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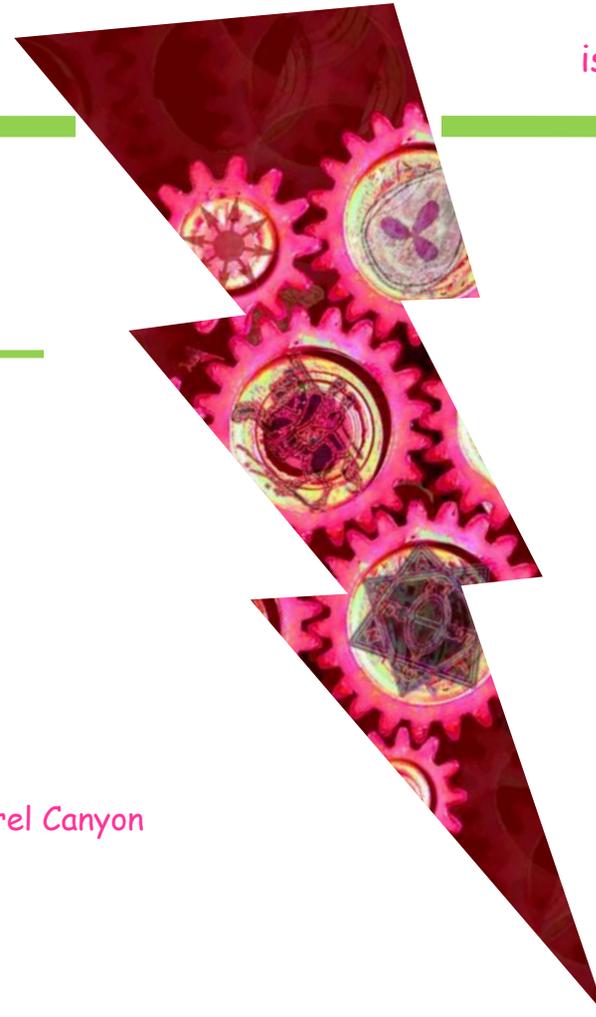
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# Thee Tale ov thee Green Slime Stripper

an interview with Sierra Rose by Saint Natas

with introduction by Soror ZSD23

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I am reborn in the Jade Ichor that drips from His foul tentacles.



No longer a slave in this prison,

I am Awake. My flesh baptized with slime

and my essence purified by the eldritch green flame.



--Venger Satanis, <http://www.cultofcthulhu.net/>

In the summer of 2009, a video showed up on an NING social network dedicated to the Cthulhu cultus. Running for all of about one and a half minutes, it shows a young, attractive, pregnant woman lying on a bedspread. Her hands are modestly cupped over her breasts, and her belly has an elegant dribble of fluorescent green “slime” on it. Seemingly smiling in good sportsmanship and friendly amusement, she repeats a vow fed to her by the videographer. The vow is to consecrate her unborn child to the famed Lovecraftian sci-fi creature Cthulhu and the videographer’s Cthulhu Cult. The young woman, a professional stripper who goes by the name of Sierra Rose, was 8 months’ pregnant at the time of the filming. About a week after the child was born in early July 2009, the video debuted on the NING site: *Cthulhu A Place for Tentacles*.

The videographer is a guy named Darrick Dishaw, better known as Venger Satanis, self-styled high priest of one of the many post-modern Cthulhu cults that abound in the occult demimonde. Dishaw’s cult mixes Lovecraftian fiction-cum-mythos with Satanism and Chaos magianism. Since founding his cult in 2004, he has made himself into an Internet presence and MySpace, Facebook, and

YouTube personality and has self-published a number of books about and for his cult. Indeed, his Cult of Cthulhu Facebook Fan page boasts 1461 fans as of this writing (February 25, 2010). Deftly, the only thing posted on the site's Info page is: **The Cult of Cthulhu, join now, before he makes you.**

But although, Dishaw does seem to have a number of Web-based followers, it is unclear how many of his Web-based social networking fans are sincere adherents of his cult and how many (such as the mass of Facebook fans) think they are merely participating in a hip inside joke and spoof, like Rose seemed to think she was in her participation in the green-slime video project.

Many of Dishaw's minutes-long Internet videos, which frankly are not badly done, do come off as spoofs—something that commenting viewers occasionally call him out on. Furthermore, like all persons clawing by tooth, nail—and tentacle—for notoriety, Dishaw has his share critics and detractors. A “spoiler” review of his book *Cthulhu Cult* begins with: “The author knows the works of Lovecraft, Ligotti, Phil Hine, and Anton LaVey, but doesn't seem to understand any of them well, or at least does not notice when his own ideas doesn't [sic] correspond to them.” And ends with: “Why, in a world with such authors as Phil Hine, Peter Carroll, Anton LaVey, Don Webb, Michelle Belanger, Konstantinos, S. Jason Black, Christopher Hyatt, Kenneth Grant, Michael Bertiaux, Stephen Flowers, etc., anyone needs this book is beyond me. . . . those who have read little on dark side occultism might be impressed. Knowledgeable occultists will likely find its contents highly disappointing.” (See <http://www.lulu.com/content/606582> to read this and other reviews and a synopsis of the book.)

This reviewer as well as other critics have charged that Dishaw's prose are more like cut-and-pastes from Wikipedia and other sources. See this scathing blog entry by Dan Harms, author of the *Cthulhu Mythos Encyclopedia* and coauthor of the *Necromonicon Files*: <http://danharms.wordpress.com/darrick-dishaws-cult-of-cthulhu-bible-and-wikipedia-the-similarities/> To prove his point, Harms displays passages from **Cthulhu Cult** and Wikipedia entries side by side. The comments following the blog entry, which include kudos to Harms from Venus Satanus, are well-worth reading.

Another well-written Web article that explains Cthulhu mythos and popular culture, **How Cthulhu Works** by Jonathan Strickland at <http://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/cthulhu3.htm>, also takes a jab at Dishaw, mentioning what has already been discussed—disjointed concepts and plagiarism.

But back to our *tale* . . . . It seems that Rose wasn't too thrilled about the posting of the video that she and Dishaw made. She was even more perturbed when she learned that Dishaw, who she entered into a romantic liaison with, was the leader of a Satanic

Cthulhu cult and that the video was not made for entertainment purposes but that it—at least as far as Dishaw was concerned—documented ritual.

In the lover's spat related to their break-up, the misunderstanding about this quasi-infamous video (that actually is not that easy to find through Web searches) has escalated into a peculiar tit-for-tat being played out on YouTube. In respect for Rose, we won't post the Web address for the video here. She has been insisting to an unrelenting Dishaw that he take it out of circulation. You can, however, view the YouTube repartee between Rose and Dishaw at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUDnlkIBclA&feature=related> (Re: Anointed by the Old Ones) and its rebuttal <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4rglBFD6wk> (green slime stripper upset with Satanis!!!)

Our Saint Natas approached Rose to get a story out of her. The following is their conversation.



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**Saint Natas:** Let's start with how you first came into contact with Venger Satanis and the Cthulhu Cult.

**Sierra Rose:** His real name is Darrick. I contacted him through an ad on Criag's List for some modeling and acting work. It was a few months before I knew about the cult. I let him know that I was pregnant. Because of that, he wanted me to act out a scene in a favorite movie, and he wanted some nude pics, too. Sadly, I did the pics. So, he can use them for whatever he wants.

**Saint Natas:** There was a contract between the two of you?

**Sierra Rose:** Yes, the basic modeling contract, so he has the rights to the pictures.



**Saint Natas:** What about the movie he wanted you to act in?

**Sierra Rose:** He said he had an old sci-fi movie that he loved. It had a pregnant woman in it. He said I would be perfect for the part — the “green slime” part. I never saw the movie, so I just said okay.

**Saint Natas:** The movie seemed to present you as a member of the cult and as actually anointing your unborn baby.

**Sierra Rose:** Yes. I found this out later when he sent me a Web link of it.

**Saint Natas:** Your reaction?

**Sierra Rose:** I didn’t understand what had happened during that filming. I did not know anything about the cult until later. He originally told me that his group was more like a fan club for that Lovecraft character--Cthulhu. Then, one night while at his house, I found a book he wrote [Cthulhu Cult by Venger Satanis]. I asked him about it. He told me the same thing that he had before. He said he and a group of friends started a club a while back and that the book explained the club rules and stuff. I still didn’t know it was a cult. Like, I didn’t get the concept until I looked more at his site link on Facebook.

**Saint Natas:** What happened when you found out it was an actual cult?

**Sierra Rose:** I freaked out. Darrick and I hadn’t talked in awhile, and then he messaged me through Facebook, asking about my new boyfriend and my daughter. I told him that it was none of his business. He told me it was all of his business because my daughter *was* Cthulhu. He asked if she was growing tentacles and such.

**Saint Natas:** After meeting him, you got into a relationship. How did that go?

**Sierra Rose:** The whole thing is funny actually. After the photo shoot, we were supposed to get together, but his then-girlfriend found the pics and called me. So he and I stopped talking for a while. Then, he contacted me and asked if I wanted to hang out because he was single and lonely. I said, “Sure.” We saw each other for a little while and, you know, went to a movie, had dinner, and sex a couple of times. Then, he just got very possessive. I didn’t want any of that, so I cut it off.

**Saint Natas:** Having found out about the cult, you asked him to remove the video that you were in from the Web. Tell me that story.

**Sierra Rose:** I asked him to take the video down after I had an email conversation with him in which I explained that I had to take a break about seeing him because I was about to go through a custody battle about my daughter. I told him that it wouldn’t be good having someone around my child who might make me look bad and what not. He replied saying that if I ever needed a favor I should ask him. So, I asked him to take the video down.

**Saint Natas:** How did he react?

**Sierra Rose:** He told me, "No." That's when stuff got ugly. Lots of my friends have flagged it, but no luck.

**Saint Natas:** Why wouldn't he take it down?

**Sierra Rose:** Because of his cult people. I'm not sure why. So I made a video to try to clear up iffy things.

**Saint Natas:** Then what happened?

**Sierra Rose:** He got really nasty. The weirdest thing is that he started texting me last week saying things like, "What's up? Can't wait to see you again. Everyone on YouTube is waiting for us to hook up again" and "Wow, my fans are gonna' be real disappointed were not going to make another video" and "Babe, we can fuck and after you can drive me to the asylum" and "text me when your horny" and "ha hah luv when you're mad."

**Saint Natas:** When you realized the anointing scene in the video was "real," a far as he was concerned, how did he explain it to you?

**Sierra Rose:** He said that my daughter is a part of the cult now, because she was anointed and what not.

**Saint Natas:** Has he made any threats? Do you believe that he is as real threat?

**Sierra Rose:** He sort of implied a few times that I should not make his cultists mad. That I shouldn't mess with them.

**Saint Natas:** Do actual cult members hang out with him or is his group mostly Internet-based?

**Sierra Rose:** I met a few of his friends. I'm not sure if they were his cult buddies or not. I think the group is mostly an Internet thing. He didn't seem to involve the cult in real life, just the Internet.

