buddhism, Advaita Vedanta and Samkhya that the personal self has to "hold back" or trap one in ignorance of their true self. In Buddhism, I've encountered both process theory and a belief in a lack of a true self / soul (anātman). In Advaita Vedanta and Samkhya the self has no action or individuation when it attains pure knowledge (Shuddha Vidyā). In Kashmir Shaivism, the individuated self (Aṇu) retains personalization and is the same "stream of consciousness". While Samkhya and Vedanata hold that the Ātman (soul) they believe that the layers of self around it are

Crowley said that crossing the Abyss prepared the magician for what he called "Shivadarshana"
illusion, and so they are destroyed.[6]

Perhaps it is because of Kaula (Kulamārga), a Vamachara sect of Trika, that I can say this isn't the case, and why I think that knowing the mundane and unconscious self is important to the magician. The Shiva Sutras of Vasugupta talk of the cit (limited mind) regenerating into citta (universal mind) but as a still individuated self that can act and express its self through Shakti (physical universe). Kaula takes this and follows the logic then, that the Aham (subjective self, which sounds suspiciously like "I am" to me) is a valid way towards this end. This includes artistic and sexuality as tools for spiritual growth.[7] Part of this is due to Kaula's lack of a distinction between purity and impurity in actions themselves.

Hence, again, to know yourself even mundanely is still important, but who said this is gonna be easy? For some of us it will be. I actually think the self exploration stage is relatively easy. I managed to do it by invoking spirits that guided me. At times I would mistake a spirit of my creation for something external. Some of them would pretend to be gods, but eventually they would reveal their true nature to be a part of me. Like voices, semi autonomous thoughts and possessing spirits brought up and revealed parts of myself I wasn't aware of. This could be extremely unpleasant or distressing, but not always.

The Will, Carnal, and Karma

Crowley spoke of True Will as "Orbits", which was pretty much the ancient idea of destiny. However today many conflate True Will with a more mundane will, and I think this is a common struggle since among Satanists and other LHP types we often think of our nature as more carnal. This leads us to be more likely to embrace a concept or perception of ourselves, perhaps an even idealized self based on a sense of indulgence. Often this self is coming more from some emotional or psychological need, to compensate for a shortcoming, hence the big ego and posturing common in certain elements of the 'community'. It doesn't help either that LaVey glorified the behavior of
children and wild animals as "pure" forms of Satanic behavior in his Satanic Bible.

Satanism aside, the potential for illusion when working with any black magic is particularly great, since with spiritual development comes what is called in Sanskrit "Siddhi's" (or powers) who's misuse can bring ruin to an individual. Such misuse can make one's idea of themselves get to their head and make them lose touch with reality! You ever noticed how people with such big "egos" (in the colloquial sense) seem to be so out of touch? That's no coincidence!

This all ties back into mistaking an idea of the self for the true self, or mundane will for "True Will". I suspect this is because by putting the carnal at the forefront we can fall into the trap of our instincts running haywire. This generates our sense of preservation which end up causing us to hold onto that which we are identifying with. In essence, part of us needs to die for us to be reborn as something greater. Many people resist change, and we are not immune to that.

The carnal drive has the potential to be concerned only with that which sustains the body, or that which the mind thinks will sustain it as well. We hold on fiercely to ideas of who we are, instead of exploring and furthering our understanding through self awareness and magic no matter where it goes. We might want to preserve our pride, or a theology, or even we just simply didn't want to be wrong about something.

This kind of attachment to things which brings ignorance is exactly what is meant by "karmic debt" within Hinduism. By only theorizing and creating these elaborate systems of what our "Self" is and how we can deify it, and not trying to experience our microcosmic ground of being, we are working towards wish fulfillment.
None of this is to say that the nature of our selves is totally out of our control. Earlier I said that our "true self" has certain immutable qualities, not that all qualities are fixed. The same flurry of elemental energies that give rise to our consciousness are themselves convertible. One could picture this as alchemy or the relationship between physical forces of matter and energy. I suffice with my own elemental system[8]. In my system, the elements can flip between light and dark states, and can move in specific patterns to become something else. Limited by choice but not given only one, I believe that Soft Determinism[9] is the correct answer, nicely between Free Will and Determinism.