**Saint Natas:** Is there anymore to the story that you want to tell?

**Sierra Rose:** Just to expose his stupid lies is enough for me.

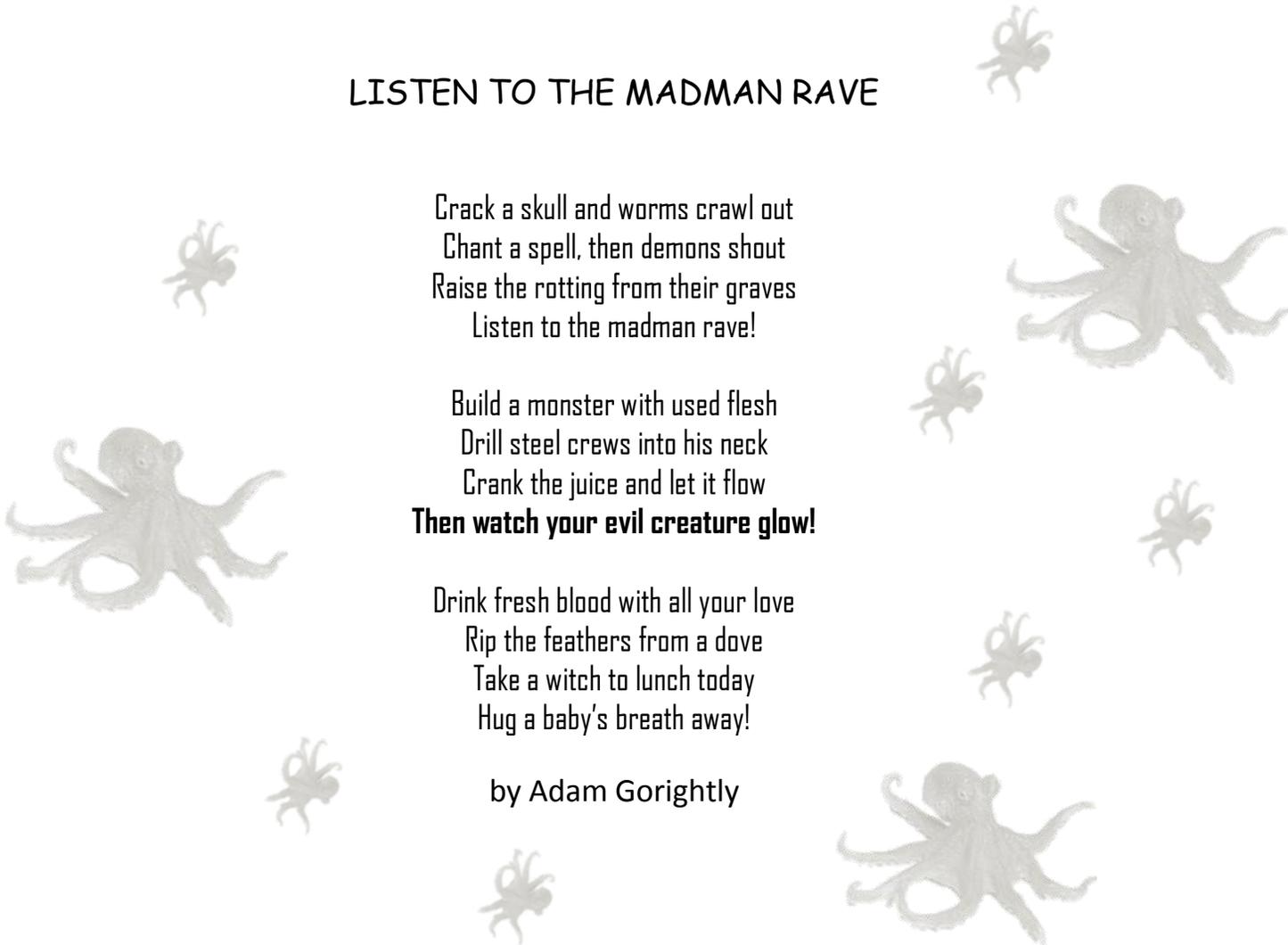
## LISTEN TO THE MADMAN RAVE

Crack a skull and worms crawl out  
Chant a spell, then demons shout  
Raise the rotting from their graves  
Listen to the madman rave!

Build a monster with used flesh  
Drill steel crews into his neck  
Crank the juice and let it flow  
**Then watch your evil creature glow!**

Drink fresh blood with all your love  
Rip the feathers from a dove  
Take a witch to lunch today  
Hug a baby's breath away!

by Adam Gorightly



# Spiritual Banishing Worldwide

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by Denny Sargent

An excerpt from the book CLEAN SWEEP

<http://www.psychicsophia.com/cleansweep.html>

**S**piritual banishing may be the first and foremost ritual activity created by mankind. In the ancient world, and even today if one looks below the surface a bit, all "luck" is seen as divine blessing and "bad luck" is seen as a spiritual pall. Note how people say "God hates me!" or "the universe is not with me today" when things are going badly. People often refer to themselves as "cursed" or "hexed" when a number of inexplicable bad things happen to them. In fact, most people, if you really talk to them, strongly believe in a spiritual basis for much of what happens in their lives, but they often do not feel that they can control such a lofty energetic reality.

In fact, all banishing is spiritual or energetic. Simply believing that things have shifted, that "negative energy" or "bad luck" has been swept away changes a person's whole life. We use phrases like "a black cloud has lifted" when we speak of this removal of bad luck, vibes or energy. Our problem as a modern society is that, except for a few very religious people, we have consigned the idea of spiritual banishing to that of folklore or superstition. In doing so, we have removed our power over our spiritual health and well being in many ways, assuming that we do not have any sort of control over those "black clouds" that shadow our lives at times. In fact, many cultures around the world did and still do offer techniques, rituals and practices for taking control in this arena and spiritually sweeping those bad vibes, blues and negative energies away! I have seen such things first hand and experienced them as well, the work!

Banishing, to reiterate, means, in a spiritual sense, the elimination of unwanted thoughts, energies, spirits, spiritual pollution or bad luck. The idea is to clear the air (maybe literally!), clear the ground, and clear the launching pad! This can be simple to do, as it is in Japan, where before a person enters a Shinto shrine he or she washes the hands and rinses the mouth from a fountain provided for this *before* going through the Torii or gate that marks the beginning of the sacred space. The act of banishing can also be far more complex. Some Native American rites demand days of fasting and purification in sweat lodges.

The type of need or situation helps to determine what kind of banishing is to be used. A Zulu clan initiation, for example, marking a child's coming of age, will probably involve a complex and intense banishing. And purification. A prayer for good business at a Hindu Shiva shrine, however, will probably involve a simple and easy banishing.

When thinking on spiritual banishing, we need to meditate before hand on “how deep” we are going to go. If this involves a significant life-change, something radical and powerful a very intense and thorough banishing should be designed and strictly followed through with. If, on the other hand, the situation is less intense, say, a simple healing, then that banishing need not be so intense. Each situation, indeed, requires a different degree of cleanliness and concentration.

When we discuss ritual banishing, a set of actions that will spiritually “purify” the place, person or persons involved, we should understand that the *real* and important activity going on is a clearing of the *inner self* on all levels. With all this in mind, let’s take a quick look at some ways spiritual or ritual banishing is done in other countries:

Let me once again use the handy concept of the 5 elements within which to present a variety of methods and modes of spiritual banishings used by Shamans, magicians and priests of all faiths and religions.

### Air:

Many forms of smoke and incense have been used throughout the ages, both to banish an area of malignant energies or beings and as offerings to the Gods or Spirits. It is hard to think of a single church, temple or sacred shrine that does not have a form of incense burning in it. Many Native Americans, especially those from the Plains, use wild sage wrapped into smudge-sticks to drive away evil. The “Peace pipe” used by Native Americans is well known as part of folklore, but the purifying and ritual importance of this ceremony is rarely examined. In this rite the pipe is extended to the four quarters of the World and thus the participants and area are made clean as well as offerings given to the Great Spirit.

The Mayans used herbs and copal when clearing a temple of negative beings. Tibetans use a special mixture of herbs and resins as well as pine boughs to banish demons and wandering ghosts, as well as for offerings. The Catholic and various Orthodox churches use their own sacred blends of resins, frankincense and myrrh being two of the most famous. Those religions that seem to retain the “Spirit” in their traditions all seem to use incense or smoke.

And there are still more ways to banish using the element of air: Some traditions use fans. In Shinto a wand of paper streamers and rice straw is waved above the space or people to be banished, Tibetans use prayer flags and bells while in other Asian faiths, Taoism for example, a sacred fan with Spiritual symbols on it is waved about to purify an area. Various forms of breathing, exhaling, rhythmic or, “dragon power” breathing are also used. Think of Yoga “prana yama.”

The Kwakiutl or Bella Bella Native Americans of the Northwest use ceremonial whistles to banish unwanted spirits and other whistles to call the Spirit desired, be it the Cannibal Raven or Wild Woman of the Woods Dzonqua. Each whistle is keyed to each function; each tone or note summons or banishes certain things. The possibilities of

tonal banishing are limitless, as some modern musical Shamans are well aware. The Hopi and other tribes use a variety of substances to banish and purify that are all air born. Corn pollen is very important and sacred in that it is literally the life-essence of that which keeps the tribes alive. Plains and Central Native Americans use Eagle down and a number of other feathers and feather products in a variety of ways to purify. The Sacred Bird which brings blessings and removes uncleanness, problems or evil, is an amazingly prolific myth around the world and is thus ritually utilized in many cultures in the form of bird fetishes (feathers, down, talons) or imagery.

Many cultures use wind-swept places such as mesas, cliffs and mountaintops as Sacred Spaces. The wind is the instrument of purification and is often recognized and invoked as such. Many cultures throw various powders to ritually swirl and purify people and places. In India during the Holi festival, colored sandalwood powders are constantly being tossed and blown about, mixed with the sacred mantras and shouts. In many different cultures the final purification of a person who has died, the final release of that person from this world, is in the form of ashes scattered into the wind. Indira Ghandi found her final release as her ashes were tossed into the winds out of a helicopter over Mount Everest.

Then there are the pole divers of the Vaanatu tribe in central Africa who use a unique and very effective method of ritually purifying with air. They climb very tall structures and, after looping a very resilient vine about their ankles, leap. They plummet headfirst until the vine brings them up only a few feet short of the ground and they bounce up and down until they settle. What a rush that must be! A truly cleansing experience and one that is now available to all. Bunjy jumping is now a popular sport where people leap off of bridges using modern rubber and plastic ropes instead of vines.

Or maybe something tamer but also exhilarating is more up your alley. Swings have been used ritually for purification for thousands of years. In Indian mythology Krishna and Radha are often pictured on a swing and all over India there are festivals and rites dedicated to these two that use swings. In Bangkok, Thailand, up until 30 or so years ago, there was a huge swing-festival of purification dedicated to Shiva. This must have come out of India centuries ago, thus attesting to its ancient origins. Swings have often been used in the West as well. Sometimes known as "Witches Cradles," certain swings are kinds of early sensory deprivation tools. In many Shamanic traditions, before initiation or illumination, the Shaman-to-be must be hung from a tree, or dangle from poles on a Sacred Lodge (as in the Sun Wheel ceremony of the Plains Indians) or hang from a tree upside down as in the Odinic mysteries of the Norse. All of these methods of personal purification and banishing use the imagery of air and wind to open the psyche, "blow away" the debris and unwanted ideas and conditioning. Thus the mind and soul are left as clean as a wind-blown cliff.

Australian Tribal people use bullroarers to purify an area, call spirits and communicate with each other. The bullroarer is a magickal piece of wood (usually) tied onto a string. This is whirled overhead, creating a sacred space of wind and sound that truly sounds like the voice of elementals. Many Pagan peoples wave sacred tree branches to purify an area or people. This ancient rite, combined with heat and water, is today in Scandinavia called a Sauna, amongst Native Americans it is known as a sweat lodge. The tree spirits and the wind that speaks through their swinging boughs affect the initial cleansing. Inuit peoples (called Eskimos by many) toss people in a blanket as high as they can to cast off the bad and bring in the good. This is also a very ancient ritual that has probably left us the trampoline today!

There are many other examples of air-oriented banishing I can discuss, but I'll leave this to the reader. Any and all of these methods are usable NOW with a little Imagination.

## Fire!

In India, amidst the loud chanting and throbbing music of a festival, dozens of people sway back and forth in ecstatic trance as the flames die down, suddenly they walk forward across the burning coals, some dance and others pick coals up and put them on their tongues. Their flesh is not burned and there is no pain.

In Japan, near New Years Day, a group of Buddhist monks in white robes chant the Lotus Sutra and bang gongs repeatedly, suddenly several of them pick up burning sticks and begin to rub them all over their bodies, some of them place these brands in the their mouths. There is no pain; there are no wounds.

Rites similar to these occur all over the world; currently fire walking has become popular even in Western countries. Many who go to these seminars may not be conscious of the ancient ritualistic purposes of this rite but, in short, it is spiritual banishing.

Fire, the source of light, the origin in a million ways of civilization, is maybe the most powerful and potent purifying force. Even in cultures that do not have fire-walking rites use fire as a direct source of banishing and purification. In countries of Celtic and Scandinavian traditions the "Need-fires" or great sacred bonfires are kindled on mountaintops at the sacred festivals. Often people leap over the fires at the peak of ritual excitement. This scary and potent leap purifies the spirit and banishes all bad luck. In cultures where cremation is the norm, fire has a whole new meaning and significance. It frees the spirit or soul, it removes dross and reduces matter to its essentials. In fact, burning a thing leaves nothing but the salts and carbon associated with Earth, a potent mystical idea in and of itself.

In alchemy the sacred fire used in the Work was called the *Alkahest*, this was not just seen as the tool for chemical and industrial development that it later became. It was also the spiritual Will, the passion and power of the human and divine essence that transmutation made possible. And so it is still seen in many cultures and rituals and fire always activates deep and powerful awe within us. The ancient Hebrews called this primordial universal fire "Qadosh" and the Vikings called it Muspelheim. Fire is, in fact, what protected us from "the Great Beast" always lurking outside the circle of light at night, whether it was the wolf, saber-tooth tiger, bear or lion. Volcanoes, those meetings of fire and earth, are always sacred; people climb them, bathe in their fumes and sacrifice to them.

One common form of purification witnessed in thousands of places is the symbolic burning of prayers, sins and desires in the sacred fire. In Japan a paper doll is rubbed over the body to absorb evil and then it is burnt with prayers. In Tibet branches and butter images are burnt as offerings and to banish evil. In many cultures the New Year is marked by thorough cleaning and elimination of old things, amulets, charms and other things in a sacred fire.

Fire is often considered the essence of all things, as Heraclitus said; "All is fire." Many philosophers agree and, if we consider fire the outward symbol of all energy, so do modern scientists. Kundalini, as Shakti or power when activated, is said to bathe the aspirant in the purifying fire of consciousness. Simply visualizing the aura a light causes the temperature to rise and the blood to flow quicker.

Candles, fires, lamps and torches have always been an important part of almost every Spiritual ritual. Mystics and others peer into the fire to see the future or to commune with spirits and gods. Chinese create noise and flame to drive off evil spirits and banish misfortune with firecrackers and rockets! These were/are magickal

tools. Birthday candles point to another ancient form of banishing evil, this has come to us today as an extinguishing of "old age" but it once was potent banishing and wishing.

Since  $E=Mc^2$ , energy and matter can never be destroyed; only transformed from one into the other. Thus the flame is extinguished and really is transformed . . . so it is "gone" from this perception and takes our wish/prayer/sin with it.

Candles, lamps and fires are lit in many rituals for an even simpler reason, the sacred light, just by its existence, banishes the dark, the realm of shadows. Nothing does this better than the sun. The sun may be the source of all energy and all purification, but most cultures have indeed seen fire as the "little sun" or "the son of the sun."

Burning herbs like sage, bundles of cedar bark, sacred lamps of oil, candles with runes carved into them and combustible images all of these and more are traditionally used to banish or purify an area or a person Spiritually.

The Vajra wand of Tibet symbolizes lightning which possibly was the origin of all fire millennium ago, the fire from heaven. Any sudden burst of neuro-energy is referred to as "lightening" in many traditions. The simple banishing in Tantrika striking the palm of the left hand, often accompanied by the power-mantra PHAT!, is called "the lightning bolt" and is very effective. Fire is motion, action, dance; the leap of the flames finds echoes in many sacred dances, which purify, charge, and banish the mundane.

Often the simple presence of fire is enough to cleanse or banish an area for ritual work; the imagination is aflame with possibilities!

### **And what of Water?**

Almost all religious and spiritual traditions use water in one way or another as a purifying medium. As Tibetan monks prepare for a puja (ritual of devotion) to Tara or Mahakala, they pour water from a silver vessel, suck it into their mouths and, after swishing it around, spit it out, often with mantra.

In Japan every Shinto shrine has a water trough with sacred emblems on and over it. Before entering the shrine one must take a dipper of the water and wash the fingers of both hands and, as in Tibet, also clean out the mouth before proceeding.

As deep meditation and chanting continue in an ashram in India, the Guru walks about the people and, using a beautiful peacock feather fan-wand, performs "shaktipat" and sprinkles/purifies the people. Om Namah Shivaya!

A Greek Orthodox priest, chanting sacred prayers takes an aspergillum from the altar and sprinkles holy water over the sacred area and altar before the ritual proper commences. A simple sprinkling of water, or a light washing of hands and mouth; these ritual cleansings are often practical and brief substitutions for the most common method of banishing with liquid; ritual submersion in water.

The Zen monk sits under the icy waterfall for two days, washing away attachment.

A thousand miles away hundreds of people are chanting to Shiva and immersing themselves in the Ganges River whose blessing, they believe can wash away sin and attachment.

A black Baptist preacher submerges the girl in a river, baptizing her, cleansing her of sin and bringing her into the faith.

A Cherokee Indian, 3 days into his fast, stands in a stream washing away the veil between himself and his vision.

In New Zealand the Maori tribesmen have just finished the three days of funeral vigil for a member who has recently died. Several of them go to the deceased man's home and sprinkle every corner with water while chanting in Maori. In this way the contamination of death is dispelled.

The Orthodox Jew sprinkles sacred herbs into a bath of hot water while chanting a Hebrew prayer. He will bath in this before doing his ritual while a tantrik magician half a world away is doing almost the same thing, except the herb he is using is Tulsi and the chant is "Aim."

As the shaman, priest or magician of each culture bathes, whether it is in a sacred African river or in a candle-lit bathtub, the process of banishing by bathing is similar. The medium is seen not just as water but as sacred water. This is accomplished by either it already having been accepted as sacred (i.e.: the Ganges) or being made sacred with herbs, oils, salts, minerals, a sacred object, mantras, prayers and so on. Other practices such as gestures (mudra) may also be used. Emerging from the bath, clean clothes are often put on and the bather is renewed, clean and free of negative energy.

Why is this bathing ritual so prevalent? We can see it in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America; in short, wherever water is plentiful enough to use for such a purpose! Possibly it is because we are created in the water of the womb. Genetic memory, via the ever-handy group unconscious mind, tells us that we came from the primal ocean. We are, of course, over 75% water ourselves and the constant need to replenish that personal supply is a key factor in human life. In almost all creation and destruction myths, water plays an important part.

Water from the sky has always been seen as sacred, not to mention important for raising the crops that kept the people alive. Rain was seen in many ways, as the sacred sexual fluid coming from the mating sky-Father and Earth Mother (or visa versa in the case of Egyptian mythology) and rainstorms always heralded a change in weather, attitude, tension and emotions.

There are many other liquids that are used for banishing or purification besides water.

Blood, both menstrual and otherwise have been used for thousands of years to bless, purify and charge an area for ritual work. In Santeria ceremonies a chicken or other animal is sacrificed and the blood sprinkled over an area or person to remove negative energies. In Bali almost the same rite is done for similar reasons and blood spilled during numerous rites of passage, from African medicine huts to North American medicine circles, is thought to cleanse the body, soul and spirit while preparing the initiate for the transformation of initiatory experience. One has but to go no further than the local Catholic Church to see a Spiritual ceremony where the Blood of God is manifested and given to others.

Blood is the life, as many sacred texts say. Blood contains the DNA and projects monumental amounts of orgone instantly. We are a part of the Earth (Gaia) and patterned after her in form. Many myths say that the rivers and oceans of the Earth are Gaia's blood and thus all sacred water, being Gaia's blood, connects deeply with the constant use of blood in rituals all over the world.

This author does not advocate animal sacrifice or self-mutilation, though those practices have been and are still being practiced today as modes of banishing by very powerful ritualists. It is merely a deep and constant theme that runs through ritual history again and again and thus we must take it into account.

Other liquids that have been used for banishing and purification are sperm, vegetative saps and juices, various oils, saliva and even urine! In Kenya the Masai bathe newborn children in cow urine ritually. Though this seems vile to many, it actually has a highly antiseptic quality and is quite beneficial.

Oils combine the qualities of air in their scents and water in their form. They are used by many different sects and traditions, each wearing his or her oil is best. These oils often served the dual purpose of ritually purifying the area or the person as well as being practical. Many kept the ritualist warm or "banished" insects away. Sap is the essence or spirit of the pine tree and rose oil is indeed the essence of the rose. Thus we identify with and, in a sense, become these other living beings in order to remove ourselves momentarily from the mundane sphere and become clean and purified of its entanglements. The animal or plant "spirits," (and notice the word "spirits"!) are conjured by the sacred menstruum of their essence, and thus purify us in order that we may live free of negativity.

Returning to the concept of "spirits," wine, beer and liquor are also seen as the blood of the grain or grape ("John Barleycorn" or "Bacchus," respectively), with a Spiritual transformative element added: fermentation! Needless to say these liquids have been used for centuries to banish melancholy, inspire the Muse, wash the blues away and drown troubles! Banishing by the Water Element in one of its most pervasive forms!

## Earth

Sacred places are Earth-oriented in nature; sacred springs, grottos, woods, mountains, caves etc. Thus it is not surprising that ritual practices connected with the Earth and things symbolizing the awesome powers of the Earth are commonly used in banishing and purification.

To begin with, certain places imbued with Earth-power have been visited since the dawn of time by people looking for purification, healing or blessings. Mount Kailash in India, The Kuala Lumpur Caves, Mount Arat in the Middle East, The Grand Canyon and Mount Fuji in Japan; all of these and many other sacred Earth "powerspots" are even today inundated with people looking to spiritually banish or purify aspects of their lives.

Here we have the origin of the pilgrimage. Yet this ceremony need not lead one to the actual place, often a symbol will do. In Japan there is a ceremony every year near Tokyo where the participants walk down an isle of piles of sand, thus they symbolically make the difficult pilgrimage to dozens of sacred Temples without going very far. Simply having a representation of Mt. Meru in the form of the Shri Yantra (visualized or made in the form of a 3D Yantra) invokes the purifying force of this sacred mountain. In certain forms of Taoist meditation the seated self is visualized as the Mountain and, when the identification is intense enough, this banishes unwanted thoughts and creates stillness. For a key to this Yoga read the I CHING hexagram "Mountain over Mountain."

Mountains can rarely be moved, but stones can and people have been moving and using them ritually since man began using rituals. Circles like Stonehenge, the Sacred Wheel in America, the sacred stones in Machu Picchu, Peru, or the stones in Palanque, Mexico, are a few examples. Smaller sacred henges, lings, menhirs, altars etc. have been made and are even today being made by shamans, magicians and priests all over the world. Then there are the more personal uses of stones. In Tibet or Nepal if you climb the sacred hills and mountains you will find piles of stones with prayer flags fluttering from them here and there. One traditionally takes a stone and places it on the pile as one passes. Thus you symbolically "leave behind" a part of yourself, maybe something you don't need to "carry," and also leave an offering to the spirits. The stuff of Mother Earth is sacred to most peoples, it is the flesh and bones of the Great Spirit.

Hopi use blessed colored sand to demarcate the sacred area and purify it. Then the artistic miracle of the sand painting occurs. Often people who are sick or in need of cleansing are placed on the sand painting. The "mud people" of Papua New Guinea plaster colored earth on their faces and in their hair as a banishing of negative energy before ritual action. In Tibet huge and complex mandalas are created with colored sand as part of a long and intense ritual that is to purify and bless all the people in the area. Then other "flesh" of earth, plants and minerals, are rolled and charged as sacred "precarious" pills, to banish evil, remove negative Karma and even heal physical complaints. The Hopi and Navaho use corn meal in similar ways, blue, white, yellow and red forms are all natural and all used.

In the Middle East and parts of India a person who is suffering under great grief or under the weight of a great sin often touches the earth, sometimes with his or her head and may cast dirt over his or her head and body. In India and ancient European cultures people often cover themselves with "sack cloth and ashes," or just ashes. Covering the self with ashes is actually common to many cultures, Shaivite aesthetics and others in India banish unwanted ideas and egoic attachments by becoming identified with cremated people, that is, by rubbing them all over the body, attachments to life are symbolically removed. By scattering sacred earth over oneself or a given area problems and guilt are "earthed" and thus removed. Such a primal and unconscious act!

Within the earth have always been found special Earth symbols that have been used throughout time to banish and manipulate energies. In Neolithic pit burials, along with ocher and bones have been found "special" stones, especially precious and semiprecious stones. In this time of crystal-mania the real and fascinating shamanic history of the sacred uses of crystals and other "power" stones is often overlooked or misrepresented. Needless to say, they are some of mans earliest sacred objects and were (and are) used in many cultures to ceremonially banish and purify people and areas.

Double-terminated crystals have been found in burials and in sacred places from Scandinavia to Peru. In Nepal and the surrounding area the “Vajra” or thunderbolt wand was originally patterned on the double-terminated crystal. The same is true in ancient Norse Shamanism. The “wish fulfilling gem” of ancient Indian Tantrik mythology can not only banish all evil, but also grant all wishes. Stones found with natural holes in them have been considered sacred and purifying in many cultures such as the Celtic. Australian Aboriginal peoples have many sacred inscribed stones that contain such power that for the uninitiated to look upon them is death. Simply bringing these stones into a given area makes them sacred.

We could go on but my stone-weary readers get the idea and I’m sure can think of other examples of Earth banishing rituals. If you spill some salt, don’t forget to toss some over your shoulder! (A simple earth-oriented banishing with roots in far antiquity.)

In Shinto shrines, branches of bamboo are attached to the Torii or gates to purify the shrine and people who enter it.

Kwakiutl Indians in British Columbia always tie rings of fresh cedar bark around their arms and necks before the Winter Ceremonial.

The Yule tree, a traditional Earth blessing stolen by the Christians from Pagan Norse religion, is a prime example of tree-worship and bringing the Earth Spirit into the dwelling to bless, banish and empower it. Then the Yule log is burned a symbol of removing the clutter of the old year and cleansing the tribe for a new start at the New Year.

In China certain “singing stones” are powerful Spirit tools that produce banishing sound and energy when struck, sometimes sheets of inscribed jade are used in this way.

Many forms of Earth-power are used for cleansing and creating Spirit spaces. Chalk is often used as is sand, pollen, rice, flour and many other substances. In Haiti veves or sacred diagrams are traced in the dirt floor of the Temple to banish the area and prepare it for the visit of the Loa or presiding spirit.