So I would say that we can change our nature, even the nature of our "true selves" to a limited scope, because I don't think our true self contains every element in the same proportion. Shiva has many different forms from Rudra, Bhairava, and just plain old meditating Shiva with dreadlocks.

Our true self, as Shiva, is very much like one of these forms in my beliefs, Individuated but still Shiva. In Shaiva Siddhanta (normative Tantric Shaivism), the sect that Trika supersedes, they believe that the self becomes an ontologically distinct Shiva. In Trika, the dualism is reconciled into nondualism (in my own spin, based on my Yantra this is done via emenationism[9]) but not specifically monism.

Monism would imply that there is some totally unchanging self, since all is only one in absolute truth. In non-monistic nondualism (what is monism and dualism but two other dualisms?) There isn't just one in absolute truth, there is a plethora, hence, our true selves are not fully fixed and have transmutable properties both leading up to, and after the fact. I believe this is what is meant in the Shiva Sutras by Shakti becoming the expression of Shiva.[10] If one is given cosmically sourced will and power, why wouldn't it be so?

Our true self, as Shiva, is very much like one of these forms in my beliefs, Individuated but still Shiva
Mutability and evolution of the Self

I actually think this mutability is an unavoidable process of coming into greater awareness through exploration and experience (both in life and magically). This is analogous to the Setian concept of "Xeper", from what I understand, however Trika's view takes it much further, I'd argue.

I believe that Satanic Indulgence is one such means towards that. The real issue is when it becomes an end of itself, simply hedonism for hedonism's sake it ceases to lead someone further down the Left Hand Path. Understanding and exploring the unconscious, and why it causes our mundane selves to act in a certain way is necessary. Other than indulgence, this is most easily accomplished by meditation and rituals designed to bring the unconscious into awareness to where it is mutable, before sinking back down into the waters below.

Water Paper Meditation Technique

One such technique (of which I've forgotten where I read it) involves imagining sheets of paper with the problems written on them floating to the surface of a body of water in a pond (but for our sake let's say it's an ocean), and then you becoming aware, processing them, and then letting the ink fade before it sinking back down to the bottom. A lot of visualization like this can help in meditation and ritual, particularly when paired with appropriate symbolic actions.

In each of my stories in the beginning of this article, I eventually worked out what it was I saw, and what had to change. Not only did this help me in my normal day to day life, but I became more in tune with a sense of a "true self" since I was already working with magic. By way of working through the previously unconscious I had seen small glimpses of deeper levels, as if peering into the Abyssal realm where light does not dwell.
In nondual Hinduism we believe that it's our inability to perceive our true natures as divine as that which shackles us to illusion, even if we disagree on what illusion and truth is. When we go to sort out our mundane selves, we destroy that which holds us in denial or unintended ignorance, or at least alter it so it does not obscure our truth anymore.

Mastery over the Physical Self

Unfortunately, the unconscious is always in flux, and hence the Buddhists might be onto something with their Process Theory. However, if there is a deeper self, oh, let's say the carnal self that precedes the unconscious mind on the cusp of consciousness and emotion, then perhaps some things are unchanging and we can accurately predict the unconscious.

Funny enough, a lot of our actual unconscious brain processes are things like breathing, heart rate, and organ regulation. A very skilled tantric can control their body to the point of generating enough heat to stay warm meditating high in the Himalaya mountains, or go seemingly inhuman amounts of time fasting. We don't need to know every moment of the day what our bodies are doing, but simply having the power to summon parts of the unconscious into the conscious mind, is pretty much the same. You can easily practice this sort of thing by learning to lower your blood pressure simply through focus and thought, of which I am sure there is no shortage of guides online.

Finally! What's the True Self? How do I find it?