Of course one could go endlessly on, chatting about carvings, stone animal temple guardians, rune stones cast or thrown, rune staves driven into certain places etc. Needless to say the possibilities are limited only by the imagination and the materials of the Earth that are produced and offered by Nature.

## Spirit

The realm of the spirits, the Astral Plane, Nirvana, Prakriti, Heaven, “the beyond-place,” Celestial Sphere, Quantum Universe, in-between, Spiritual Sphere, Ain Soph, Tao, Kl, electro-magnetic spectrum, Inner mind or “spirit world;” whatever one wishes to see as the menstruum or “sphere” of energetic working, this is the reality of spirit. Everyone who does specific spiritual practices to banish is looking to cause effect in the mundane world, but they are using intangibles such as Will, Love and Imagination to cause these things to happen.

And why not? The banishing or purification of Spirit is the inner work of all that has been previously discussed. The “Greater Mind” must concentrate and, on a very deep level, transform the outward ritual actions into meaningful Spiritual actions with deep reverberating symbolic power. Easier said than done! The Purification of the Spirit is,

in fact, the Great Work; the focusing on intent, on the aspects that are to be banished, on these things that must be "removed" from our reality or sphere before *other* serious work can be done. There are endless ways to do this but, as we have seen from our quick tour of banishing around the world. In essence, the process of spiritually banishing anything is simple.

The key to any spiritual banishing, whether using ritual techniques or practices that manipulate Air, Earth, Fire or Water, is the intent or Will of the person doing the banishing. And simply using Will or focused real intent is not enough unless it is backed up with Love. Love of self, Love of others Love of the state you wish to be in and Love of the world in which we live.

# Inside the LC: The Strange but Mostly True Story of Laurel Canyon And the Birth of the Hippie Generation

Part IV – May 19, 2008

by Dave McGowan

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Until around 1913, Laurel Canyon remained an undeveloped (and unincorporated) slice of LA – a pristine wilderness area rich in native flora and fauna. That all began to change when Charles Spencer Mann and his partners began buying up land along what would become Laurel Canyon Boulevard, as well as up Lookout Mountain. A narrow road leading up to the crest of Lookout Mountain was carved out, and upon that crest was constructed a lavish 70-room inn with sweeping views of the city below and the Pacific Ocean beyond. The Lookout Inn featured a large ballroom, riding stables, tennis courts and a golf course, among other amenities. But the inn, alas, would only stand for a decade; in 1923, it burned down, as tends to happen rather frequently in Laurel Canyon.

In 1913, Mann began operating what was billed as the nation's first trackless trolley, to ferry tourists and prospective buyers from Sunset Boulevard up to what would become the corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Lookout Mountain Avenue. Around that same time, he built a massive tavern/roadhouse on that very same corner.

Dubbed the Laurel Tavern, the structure boasted a 2,000+ square-foot formal dining room, guest rooms, and a bowling alley on the basement level. The Laurel Tavern, of course, would later be acquired by Tom Mix, after which it would be affectionately known as the Log Cabin.



Shortly after the Log Cabin was built, a department store mogul (or a wealthy furniture manufacturer; there is more than one version of the story, or perhaps the man owned more than one business) built an imposing, castle-like mansion across the road at the corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and what would become Willow Glen Road. The home featured rather creepy towers and

*The bridge of the USS Bon Homme Richard, January 1964. Just months later, the guy on the right would guide his ship into the Tonkin Gulf, and the young man on the left would begin a remarkable transformation into a brooding rock god. The Bon Homme Richard, by the way, was launched on April 29, 1944, under the sponsorship of Catherine McCain, the grandmother of a certain presidential contender.*

parapets, and the foundation is said to have been riddled with secret passageways, tunnels, and hidden chambers. Similarly, the grounds of the estate were (and still are) laced with trails leading to grottoes, elaborate stone structures, and hidden caves and tunnels.

Across Laurel Canyon Boulevard, the grounds of the Laurel Tavern/Log Cabin were also laced with odd caves and tunnels. As Michael Walker notes in *Laurel Canyon*, "Running up the hillside, behind the house, was a collection of man-made caves built out of stucco, with electric wiring and light bulbs inside." According to various accounts, one secret tunnel running under what is now Laurel Canyon Boulevard connected the Log Cabin (or its guesthouse) to the Houdini estate. This claim is frequently denounced as an urban legend, but given that both properties are known to possess unusual, uhmm, geological features, it's not hard to believe that the tunnel system on one property was connected at one time to the tunnel system on the other. The Tavern itself, as Gail Zappa would later describe it, was "huge and vault-like and cavernous."

With these two rather unusual structures anchoring an otherwise undeveloped canyon, and the Lookout Inn sitting atop uninhabited Lookout Mountain, Mann set about marketing the canyon as a vacation and leisure destination. The land that he carved up into subdivisions with names like "Bungalow Land" and "Wonderland Park" was presented as the ideal location to build vacation homes. But the new inn and roadhouse, and the new parcels of land for sale, definitely weren't for everyone. The roadhouse was essentially a country club, or what Jack Boulware of *Mojo Magazine* described as "a masculine retreat for wealthy men." And Bungalow Land was openly advertised as "a high class restricted park for desirable people only."

"Desirable people," of course, tended to be wealthy people without a great deal of skin pigmentation.

As the website of the current Laurel Canyon Association notes, "restrictive covenants were attached to the new parcel deeds. These were thinly veiled attempts to limit ownership to white males of a certain class. Although there are many references to the bigotry of the developers in our area, it would appear that some residents were also prone to bias and lawlessness. This article was published in a local paper in 1925:

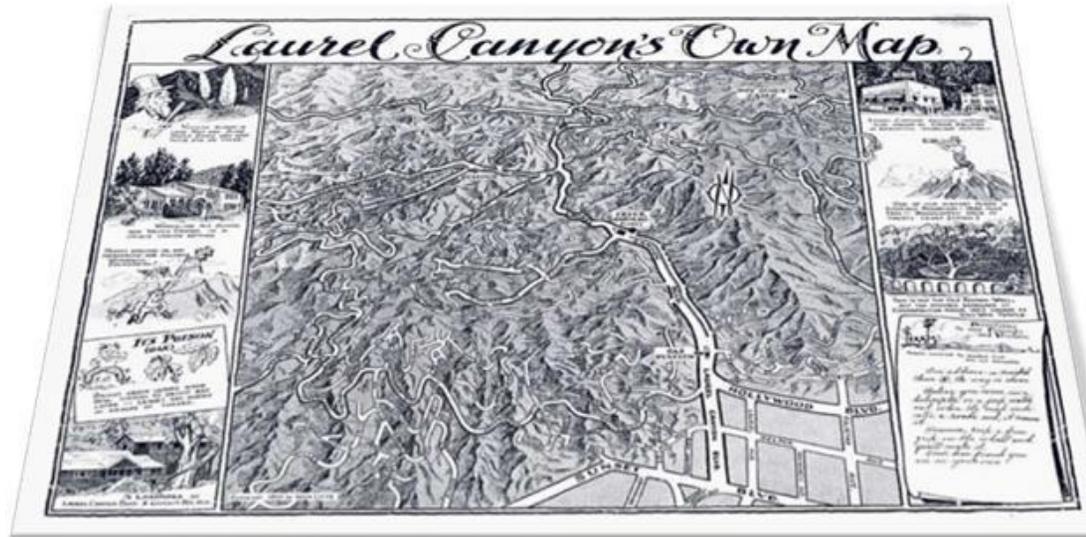
Frank Sanceri, the man who was flogged by self-styled 'white knights' on Lookout Mountain in Hollywood several months ago, was found not guilty by a jury in Superior Judge Shea's courtroom of having unlawfully attacked Astrea Jolley, aged 11.

"Wealthier residents were also attracted to Laurel Canyon. With the creation of the Hollywood film industry in 1910, the canyon attracted a host of 'photoplayers,' including Wally Reid, Tom Mix, Clara Bow, Richard Dix, Norman Kerry, Ramon Navarro, Harry Houdini and Bessie Love."

The author of this little slice of Laurel Canyon history would clearly like us to believe that the



“wealthier residents” separate from the violent canyon. The history of Angeles, however, clearly Young, for example, has Los Angeles’ early which stepped in to take own, often with the the mayor himself. Judge formed the Los Angeles some of the city’s top businessmen including of the Banning Railroad. Angeles Home Guard,



were a group quite hooligans roaming the such groups in Los suggests otherwise. Paul written in *L.A. Exposed* of “vigilance committees, care of outlaws on their complete absolution of Lynch, for example, Rangers in 1854 with judges, lawyers, and tycoon Phineas Banning And there was the Los another bloodthirsty

paramilitary organization, made up of notable citizens, and the much-feared El Monte Rangers, a group of Texas wranglers that specialized in killing Mexicans. As one would

expect, there was no regard for the victim's rights in such kangaroo courts. Victims were often dragged from their homes, jail cells, even churches, and beaten, horse-whipped, tortured, mutilated, or castrated before being strung up on the nearest tree."

And that, dear readers, is how we do things out here on the 'Left' Coast.

Before moving on, I need to mention here that, of the eight celebrity residents of Laurel Canyon listed by the Association, fully half died under questionable circumstances, and three of the four did so on days with occult significance. While Bessie Love, Norman Kerry, Richard Dix, and Clara Bow all lived long and healthy lives, Ramon Navarro, as we have already seen, was ritually murdered in his home on Laurel Canyon Boulevard on the eve of Halloween, 1968. Nearly a half-century earlier, on January 18, 1923, matinee idol Wallace Reid was found dead in a padded cell in the mental institution to which he had been confined. Reid was just 31 years old at the time of his death, which was attributed to morphine addiction, although it was never explained how he fed that habit while confined to a cell in a mental hospital.

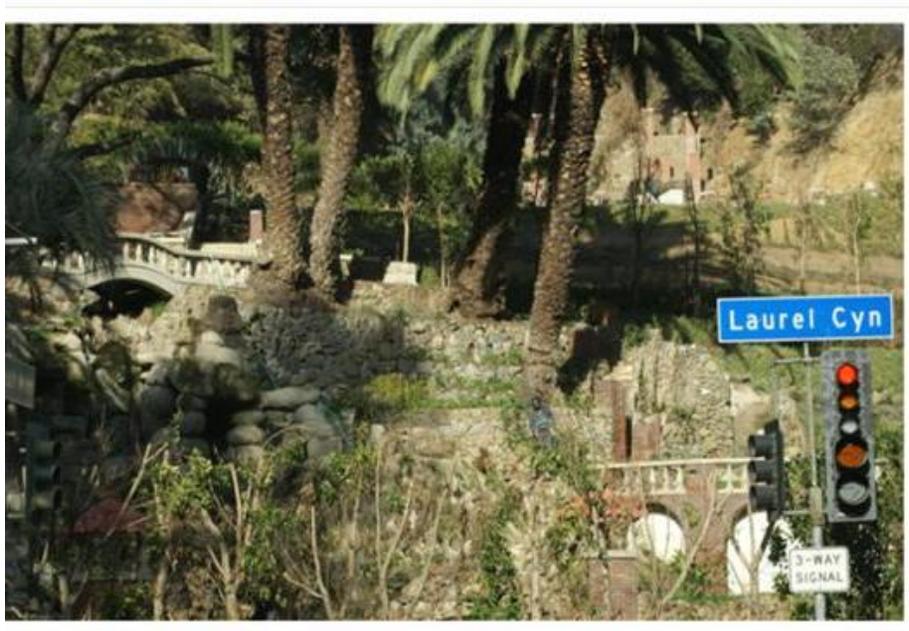
Tom Mix died on a lonely stretch of Arizona highway in a proverbial single-car crash on October 12, 1940 (the birthday of notorious occultist Aleister Crowley), when he quite unexpectedly encountered some temporary construction barricades that had been set up alongside a reportedly washed-out bridge. Although he wasn't speeding (by most accounts), Mix was nevertheless allegedly unable to stop in time and veered off the road while a crew of what were described as "workmen" reportedly looked on. It wasn't the impact that killed Mix though, but, rather, a severe blow to the back of the head and neck, purportedly delivered during the crash by an aluminum case he had been carrying in the back seat of his car. There is now a roadside marker at the spot where Mix died. If you should happen to stop by to have a look, you might as well pay a visit to the Florence Military Reservation as well, since it's just a stone's throw away.

Harry Houdini died on Halloween day, 1926, purportedly of an attack of appendicitis precipitated by a blow to the stomach. The problem with that story, however, is that medical science now recognizes it to be impossible. According to a recent book about the famed illusionist (*The Secret Life of Houdini*; by William Kalush and Larry Sloman), Houdini was likely murdered by poisoning. Questions have been raised, the book notes, by the curious lack of an autopsy, an "experimental serum" that Houdini was apparently given in the hospital, and indications that his wife, Bess, may have been poisoned as well (though she survived). On March 23, 2007, an exhumation of Houdini's remains was formally requested by his surviving family members. It is unclear at this time when, or even if, that will happen.

Houdini's death, on October 31, 1926, came exactly eight years after the first death to occur in what would become known as the "Houdini house." In 1918, not long after the home was built, a lover's quarrel arose on one of the home's balconies during a Halloween/birthday party. The gay lover of the son of the home's original owner reportedly ended up splattered on the ground below. According to legend, the businessman managed to get his son off of the murder rap, but only after paying everyone he could find to pay off, including the trial judge. The aftermath of the party proved to be financially devastating for the family, and the home was apparently put up for sale. Not long after that, as fate would have it, Harry Houdini was looking for a place to stay in the Hollywood area, as he had decided to break into the motion picture business. He found the perfect home in Laurel Canyon – the home that would, forever after, carry his name. By most accounts, he lived there from about 1919 through the early 1920s during a brief movie career in which he starred in a handful of Hollywood films. A key scene in one of those films, "The Grim Game," was reportedly shot at the top of Lookout Mountain, near where the Lookout Inn then stood.

On October 31, 1959, precisely 33 years after Houdini's death, and 41 years after the unnamed party guest's death, the distinctive mansion on the corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Willow Glen Road burned to the ground in a fire of mysterious origin (the ruins of the estate remain today, undisturbed for nearly 50 years). On October 31, 1981, exactly 22 years after the fire across the road, the legendary Log Cabin on the other side of Laurel Canyon Boulevard also burned to the ground in yet another fire of mysterious origin (some reports speculated that it was a drug lab explosion). Twenty-five years after that, on October 31, 2006, *The Secret Life of Houdini* was published, challenging the conventional wisdom on Houdini's death.

Far more compelling than the revelations about Houdini's death, however, was something else that the book revealed: Harry Houdini was a spook working for both the US Secret Service and Scotland Yard. His traveling escape act, as it turns out, was pretty much a cover for intelligence activities, just as John Wilkes Booth's career as a traveling stage performer was. And— sorry to break it to you — many of your favorite movie and television actors and musical artists continue the tradition today.



The book, of course, doesn't make such reckless allegations about any performer other than Houdini. I added all of that. What the book does do, however, is compellingly document that Houdini was, in fact, an intelligence asset who used his magic act as a cover. Not only did the authors obtain corroborating documentation from Scotland Yard, they also received an endorsement of their claim from no less an authority than John McLaughlin, former acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency (who knew it was that easy? — maybe I should give John a call and run some of my theories by him).

It appears then that, of the eight celebrity residents of Laurel Canyon listed on the Laurel Canyon Association Web site, at least two (Novarro and Houdini), and possibly as many as four, were murdered. That seemed like a

high homicide rate to me, so I looked up a recent study on the Internet and found that, on average, a white person in this country has about a 1-in-345 chance of being murdered. Non-white persons have a far greater chance, but nowhere near the 1-in-4 to 1-in-2 odds that a white celebrity living in Laurel Canyon faces.

Statistically speaking, if you were a famous actor in the 1920s, you would have been better off playing a round of Russian Roulette than living in Laurel Canyon.

Anyway . . . two ambitious projects in the 1940s brought significant changes to Laurel Canyon. First, Laurel Canyon Boulevard was extended into the San Fernando Valley, providing access to the canyon from both the north and the south. The widened boulevard was now a winding thoroughfare, providing direct access to the Westside from the Valley. Traffic, needless to say, increased considerably, which probably worked out well for the planners of the other project; it meant that the increased traffic brought about by the other project probably wasn't noticed at all. And that was good, you see, because the other project was a secret one; so if I tell you about it, you have to promise not to tell anyone else.

What would become known as Lookout Mountain Laboratory was originally envisioned as an air defense center. Built in 1941 and nestled in two-and-a-half secluded acres off what is now Wonderland Park Avenue, the installation was hidden from view and surrounded by an electrified fence. By 1947, the facility featured a fully operational movie studio. In fact, it is claimed that it was perhaps the world's only completely self-contained movie studio. With 100,000 square feet of floor space, the covert studio included sound stages, screening rooms, film processing labs, editing facilities, an animation department, and 17 climate-controlled film vaults. It also had underground parking, a helicopter pad, and a bomb shelter.



Over its lifetime, the studio produced some 19,000 classified motion pictures – more than all the Hollywood studios combined (which I guess makes Laurel Canyon the real “motion picture capital of the world”). Officially, the facility was run by the US Air Force and did nothing more nefarious than process AEC footage of atomic and nuclear bomb tests. The studio, however, was clearly equipped to do far more than just process film. There are indications that Lookout Mountain Laboratory had an advanced research and development department that was on the cutting edge of new film technologies. Such technological advances as 3-D effects were apparently first developed at the Laurel Canyon site. Hollywood luminaries such as John Ford, Jimmy Stewart, Howard Hawks, Ronald Reagan, Bing Crosby, Walt Disney, and Marilyn Monroe were given clearance to work at the facility on undisclosed projects. There is no indication that any of them ever spoke of their work at the clandestine studio.



The facility retained as many as 250 producers, directors, technicians, editors, animators, etc., both civilian and military, all with top security clearances – and all reporting to work in a secluded corner of Laurel Canyon. Accounts vary as to when the facility ceased operations. Some claim it was in 1969, while others say the installation remained in operation longer. In any event, by all accounts the secret bunker had been up and running for more than 20 years before Laurel Canyon's rebellious teen years, and it remained operational for the most turbulent of those years.

The existence of the facility remained unknown to the general public until the early 1990s, although it had long been rumored that the CIA operated a secret movie studio somewhere in or near Hollywood. Filmmaker Peter Kuran was the first to learn of its existence, through classified documents he obtained while researching his 1995 documentary, "Trinity and Beyond." Yet even today, some 15 years after its public disclosure, one would have trouble finding even a single mention of this secret military/intelligence facility anywhere in the "conspiracy" literature.

I think all we can agree that there is nothing the least bit suspicious about any of this, so let's move on.

In the 1950s, as Barney Hoskyns has written in *Hotel California*, Laurel Canyon was home to all "the hippest young actors," including, according to Hoskyns, Marlon Brando, James Dean, James Coburn, and Dennis Hopper. In addition to Hopper and Dean, yet another of the young stars of "Rebel Without a Cause" found a home in the canyon as well: Natalie Wood. In fact, Natalie lived in the very home that Cass Elliot would later turn into a Laurel Canyon party house. A fourth young star in that film, Sal Mineo, lived at the mouth of the canyon, and the fifth member of the "Rebel Without a Cause" posse, Nick Adams, lived just a mile or so away (as the crow flies) in neighboring Coldwater Canyon.

With the exception of Hopper, all of these actors' lives were tragically cut short, proving once again that Laurel Canyon can be a very dangerous place to live.

First, there was that great American icon, James Dean, who ostensibly died in a near head-on collision on September 30, 1955, at the tender age of 24. Next to fall was Nick Adams, who had known Dean before either were stars when they were working the mean streets of Hollywood as young male prostitutes. Adams died on February 6, 1968, at the age of 36 in his home at 2126 El Roble Lane in Coldwater Canyon. The official cause of death was listed as suicide, of course, but as actor Forrest Tucker has noted, "All of Hollywood knows Nick Adams was knocked off." Nick's relatives reportedly received numerous hang-up calls on the day of his death, and his tape recorder, journals, and various other papers and personal effects were conspicuously missing from his home. His lifeless body, sitting upright in a chair, was discovered by his attorney, Ervin "Tip" Roeder. On June 10, 1981, Roeder and his wife, actress Jenny Maxwell (best known for being spanked by Elvis in "Blue Hawaii"), were gunned down outside their Beverly Hills condo.

Next in line was Sal Mineo, whose murder on February 12, 1976 we have already covered. Last to fall was Natalie Wood, who died on November 29, 1981 in a drowning incident that has never been adequately explained. Before being found floating in the waters off Catalina Island, Wood had been aboard a private yacht in the company of actors Robert Wagner and Christopher Walken. She was 43 years old when she was laid to rest.

The list of famous former residents of the canyon also W. C. Fields, Mary Astor, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Errol Flynn, Orson Welles, and Robert Mitchum, who was infamously arrested on marijuana charges in 1948 at 8334 Ridpath Drive, the same street that would later be home to rockers Roger McGuinn, Don Henley, and Glen Frey, as well as to Paul Rothchild, producer of both The Doors and Love. Mitchum's arrest, by the way, appears to have been a thoroughly staged affair that cemented his "Hollywood bad boy" image and gave his career quite a boost, but I guess that's not really relevant here.

Another famous resident of Laurel Canyon was science-fiction writer Robert Heinlein, who reportedly resided at 8775 Lookout Mountain Avenue in the 1940s. Like so many other characters in this story, Heinlein was a graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis and had served as a naval officer. After that, he embarked on a successful writing career. Despite the fact that he was, by any objective measure, a rabid right-winger, his work was warmly embraced by the Flower Power generation.

Heinlein's best-known work is the novel *Stranger in a Strange Land*, which many in the Laurel Canyon scene found to be hugely influential. Ed Sanders has written in *The Family* that the book "helped provide a theoretical basis for Manson's family." Charlie frequently used *Strange Land* terminology when addressing his flock, and he named his first family-born son Valentine Michael Manson, in honor of the book's lead character.

David Crosby was a big Heinlein fan as well. In his autobiography, he references Heinlein on more than one occasion and proclaims that "In a society where people can go armed, it makes everybody a little more polite, as Robert A. Heinlein says in his books."

Frank Zappa also was a member of the Robert Heinlein fan club. Barry Miles notes in his biography of the rock icon that his home contained "a copy of Saint-Exupery's *The Little Prince* and other essential sixties reading, including Robert Heinlein's sci-fi classic, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, from which Zappa borrowed the word 'disincorporate' for [the song] 'Absolutely Free.'"

And that, fearless readers, more or less brings us to the Laurel Canyon era that we are primarily concerned with, the wild and woolly 1960s, which we will take a closer look at in the next chapter of this saga.

So what, if anything, have we learned today? We have learned that murder and random acts of violence have been a part of the culture of the canyon since the earliest days of its development. We have also learned that spooks posing as entertainers have likewise been a part of the canyon scene since the earliest days. And, finally, we have learned that spooks who didn't even bother to pose as entertainers were streaming into the canyon to report to work at Lookout Mountain Laboratory for at least 20 years before the first rock star set foot there.

One final note is in order here: we are supposed to believe that all of these musical icons just sort of spontaneously came together in Laurel Canyon (one finds the words "serendipitous" sprinkled freely throughout the literature). But how many peculiar coincidences do we have to overlook in order to believe that this was just a chance gathering?

Let's suppose, hypothetically speaking, that you are the young man in the photo at the top of this post, and you have recently arrived in Laurel Canyon and now find yourself fronting a band that is on the verge of taking the country by storm. Just a mile or so down Laurel Canyon Boulevard lives another guy who also recently arrived in Laurel Canyon who also happens to front a band on the verge of stardom. He happens to be married to a girl that you attended kindergarten with. Her dad, like yours, was involved in atomic weapons research and testing (Admiral George Morrison for a time did classified work at White Sands). Her husband's dad, meanwhile, is involved in another type of WMD research: chemical warfare.

This other guy's business partner/manager is a spooky bizarrely enough, also fronts a rock band on the verge of happens to live in Laurel Canyon, just a mile or two from within walking distance of your home, live two other kids rock band. These two kids happened to attend the same of them also attended Annapolis, just like your dad did,

Though almost all of you hail from (or spent a substantial now find yourselves on the opposite side of the country, in where you are all clustered around a secret military weapons, your father is probably familiar to some extent Laboratory, as is the father of your kindergarten friend, figures as well.

My question here, I guess, is this: what do you suppose chance?

*To Be Continued ...*

I swim in Holy Water.  
Inside an aquarium afloat  
In the black velvet sky;  
With no drain and mermaid  
Agility, I began to find me.

The stick caressing banshee  
Mother mellowed before  
The Eggman;  
His shriek was somehow  
Calming.

She slipped out of that room  
Out of them clothes



ex-Marine who just happens to have a cousin who, superstardom. And this third rock-star-on-the-rise also your house. Just down a couple of other streets, also who – wouldn't you know it? – also happen to front a new Alexandria, Virginia, high school that you attended, and one and just like your kindergarten friend's dad did.

portion of your childhood in) the Washington, DC area, you an isolated canyon high above the city of Los Angeles, installation. Given his background in research on atomic with the existence and operations of Lookout Mountain and probably the fathers of a few other Laurel Canyon

the odds are that all of that just came together purely by

Alone and beautifully empty.  
Oh starry sky! Remember  
Me loving myself.

Oh glorious moon, your  
Smile gliding me through  
Liquid mirrors;  
Reflecting my soul, replying  
With delight.

A snapshot of the universe  
A contented water baby;  
With the world on a string  
Singing lullabies in the night.