And finally, there is the "true self". What is it? Dunno. Well, I have a theory, but we all do really, and we are always wanting to talk about it and what it really is. Some in the
modern LHP believe that its the ultimate individuated self that transcends any connection to physicality. Others think it's finding your True Will or even something more mundane like living your life in perfect balance and fulfillment. Others might see it as becoming your full potential (and whatever that connotates for them).

In Kashmir Shaivism, we identify this as Shiva, the supreme I consciousness. I've never seen Shaivites as a general rule, say Shiva has only certain characteristics. While he is known to be the destroyer, a great warrior, and the first yogi... Shaivites do not limit him to these roles unlike the rest of Hinduism. While Vaishnavism is content to make him the destroyer, all sects of Shaivism give him all the roles of the Trimutive: the creator, destroyer, and the preserver. Hence, to become Shiva, is again, to become the ultimate magician.

But to me, we would be any myriad of Shiva manifestations based on our personalities and alignment with certain elemental energies, of which some could transmute to specific other kinds. So I suppose that I would say that becoming a deity is the view most accurate to my own. But is that literal? I don't know.

That said, I can give some practical advice on how to have glimpses of the true self and how to experience it, what to do to prepare and what to expect. I will cover this in five ways, a visualization meditation technique, taboo breaking, mirror work, direct encounters with a Satanic spirit guide, and the last a deeper meditation technique involving the use of music.

**Elemental Meditation**

The first technique involves imagining elemental energies, whatever you might assign them to be, radiating from a focal point. The elements should synchronize from its source, but disperse into themselves as they move outwards and synchronize again with some or all of the other elements in other ontological objects around you. If you meditate...
on this, you might start to get a sense of everything's interdependence in the environment.

This should at some point loop with you too, wherein you start to get glimpses of the relationship between the microcosm and macrocosm. The way energies move will tell you which elements you are naturally aligned with. By meditating on those elements and your connection to them, they may act as "mirrors" upon which you can see your own reflection.

Alternatively, you can replace or augment this with imagining a web of light, linking objects and things and spots together, by which all is connected, and how your presence and own energies influence the environment around you.

Taboo Breaking

This second method is perhaps the most dangerous. Many ancient Vamachara (LHP) sects, hell even some modern ones, would engage in cannibalism and other "impure" rituals. The ancient Kapalikas were said to even sacrifice people, although the validity and circumstances are debatable.[11] Well, us modern LHP can't really get away with breaking the law, so let's stick to what we can do.

Breaking sexual taboos is probably one of the most suggested ideas, but for many this either won't be enough or they won't be willing to do what might be necessary, given how accepting society tends to be today. For example Crowley spoke of homosexual acts as a catalyst for greater spiritual work, but obviously now days that doesn't have the same stigma for everyone. So, not considering that, in my view one of the best ways is to intentionally do what you would consider an "impure" act that disgusts you in some way.

This is again, potentially dangerous depending on the nature of the act, but it can bring out things in your Abyssal realm out of hiding into the unconscious, where it can be
fished up later in meditation or ritual. Likewise, "impure" acts break the dualistic attachment to ideas such as absolute good and evil, which tend to cloud one's vision of a self. Unfettered by a concern to view yourself in pure and impure terms, you can more clearly see your nature as it is, as opposed to how you perceive it to be.

This is one of the roles of cannibalism in Shaivite Left Hand Path traditions. A way to "shock" people awake not just in taboo but realizing that what you were eating is what you are as a physical person.

Use of taboo breaking and/or mirror work is dangerous

The second, safer form of working with mirrors not unlike what I did in my second story. If you focus on various aspects of yourself in a mirror in a dark room with no to little light, you are bound to bring something up. You can also evoke demons to interact with, also very dangerous, and see what they bring elementally. This method can be used to retrieve the darker elements, but it can also bring pleasant surprises as well. In this way you are looking to the lowest depths of the Abyss (perhaps with some demonic help).

You should make an effort to not blink as much as possible, and stare for a really long time. If you use a black mirror, you will probably need a candle somewhere. I personally never used candles and used a regular mirror. If you really want to up it, put a black trash bag behind your head, those alone can really play tricks no your mind and open your suggestibility to demons.