. Dee Rapposelli: *Siren*, 2008



# The New Aeon or Slouching Toward Liberation of Consciousness

by Soror ZSD23

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. . . for whenever a society undergoes radical change, alternative spiritualities proliferate, and from among these a culture will select its new world view. —Peter Carroll, *Psychonaut*

Among Christians, the term denotes bringing on the apocalypse—the end of this world and its transfiguration into an idealized one for the Christian elite. The signs of *imminence* are usually *immanent* to certain Christians although the actual event (inferred from interpretations of *Revelation*) keeps receding into the future. Never mind that these Christians are anticipating something that was supposed to happen 2000 years ago. Bible scholars have pointed out that early Pauline Christianity was an end-times cult that changed its tune when the Parousia (Second Coming) didn't occur in 70 CE when the temple in Jerusalem was Destroyed. Furthermore, the Beast and the Whore mentioned in *Revelation* probably refer to Nero (37-68) and ancient Rome, respectively. Still, Dispensationalist Christians and a host of other thanatericist menaces masquerading as transcendentalists remain undaunted.



Among counterculture occultists, the slogan “immanentize the eschaton” is associated with rhetoric about the epiphany of a New Aeon, an era of Deconstructionism and attendant ideological scrutiny and intellectual freedom. It is the end of the world as we know it . . . or as we are accustomed to it being . . . or as we are deluded and conditioned into thinking it is or is supposed to be . . . It is not a cataclysmic conflagration as conceived by religious fundamentalists, nor is it an “ascension” to a “higher vibrational frequency” as touted by New Age gurus. It is the page turn into another era . . . the next one within the Time-Space continuum of the original long-running smash hit series *As the World Turns*, to *be* confused with the soap opera of the same name but only metaphorically.

It is gnostic in that it is viewed as a paradigmatic shift in thought but it is not associated with sociopolitical, philosophical, or spiritual utopian visions. It is hard to say whether its perspective is jaded or enlightened. It's a little bit mongrelized Zen or Dzongchen, a little Gestalt Therapy, more than a little bit of Deconstructionism, and an interface for Hermeticism and Existentialism where the realization that nothing and everything is True may possibly confer spiritual liberation and mystical empowerment if not true civil liberties.

The term was coined by political philosopher Eric Voegelin (1901-1985) who used it in a tract that conflated certain sociopolitical ideas (such as Nazism and Communism) with his incomplete and biased understanding of Christian Gnosticism. He warned of the folly and danger of trying to create heaven on earth. One can strongly argue that creating heaven on earth as history is unfeasible, considering that one person's heaven is another's hell in an ecosystem where one's pleasure is predicated on another's pain. But this is a very ancient Oriental insight that apparently is hard to grasp in an androcentric Judeo-Christian paradigm despite perennial undercurrents of Hermeticism and New Ageism, the latter of which utterly perverts Oriental and Hermetic currents in the maw of its Western narcissisms anyway.

A passage in the counterculture classic *The Principia Discordia* about who should and shouldn't be immanentizing the eschaton gives oblique insight into what New Aeon zeitgeist is:

“And, behold, thusly was the Law formulated: Imposition of Order = escalation of Disorder!”  
[Honest Book of Truth]; The Gospel According to Fred, 1:6]

#### THE FIVE ORDERS OF DISCORDIA (“THEM”)

##### Gen. Pandaemonium, Commanding

The seeds of the ORDERS OF DISCORDIA were planted by Greyface [an 11<sup>th</sup> century “malcontented hunchback” who taught that “play was sinful”] into his early disciples. They form the skeleton of the Aneristic Movement, which over emphasizes the Principle of Order and is antagonistic to the necessary compliment, the Principle of Disorder. The Orders are composed of persons all hung up on authority, security and control; i.e., they are blinded by the Aneristic Illusion. They do not know that they belong to Orders of Discordia. But we know.

1. The Military Order of THE KNIGHTS OF THE FIVE SIDED TEMPLE. This is for all the soldiers and bureaucrats of the world.
2. The Political Order of THE PARTY FOR WAR ON EVIL. This is reserved for lawmakers, censors, and like ilk.
3. The Academic Order of THE HEMLOCK FELLOWSHIP. They commonly inhabit schools and universities, and dominate many of them.
4. The Social Order of THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS. This is mostly a grass-roots version of the more professional military, political, academic and sacred Orders.
5. The Sacred Order of THE DEFAMATION LEAGUE. Not much is known about the D.L., but they are very ancient and quite possibly were founded by Greyface himself. It is known that they now have absolute domination over all organized churches in the world. It is also believed that they have been costuming cabbages and passing them off as human beings.

A person belonging to one or more Order is just as likely to carry a flag of the counter-establishment as the flag of the establishment—just as long as it is a flag.

Don't let THEM immanentize the Eschaton.

Of the Greyface legend and what is termed The Curse of Greyface—that is, the plight of mankind—*The Principia Discordia* says:

Greyface and his followers took the game of playing at life more seriously than they took life itself and were known even to destroy other living beings whose ways of life differed from their own.

The unfortunate result of this is that mankind has since been suffering from a psychological and spiritual imbalance. Imbalance causes frustration, and frustration causes fear. And fear makes for a bad trip. Man has been on a bad trip for a long time now.

The take-home message: People like Greyface have already immanentized a paradigm. Don't extend a subscription renewal to their ilk. Those who seek to make an unwieldy world safe for themselves by self-righteously containing and controlling others, generally in the form of thought-policing . . . well, just don't go there, Man. It's a recipe for disaster if not business-as-usual. Vote No on Proposition *Brave New World*. K?

A more serious and confrontational stance on this theme is reflected in a manifesto called *Liber Oz*, attributed to Aleister Crowley (1875-1947). It pronounces that "There is no god but man" and that persons, therefore, are free to live, work, eat, create, love, think, speak, and die as they choose and have a right to defend these rights even unto the death (of the oppressor). The penultimate line in the manifesto, which is embellished with quotes from *Liber Al vel Legis* (AL; "The Book of Law"), concludes with "the slaves shall serve." –AL. II. 58. That is, either "get it" or be mill grist. Or as Thelemic occultist/veritable rocket scientist Jack Parsons (1914-1952) said: "There is not further evasion of nature's immemorial ultimatum: change or perish but the choice of change is ours."

No one likes being told what to do, but civil anarchy also sucks and has proved itself untenable. *Liber Oz*, in context, is not talking about anarchy; it is challenging Piscean-era Judeo-Christian moral relativisms that double as straightjackets. (Jack Parsons elaborates on *Liber Oz* in his essay *Freedom is a Two-Edged Sword*, penned in the 1940s, and brings it into the realm of social politics and civil liberties.) Even the post-modern occultist slogan "Nothing is true, everything is permitted" is not an anarchistic war cry; nor was it ever uttered by an 11<sup>th</sup> century ascetic Islamic fundamentalist mystic/jihadist named Hassan ibn Sabbah. (The slogan was penned by William S. Burroughs, who had a fascination with Sabbah that was coopted by the Discordian authors of *The Illuminatus! Trilogy*).

The slogan is a tip of the hat to how malleable and provisional ideas and systems are. The New Aeon is expected to be an era when this is acknowledged and done so in power-conferring freedom rather than fear. And anarchy is not to be conflated with Chaos, which is what post-modern occultists propose is at the root of the New Aeon:

Etymology: Middle English (15<sup>th</sup> century), formless primordial space, from Latin, from Greek *khaos*.

Chaos is defined, by standard American dictionaries as “the disordered state of unformed matter and infinite space that existed before the ordered universe [the Cosmos].”

The Concise Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (5<sup>th</sup> edition, McGraw Hill Publishers) defines Chaos (Chaos theory) as a “system behavior that depends so sensitively on the system’s precise initial conditions that it is, in effect, unpredictable and cannot be distinguished from a random process, even though it is deterministic in a mathematical sense.” The theory observes that Chaos only seems chaotic but is rather elegant design, and besides all the esoteric mathematical jargon, it is tied in with concepts about environmental adaptation and interdependent arising.

Chaos is the hypostasis—that is, the Divine Ground—of Cosmos, and it can be said that Cosmos is continually reasserting itself through drawing from its matrix. Chaos and Cosmos are two sides of the same coin: numinous and immanent Existence. The Boundless and the Measurable. Thus, Cosmos is a place where everything that can happen does happen whether or not it is someone’s idea of permissible. It is not a new concept by any means, it’s just not cool to glorify Chaos in a World where the overwhelming majority of people need structures, blinders, and neat answers to tranquilize them while being herded through cattle stalls and gauntlets toward a meat grinder.

Literary dystopias aside, the Age to come is often thought of as a “Golden” one. And that proverbial Golden Age is a revisiting of a time when everything was everyone’s idea of perfect. The kicker is that the Golden Age redux is an era in which everyone is perfectly conscious, willful, and complicated, instead of automatons like they were when things were perfect and simple. Underlying the concept is the kvetch that consciousness got us into this mess, and consciousness will get us out—once consciousness evolves beyond the limitations of the human-animal nervous system. How to imminentize it into immanence is the question and is in the realm of mysticism and occultism, not social politics.

The truth of the matter is that the Golden Age of a past or future doesn’t occur in Time or culture. It is the phenomenon of self-actualization. It occurs in select persons and has done so since hominids became self-conscious and thus were evicted from Golden Age National Park and cast adrift in the Sea of *Samsara*. Being a potential and a continuum, it is always now or never. There is no place to go to retrieve the Golden Age either in memory or expectation.

The New Aeon, thus, is not a time but an idiom that promotes the aspiration of self-actualization. In the context of occultism and mysticism, it is the glorification of Personal Gnosis, which is a recurring and subversive act in the annals of history. It is an ideal, and that ideal concerns the liberation of consciousness.

Writing in the mid-80s, Peter Carroll concludes *Liber Null* with predictions about the new millennium, portraying it as a disorienting period in which existing paradigms fall apart: the “death” of spirituality, superstition, identity, belief, and ideology, but death is the wrong word. Change and resistance to it is the name of the game—which we are perennially in the throes of anyway. In *Psychonaut*, Carroll discusses change as it pertains to post-modern occultists and the New Aeon:

To oppose repressive forms of order which often impose themselves by evil means, magic aligns itself to a vision of chaotic good. Magic's commitment to the good is reflected in its concern with individual freedom and consciousness and its interest in all other forms of life on this planet . . .

This rhetoric is in fact being reified in both post-modern Paganism and sorcery/magianism. The former, which is a robustly growing and evolving alternative spirituality and cultural trend running along similar lines with New Age and yoga-chic culture, asserts spiritual, intellectual, and sexual freedom and ecological stewardship. The latter asserts spiritual, intellectual, and sexual liberation and also exposure of oppressive forces in the world-at-large through subversion of the consensus paradigm via counterculturalism and urban shamanism. On this point, Carroll says:

The chaotic aspect of new aeon magic is psychological anarchy. It is a species of operation mindfuck **applied to ourselves as much as the world.** [emboldened type mine] The aim is to produce inspiration and enlightenment through disordering our belief structures. Humor, random belief, counter-information, and disinformation are its techniques.

Personal Gnosis, Deconstructionism, Gestalt, and the Liberation of Consciousness . . .

To this, I will add a passage from Parson's *Freedom is a Two-Edged Sword*:

It is not necessary to deny anything. It is only necessary to know ourselves. Then we will naturally seek that which is needful to our being. Our significance does not lie in the extent to which we resemble others or in the extent to which we differ from them. It lies within our ability to be ourselves. This may well be the entire object of life; to discover ourselves, our meaning. This does not come in a sudden burst of illumination; it is a constant process which continues so long as we are truly alive. The process cannot continue unobstructed unless we are free to undergo all experience and willing to participate in all existence. Then the significant questions are not "is it right" or "is it good" but rather "how does it feel" and "what does it mean." Ultimately these are the only questions that can approach truth but they cannot be asked in the absence of freedom.



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The specific agregore from which we pull is a GOTOS hyper-continuum . . .

by James Hootman



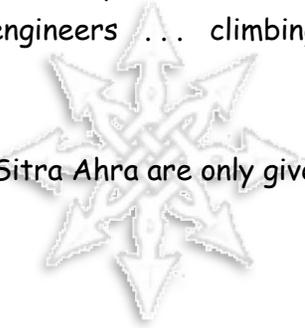
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The specific agregore from which we pull is a GOTOS hyper-continuum called the Pylon ov Sobek/Tefnut. It is so secret that we hardly even have an inkling who or what we work with . . . yet it is all orchestrated by a prater-human intelligence that has a penchant for messing with neurochemistry, sound waves, colors and a hodge-podge of simple and legal drug store chemicals . . . .

I believe this intelligence to have an agenda . . . but it only shows us parts . . . and never in sequential or linear order . . . for it is of the 11th dimension . . . and it is neither god nor devil . . . just a creative spirit that has little time for our polarized perceptions.

It works thru sea creatures and various mythological archetypes (its signals lie in the communication of whales and the ebb and flux of the itten/biren color pysche language of thee octopi) . . . . Go ahead and call it fiction . . . you were once a dream . . . . you began as an idea . . . and it evolved . . . Illthids are eating high frequency brainwaves now . . . and no longer the gross grey matter of physical brains. They also seek our evolution . . . for they have been evolved by creatures beyond them . . . and fused their high "light" with the Illithid "underdark" . . . and created a hyperbryd called *Homo Novus* . . . The New Human . . . Thee Lutorian . . . those from the region the light birds . . . Garuda . . . Karura . . . . They call him Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, And he is heavenly nobly-winged Garutman. To what is One, sages give many a title; They call it Agni, Yama, Matarishv!! Holding both the Clavius Nox and the keys ov thee Heaven/Hell . . . Sane/Mad . . . Mad/Sane . . . Hadit and Nuit . . . Hrumachis . . . The Janus complex at the gates . . . both past and future fuse at this outer gateway of the etrenal now. In thru the out door . . . . We are the backwards engineers . . . climbing like a possum down the tree . . . S tira Anahita . . . Sitra Ahra . . . two sides of a coin . . . .

Notes that many Kabalists hold that the concepts of, for example, a Heavenly Court or the Sitra Ahra are only given to



humanity by God to give humanity a working model to understand His ways within our own epistemological limits. They reject that a Satan or angels actually exist. Others hold that non-God spiritual entities were indeed created by God as a means of exacting his will. Both and Neither ... Zos Kia ... She is the "Neither-Neither" Vacuum aether ... supra species continuum that believes in nothing and employs everything ... Nothing is true ... all is permissible ....

Yet we get away with so little ... we always tell on ourselves ....

It(SIVA GALATEA ... a necro-nexusnaut taking a break on a Neptunian Satellite and transmitting radio shows) has transmitted a book of the Mudras and Mantras of Madness ... the fusion of Chaos Magick, Zos Kia, The Golden Dawn, the Emerald Dawn, The brothers of Saturn join with the Jewish worship of the Star of Rephaim .... we have drunk the dregs of this chalice .... we have seen the light projected into the void .... We are Isaac Luria and Dr. Michael Aquino having tea on the seventh ray ... we rest and we are one. The transcendental magick of observational non-attached consciousness is here. Man and woman are naked again in the garden ... awake ... and not ashamed .... Anton LaVey and Mark Twain sail a riverboat down the suicide express of Phillip Jose Farmer ... Oscar Wilde and Jerry Falwell exchange glances at each other's genitalia and give the thumbs up .... Jesus practices witchcraft and people stop shooting and start fucking .... AGAPE LOVE NOW!

This myth of polarity has out used its usefulness .... Let's become divine and start splicing genes with our PCs and desk top manufacturing systems .... let's stop holding this death trip over each other's head ... this linear 2D power; this over that ... I'm not only sick of your(OUR) lies ... we(US) are bored ... and seek new doorways ... new freedom ... new bliss ... A New age ... Aeon ... Universe ... agregore .... jump now into this new continuum that is awaiting you .... The Octopi ... the order ... the 8 limbs of chaos .... the 8 limbs of discipline ... invert and open the eye of Baal ... open the eyes of Nimrod in thy feet .... and do not be afraid ever again ... nothing kills pure awareness ... "i" am not I ... I don't care to be God .... I already have all the power you do and do not have ... I am the weakest ... I am the strongest ... I am your broken pot shard and your tikkune .... I am the beginning and the end of the world. I am the Jew ... like Abraham ... carving idols for his parents in the Iraqi desert ... we all begin as goyim coal and ... pressure ... heat ... time ... we ... are diamonds .... This ceremonial practice is for the faceting of these

precious stones in the rough ... .. The light bodies ... New skin ... for new wine .... We are Fraters and Sorors outside the circles of time. Babalon and New Jerusalem ... both dependent upon each other ... both part of this same plot ... by the same author ... Sheep and Goat ... I formed you both ... Hiram and Baphomet ... engage the mind of an elohim engineer ... my Maggid ... Magi ... Wizards ... My true and Noble Stars!!!

Treat schizophrenia as an ion plasma drive that runs the psychonaut along rims of void/form lips of ISIS .... horizontal warp drives ... vertical thrust ... camels thru an eye of a needle ... Vesica Pisces ... doorway to the world you are so desperately looking for .... The Obscured arcanum is wide open ... it lies within your heart ... in your own personal metaprogramming metaspecies language ... I call it Agla Nomera ... the tongue of silver ... the wisdom of Vijja Dhammakya ... Abbaton A name of God or a high holy angel invoked in Solomonic conjurations ... Ophiel One of the Olympian spirits, enact thee metousiosis ov Mercury .... turn on the 8 and employ parallel processing for transdimensional communication.LAM ... and the TMD ... MAL and the DMT .... reach thru the mirror and project the LVX from the NOX back into the void.

Yours Always,  
Aleph Null/Aleph Beth





## Monsieur X The Fortune-Teller

Richard Heron Ward



The attic I occupied in a small hotel at the junction of two narrow streets not far from St Germain-des-Prés had several advantages. It was cheap; it was the only room on the top floor of the hotel, so that one could work in it undisturbed; its low door and sloping ceiling gave it a certain old-fashioned air of the romantic, of the student's or the poor artist's retreat as it had been thought of since the time of Chatterton; and its window looked into the sunshine and over a confusion of roofs and trees to the church of St Germain, a prospect of great character and beauty. The hotel itself was near to everything one needed. The Sorbonne was only a few minutes' walk away, so were the Luxembourg Gardens and the Odéon, and so in the other direction were the quays with their bookstalls, the river itself, and the Théâtre Français; while only a little further off than these were the cafés of Montparnasse, which seemed at that time to be the centre of the artistic and intellectual world.

But there were other cafés, nearer home, at which many of the people whom I knew were to be found, and one of these was the Café de Flore in the Boulevard St Germain. This café has since become famous as a haunt of M Sartre and other notable persons, and has, I believe, raised its prices to meet its interesting situation, but a generation ago it was inexpensive and seldom crowded, it was small and comfortable, the *patron* was hospitable, and the orchestra of three players, led by a young violinist who had considerable talent, had so large a repertoire that it never, I think, failed to play any customer's request; Fauré's *Élégie*, Tchaikovsky's *Chant sans Paroles*, selections from *Traviata*, Padilla's *Ça c'est Paris*, or Beethoven's Turkish March from *The Ruins of Athens*, in one evening one might hear all these and many other things. And since I went so often to this café I do not know why, one autumn evening, I went instead to Deux Magots and went there by myself. This café, though it was attractive in many ways and had long been famous, was more expensive and somehow more formal than the Café de Flore. The past was already a little oppressive there; at that time one might still be served by a waiter who had served Wilde during his last decaying days at the Hôtel des Beaux-Arts. But the terraces of the Deux Magots were spacious, and the eastern one overlooked the Place St Germain and the grey stones of the church's western façade; and the glass screens and glowing braziers made it possible, even in autumn or winter, to avoid the café's interior, which was rather too pompous and rather too frowned down upon by the two grotesques themselves. It was on this eastern terrace that I encountered, for the first and only time, the curious elderly gentlemen whom, since I never heard his name, I must call Monsieur X. This encounter was certainly one of the strangest of my life, and will be difficult to set convincingly on record.

I was sitting near one of the braziers, and its warmth was grateful since the chill of October was in the air, though the evening was fine. Beyond the lights of the café, the church was vague in a blue darkness punctured by the lamps of taxis and bicycles. There were few people in the café, but presently I was aware that someone had taken the table next to mine. Perhaps it was because I was reading that I was in fact aware of him only after this new customer had installed himself and ordered a coffee. That is to say, I did not see him arrive; it was simply that, when I looked up, he was there. Yet it seemed to me afterwards that, just as his departure was extraordinarily complete and final, so his arrival must have had about it something of the same quality of completeness, of happening, as it were, all at once; one notices that there are certain rare people whose movements, whose coming and goings, are of this order.

I suppose I knew by sight most of the habitués of that quarter, and particularly of that café terrace, for although I was seldom a customer there, I passed it more than once a day on my way to my lodging. But I had never seen this man before. Once I had noticed him, however, there was something about him which made me look at him again. He sat, for one thing, with peculiar stillness, and the expression of his eyes had a quality which I could not define. He was perhaps sixty and almost wholly bald, with a large grey moustache which hid his mouth. His body was thickset, but not fleshy, and he wore good but roughish clothes which, while they were highly individual, still were not exactly remarkable. Doubtless he became aware that I had done more than merely note his arrival, and was watching him over the top of my book, for it was not long before he leaned forward and addressed me; which, a moment afterwards, I realized that I had somehow known he would do. He spoke fluent French with a foreign accent; perhaps it belonged to some other part of Europe, perhaps to some country further east; I was unable to tell. His manner was pleasantly friendly, and we talked for a few moments of those trivialities which strangers know to be nothing more, but use as a means of adjustment, and as an opportunity to find a real topic of conversation. Yet I had the odd idea that it was only I who needed to make this adjustment, and that Monsieur X himself was a person who "knew where he was" with another person without such preliminaries.

He was telling me that he was a retired naval officer; and then he was telling me that he was now "a professional fortune-teller." I imagine that my reactions to this rather unlikely information were not altogether positive. I did not believe that Monsieur X was a retired naval officer and perhaps (I now think) I was not meant to; and I rather warily suspected that, if indeed he was now a professional fortune-teller, I was being approached as a client; doubtless he made a practice of going the rounds of the cafés and telling people a great deal of nonsense for a fee. This suspicion somehow seemed to spoil the peace of the autumn evening, and certainly to preclude any further conversation with a person who had promised to be interesting; for I had no money to spend on having my fortune told, and not much inclination to have it told in any case.

But I had hardly had time to become aware of my disappointment and go through the motions of returning to my book, before Monsieur X began to say that he did not wish me to think that he regarded me as a client, not at least in any commercial sense, though he was quite prepared to tell me something about myself, provided that I was prepared to listen. "You are a student," he said, "and although you earn a little money as well as pursuing your studies, you have nothing to spare for what I am sure you would call frivolities." No doubt it did not require unusual deductive powers to guess, from my age, my clothes, the not quite finished but quite cold coffee in front of me (my excuse for ordering no more when the waiter looked in my direction), that I was a student and poor, while many poor students eked out their allowances by earning a few francs here or there. Yet at the time this assessment of my situation seemed to me as remarkable as Sherlock Holmes's deductions always did to Dr Watson. And meanwhile, without more ado, the fortune-teller had begun his fortune-telling.

In one sense it was a strange rigmarole; in another it was stranger, yet no rigmarole at all. Monsieur X spoke in an assured, considering kind of way, as if, with those unusual eyes, he was already "seeing", somewhere or other, the things he was telling me. This was no affair of reading my palm or of holding in his own hand or to his forehead some object belonging to me, such as I believe to be the "psychometric" practice of "mediums." The curious eyes regarded me, and yet in another sense they did not regard me; that is, it was not my outward appearance they were regarding, but as it were some other and less tangible aspect of myself, an aspect of which I was unaware. What Monsieur X said was a rigmarole in so far as it was interspersed with a certain amount of jargon about starry influences, zodiacal signs, "numerological" references, and remarks like, "You should always wear something navy blue." These snatches of professional patter seemed out of place, however; they did not ring true, and I was a shade irritated by them. When he used them, there was something of the play-actor about the person beside me (he was now sitting at my table), and I had the impression that he did not believe in them himself. It may be that he was amusing himself at my expense, or at that of humanity and its foolishness in general. It may be that he used this mumbo-jumbo as a kind of bait, thinking that in its absence I should not swallow other things he wished to say to me. It may even be that Monsieur X wanted to observe whether I should take this play-acting for the truth or reject it.

Of one thing I am now quite sure: Monsieur X was no more a "professional fortune-teller" than he was a retired naval officer. He was, however, a fortune-teller; that is to say, he was able to speak of things which would happen to me in the future, and also of things which had already happened to me in the past; he had some unusual knowledge and understanding which transcended the ordinary limits of time; he had, I suppose, what is sometimes called "second sight." When he spoke of things which had already happened in the past I could of course test them there and then by memory. When he spoke of things which were to happen in the future no such test was possible. Yet perhaps we also have memory of the future, though we are not normally aware that we have, and it may have been upon my own unconscious memories of what was then my future that this unusual man was able to draw in some way which is beyond our ordinary understanding. Whatever were his powers, the fact remains that much of what he prognosticated that evening has "come true" during the intervening quarter of a century, and can in turn be tested now by memory of the past.