On some level, you are performing an optical illusion and having minor hallucinations (your brain just can't process what it's seeing anymore) but one could argue that that's the first step, before you stop seeing physically and your magical abilities cause you to see spiritually.

Word of Warning on the last two techniques
Use of taboo breaking and/or mirror work is dangerous particularly if not complemented with other techniques. These methods require discipline, or at least adequate preparation and some luck (or just a lot of luck). My second story occurred because I was drunk and thus I was less prepared. If you are unprepared you might fare okay when dealing demons, or yourself, but rarely both at the same time.

Also of note, malicious and vampiric spirits are drawn towards people performing this kind of magic, and traditionally black mirrors are used for evocation. Even if you are not aware of them, many spirits that exist independently of you will be around. They can possess you, influence you, or even they may just which to frighten you. Some feed off of your spiritual and emotional energy and if you are not shedding enough excess energy from the magic they may escalate their involvement in the work. You may also encounter other spirits both harmful and helpful, but hell if the novice can tell the difference.

Satanic Spirit Guides

The third method is much like the mirror work, but has the potential to be very demoralizing if you lack discipline or a tough skin. It involves evoking a demi-god that can act as a guide. They will give a "tough love" approach and be quick to point out flaws. But they will also give you ways to deal with it, or even encouraging you down paths that will help you. In fitting with a Satan, sometimes they might test you and your ability to reason with what they have taught you in the past by telling you to do something foolish.

They will likely ask of you to study and meditate, and generally work as guides. However, they will not always be with you or available. You must learn to summon them only when needed, and not more. They may come to you of their own volition and they will often have an allegiance with deities or energies of which you are aligned. They may appear threatening but rest assured you're pretty much as safe as you can be with them around. As long as you are showing progress along your path you will find that they will lend a hand.
They may require regular sacrifices. One of my favorites to offer for the longest time was my own blood, particularly when placed on elaborate geometric forms of art, that were then burned on the altar. In my experience they usually prefer some kind of symbolic offering, or of something you can freely give.

This method won't directly help you experience the true self, but the spirits can lead you to water, so to speak. They can't force you to drink it however. They may also point out things in you that will directly lead you to it. In many ways they can help you see things in that fuzzy zone between the unconscious and the Abyss.

**Deep Meditation with Music**

This is definitely the safest of all of these methods, although certain types of music can negate some of that safety, or at least make it potentially unpleasant. Meditation with music is probably my preferred method of meditation now days. Music should have no, to almost no words in it. I find that atmospheric music and psychedelic trance work best, but you can have luck with a variety of music.

As for a little bit of history as to why psychedelic specifically, psychedelic trance originated as "Dance Trance" in the late 80's and early 90's. It was intended to induce spiritual trances through dance in the listeners. This happened on the beaches of Goa, India, wherein later it became known as "Goa Trance" within a few years. By the turn of the millennium it would gain world wide appeal and it would be known as "psychedelic trance". So it literally was born out of trying to do what this technique uses it for (minus the dancing)!

Some examples of psychedelic tracks that I've found potent for this technique are LSD by Hallucinogen, Astral Vision by Party Heroes, Gift of the Gods by Cosmosis, Maia by Pleiadians, Kabbalah by Astral Projection, Aries by Talamasca, and Designer Drugs by
Sunstryk.

As far as atmospheric, pretty much anything by Cryo Chamber but particularly any of their Cthulhu, occult, nightmare, or dark magic themed music works pretty well. Another good choice is pretty much any of the work done by SUNN O))) Similarly some dark psychedelic like Diabolic by Silent enemy or Gates of Hell by BDZ can bring you to similar places (as can some of the tracks made by Baphomet Engine).

The main key to this technique is laying or sitting down as still as possible, with closed back headphones and losing all awareness of anything but the music through intense meditation to where intense visualizations start to form. For me, the point in which I totally am only aware of the music may take as long as 20 minutes. You should have a lot of music queued up that flows easily into the next, and you should aim for meditating for about an hour.

To give an example of some of that visualization, when I listen to psychedelic trance my mind enters an abstract realm where I perceive as a "soundscape". The dimensions are not quite like ours are, but there is movement and it's comprised likewise of the same elemental energies that our plane is made of.

By linking your mind through sonic vibration to this kind of abstract realm, you can start to see reality manifest in unfamiliar ways. In the case of psychedelic trance, fractals, tunnels, patterns of shapes and colors might appear. I tend to see sacred geometry when this happens, with tons of pentagrams and higher dimensional shapes transcribed into 2 dimensional representations which create mandala like patterns.

If you see these objects, know that they are not just figments of your imagination but much like real world yantras and mandalas, are representations of divine and cosmic principles. You may see manifestations of elemental energies or it may appear as more literal. In either case, in this hotbed of primordial chaos, you can look in yourself on a fundamental level beyond your true self to that which gives rise to it.
As I said before, you must dive into the layer below to fully understand the one above. In this case, this meditation can help you get glimpses of your true self from another angle by removing your sense of duality and going "under" it. While it is possible to do this kind of intense meditation unaided by music, I do find it difficult.

During any intense musical vision may experience what's known as "ananda" (divine joy, roughly), particularly if you find yourself sensing a specific deity's energies. I've had what I'd call "dark ananada" when it has occurred with darker music. Experiencing the ananda of Satan is very different from Kali, or Shiva. In this way we may be simply basking in the head streams of one element as it splits into others.

This technique is generally not unpleasant because you are going to an abstract place that is devoid of the traits that would bring what we could consider to be pleasure or pain, and yet we can experienced it as a kind of "joy". I don't have a good explanation for this, other than we are having a partial nondual experience and brought into a sense of our true selves as start to experience it on a more fundamental level. You are still there, and yourself, but you are also experiencing something that precedes and gives rise to yourself.

With ambient music and dark psychedelic, I feel it is more likely than psychedelic to lead you to the abyssal or hadopelagic realms. Here, the general danger of these zones is lessened by taking the possibility of direct evocation and taboo breaking out of the equation. You will likely have much less geometric visualization and see more of the hadopelagic passages which are chaotic yet still. Although I would say that psychedelic trance is good for showing you a realm beyond the hadopelagic passage ways, some ambient may lead you to the less manifested energies particularly of Tamas (darkness, sleepy, inert) like energies that are somewhere in the unmanifested parts of the Pit. This can be terrifying, as I experienced in my mirror story. Ambient music is also good for exploring the Abyss.
Closing Words

So, hopefully that gives you some idea of what your self may be, or at least have some nice historical tidbits or useful takeaways. I can't guide you to who you specifically are, but by seeing yourself as parts of a whole rather than a singular thing, you will gain insight. Just as the ocean has different, sometimes hard to distinguish layers that interact, so does your own psyche, soul and essence.

The Left Hand Path is full of danger, but also reward for those wishing to dare it's speedy, dark and twisting methodologies. By looking deeper into ourselves in these different levels, we begin to appreciate the complexity of the microcosm and its interlocking parts and come closer to a full understanding.

Just be prepared to deal with the fact that you may not like what you see, for hidden things lurk in the ocean's depths.

   (the same lyrics are on their official music video upload as well)
   (original source of 5: STARFIRE 1,4, 1991, BCM Starfire.London WC1N 3XX England)
[9] https://www.tutor2u.net/religious-studies/blog/free-will-and-determinism
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All members of the Order of the Serpent Forums
All those who support the Order of the Serpent
All those who read and benefit from The Imperishable Star

Editor’s Note

This edition of The Imperishable Star is surely overwhelming, to readers, writers, and producers alike. At the length of a full esoteric book, a month was not enough to minutely edit the work as one would hope to do. As with all previous articles, at least most of these will appear, fully edited, in The Obsidian Tablet when it comes to fruition. Sadly occultism is a full time job on top of the full time jobs needed to survive, but I personally believe so long that one understands what is meant the work can do its job. Please forgive this minor inconvenience, and be assure future editions will be more manageable to crew and audience alike.

- Xepera maSet