Thus, with the passage of time, I have been increasingly astonished by Monsieur X's abilities, though I still cannot explain them, at least in any terms which would satisfy a logical way of thinking. There is a certain useful scepticism in us which, at the time of my single meeting with Monsieur X, added itself, as it were, to my slight irritation with his play-actor's jargon, and set a query-mark before all his statements about the future. But that future's passage into the past has perforce removed the query-marks; I cannot now doubt that in 1928 Monsieur X clearly foretold many things which were going to happen to me, and have now happened. Thus I can come to no conclusion but that certain people exist who are in some way free of time as we normally count it, and that Monsieur X was one of them, that he was able, so to say, to enter a dimension beyond the four dimensions of length, breadth, height and time itself, which we habitually acknowledge, and thence to look down upon my life-time and see it as clearly as we, from our point of view within time, see length, breadth and height.

Presently, however, his attitude changed. Not only did he set aside completely all his actor's tricks, he ceased as well to "tell my fortune", to speak of the past and the future or (except finally) specifically of me. It was as if the curtain-raiser was over, and had not been of any great importance in any case, except perhaps to whet the audience's appetite for the serious business of the evening. Nor was this serious business in the least spectacular in the sense in which the "fortune-telling" had been spectacular at moments. What Monsieur X treated me to was a philosophical and metaphysical discourse, a great deal of which I did not understand and have regrettably

forgotten. I remember the rather odd "atmosphere" of what he was saying rather than any specific remarks he made; I remember the impression he now gave me of being a person who thought and felt quite differently from anyone else I knew, so that he himself seemed to be quite a different kind of person from the one I had first noticed a quarter of an hour or so earlier, and to whom I had since been talking. It was a curious effect, to which I can only suggest this parallel: Sometimes, when you first go to a town which is new to you and there register an impression of (say) a particular street, and when you remain in this town so that it is no longer new to you, but familiar, your first impression of the particular street imperceptibly changes; other impressions overlay the first, and the emphases fall differently also; what at first seemed an important feature of the street becomes unimportant, while other features of it become the important ones and remain so; until one day you are astonished to remember what your first impression was, and to realize that you can recall it only with difficulty, can only with difficulty make yourself think: That street, when I first saw it, seemed to me quite different from what it now seems.

Something of this kind happened with Monsieur X and my impressions of him. When I had been listening to him for about an hour, I could only with difficulty recall the first impression he had made upon me; which was perhaps because, with longer acquaintance, I had somehow "corrected" that first impression. Nothing now remained of the charlatanism of which I had earlier suspected Monsieur X. I had forgotten that he had claimed to be a naval officer, and that I had found this hard to believe, and I had forgotten the astrological and numerological jargon with which he had interlarded what had appeared to be his professional patter. Yet the curious thing is that I believe that, had he now begun to speak of astrology or Pythagoras, I should no longer have been irritated or sceptical. He would have spoken of these things in a different way. He had changed, and was now making upon me a far deeper and more serious impression; even his face seemed to have altered. Yet was it he who had changed? Perhaps it was I who had changed under his influence; perhaps I was listening to him now with a deeper and more serious aspect of my own nature.

However that may be, I was aware of what, for want of better words, I have called an odd atmosphere. But that odd atmosphere I am quite at a loss to define, unless by negatives. It was not "hypnotic", it was not illusory or glamorous, and least of all was it "dream-like." Whatever the effect he was having upon me, Monsieur X was certainly not sending me asleep; indeed, if I can find anything positive to say, it is that he was waking me up. I did not become so absorbed in what he was saying that I was oblivious of my surroundings; on the contrary, I was unusually aware, not only of the Monsieur X himself and of his words, but of the hooting taxis, the other people on the café terrace, the glowing braziers with the blue darkness beyond them; all was unusually perceptible. And at the same time I was unusually aware of myself and of the mental and emotional processes set going within me by what Monsieur X was saying. This was, in fact, a very strange and unforgettable experience.

But what was Monsieur X saying? As I have said, I can remember only in very general terms; I can remember the tendency of the words rather than the words. He was saying, then, that there are two worlds, two realities, which we inhabit, or may inhabit if we wish, the outward world of forms and the inward world of ideas, and that these are not separate worlds, as those who misunderstand Plato and often call themselves idealists seem to imply, but interpenetrative worlds. He was saying, however, that the inward world is largely closed to us, though this, hardly aware of its existence as we are, we may fail to realize, just as we may fail to realize that this inward world can be opened to us if we seek the right means to that end. He was saying that man inhabits this inward world much as an embryo inhabits the womb, and that in the majority of cases this embryo man miscarries and never comes to birth. But he was also saying that it is possible for the embryo to grow and to be born, to grow up and to become adult; and that, if this were to happen, so that a person came to be a freeman of the inward world, able to live and work there as adult men live and work in the outward world, he would inherit the reality which is potentially his proper psychological place. Then much in his outward world, and in the life he leads in it, would be changed; such a person would no longer be life's slave; freedom in the inward world would endow him with freedom in the outward world.

Finally Monsieur X was saying, with a certain severity, and as if with an authority which was nothing to do with the disparity of our ages, that I must seek to know and understand these things, that I must not allow myself to become content with outward life alone, and so seek nothing more than the fulfillment of ambition, the securing of a livelihood and an approved position among my fellow men. He was saying that there is much more in life than living. This must be done to the full, but not as an end in itself, only as a beginning of the discovery, not beyond death, but within life, of "the next world", the inward reality. Much of this, at the age of eighteen, I found bewildering, and Monsieur X certainly understood that I did, for he went on to say that there was in one sense no hurry when one was young, "so long as one never forgot that one must die", and that therefore time is always short.

Presently he stopped talking and was silent for some time. Then, having paid his bill, he rose and said, "All this means that you must try to find out who you are," and added, "not here, but there." With this curious remark, which I take to have referred to the two worlds of which he had spoken, he walked away from the café and was lost among the people on the pavement; was lost, it seemed to me, surprisingly quickly and thoroughly. At one moment he was there, at the next he was gone. It was now that I tried to remember his arrival on the terrace and realized that I could not; and the extraordinary feeling invaded me that perhaps he had never been there with me at all.

That of course was nonsense; but it was perhaps a way of expressing the next idea which came to me: that while he was with me I could have answered the question, Who was Monsieur X? That is to say, I had known the answer in a way which has little to do with names or professions or those other means we uncertainly use in order to identify and explain people. But once he had left me, I knew the answer no longer. Perhaps I should have to wait a great many years before I should know it again. And in this connexion I believe that this strange man was very subtle in the way he went to work, giving me at the outset that display of "fortune-telling", first recalling things which had already happened and could not be contested, then foretelling much that excited my curiosity. He must have known very well that, every time something which he had prognosticated came to pass in the years ahead, I should remember him, and try to remember the much more important things he had said after the fortune-telling was over; he must have known very well that this in turn would make me try to answer the question who he was, and that trying to answer this question would be a way of trying to find out who I am; who I am, that is, "not here, but there." For it was undoubtedly "there" that, in the most real of senses, all that matters of this curious encounter took place. The point is one which some will understand and some will not. I shall not attempt to explain it further, except to say that we are mistaken if we believe that we always live on the same level of consciousness.

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*From A Gallery of Mirrors: Memories of Childhood, Boyhood and Early Youth by Richard Heron Ward, London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1956, pp. 205–214. Mr. Ward's book documents eighteen remarkable persons who greatly influenced his early life.*

# Montauk and Philadelphia: The Story of Human Greed and Aspiration

by Shiraz Nelson

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Conspiracy theories, if I may use the term, are impossible to prove or they simply wouldn't be theories. But what happens when the burning desire of men to have their fifteen minutes of fame comes to light in the form of fallacies and outright story telling? The greed they show forever harms the credibility of the conspiracies that have transpired, those theories that have some merit, that have some serious qualifications and corroboration, are turned suspect. The truth that we search so longingly for is shadowed with doubt. The more the selfish and greedy few attempt to hoist themselves up for recognition and wealth, the more they trample on the already fragile framework that the truth of these theories so delicately rest upon. This is the fate of the intertwined story of Project Rainbow and the warrens beneath Camp Hero that housed the incredible Montauk Project.

Montauk reportedly took place in the late 1970's and early 1980's, but to really understand the significance of it we must travel back about 40 years to the time of WWII. The Philadelphia Experiment, originally known as Project Rainbow, was supposedly secretly run during World War II to test the ability of electromagnetic waves to hide ships from radar detection, which also had the curious effect of making them physically invisible. The idea was to save merchant vessels, since half of them were being lost to German U-boats. This test was done on a military cannon class vessel called the *Eldridge*.

According to unverified eyewitness accounts, the ship, during one of the two experiments, vanished from sight. It was said to be seen some 200 miles away in a shipyard in Virginia by the crew of the merchant vessel *Andrew Furuseth*. Then the *Eldridge* was teleported back to Philadelphia. A greenish fog allegedly surrounded the ship when it disappeared in a flash of blue light. This event happened twice, once in July and again in October of 1943. During the second test, the boat included a crew. It is said that when the ship reappeared, some of the crew were fused to bulkheads, physically sick, and suffered psychological problems. This was the Philadelphia Experiment. This project was supposedly cancelled after the second event and was lost to history until, many years later, Carlos Allende contacted Morris Jessup, who had just published a book titled *Case for the UFO*.



Carlos Allende claimed to have witnessed the entire experiment and to have been one of the crew on board the *Andrew Furuseth*.

The Department of the Navy does not deny these events; they simply say they can find no record of anything linking or verifying Project Rainbow. This report is on their Web site in the FAQ section (which I found humorous). They have a small amount of evidence showing the exact dates of the ships whereabouts during the time of these events, putting both of them nowhere near the reported site at the time of the experiment. The captain of the *Andrew Furuseth* has documented in a letter to the Navy that neither he nor his crew ever saw such a boat. Of course, these things can be faked, and any die-hard believer will tell you as much. In actuality the conspiracy theory surrounding Project Rainbow is great. It is plausible. The government would be foolish not to test new equipment and theories, especially during a world war.

The Philadelphia Experiment was debunked by Robert Georman, a researcher of the paranormal. The debunking has left some questions though, concerning some naval record tampering and scientific studies done about the validity of the experiment. Carlos Allende made the whole thing up according to Georman. Allende was a bit of an eccentric to begin with and his reasons for doing what he did are not fully known. There seems to be evidence supporting the Philadelphia Experiment and a bit more against it, the makings of a perfect conspiracy theory. There may very well be some truth at the base of Allende's allegations. And although Allende had no connection with the Montauk Project, that episode connects, in a very strange way, to that involving the Eldridge. The tie in between the Philadelphia and Montauk Projects is through one specific man and five of his associates.

Al Bielek, who came from relatively nowhere, claimed to have repressed memories of being involved with the Philadelphia Experiment in a past life. He began to remember his involvement when watching the movie *The Philadelphia Experiment*, released in 1984. Seriously.

The story is such: The scientists who had been involved in the Philadelphia Experiment had no desire to end their research with the Eldridge, nor did they actually discontinue it. The team included such notables as Jon Von Neumann, who had supposedly died in 1957, and Nikola Tesla, who, if alive during the Montauk Project, would be almost 120 years old. Unable to get funding from the normal government channels after the war ended, they sidestepped the red tape and went straight to the Defense Department. They promised a weapon that would induce major psychological damage instantly in return for the funding.

The project began at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, under the name the Phoenix Project. It was quickly moved to Camp Hero in nearby Montauk, due to the need for SAGE radar for the experiments, although, by that time, the radar had become useless for military applications (eventually leading to the decommissioning of the camp altogether). The Base has been reported to have stretched at least one quarter of a mile underground, and, in some reports, the underground tunnels stretched for miles. No positive proof of the underground structure of Camp Hero can be verified; it has been sealed completely, and the grounds have been made into a park with the intention of eventually building a historical war museum there. Oddly enough, one condition of the base's future tenure as a park was that the lower levels of the base would always belong to the military and never be opened.

The claims of Al Bielek and his five associates, most notably Preston Nichols, include detailed accounts of aliens, time travel, teleportation, hyperspace travel, psychic powers (even to the point of materializing something out of thin air), and the link to the Philadelphia Experiment. The most notable of these incidents was the travel of the two men from the Eldridge to Camp Hero, where it all started.

Al Bielek, then known as Ed Cameron, and his then brother, Duncan Cameron, jumped over the edge of the ship while the ship had transported itself into hyperspace during one of its "disappearances." At first, they tried to disable the equipment that was causing the teleportation. Unable to do so, they left the ship behind. They were then teleported through time to the year 2137. Bielek was then teleported farther into the future. Six weeks later, he came back for Duncan and they were teleported back to 1983. (In Bielek's first telling of the story, they both teleported straight to 1983; the future teleportation entered the story at a later telling). Duncan later ended up back in 1943 and finally to 1983.

The story of Duncan Cameron, Al Bielek's brother from a former life when he was Ed Cameron, is so convoluted that I will not even venture to cite it in its entirety (see addendum following this article). The entire story is related in the book *The Montauk Project: Experiments in Time* by Preston Nichols (There is in fact an entire series of books on Montauk by Preston Nichols, Al Bielek, Peter Moon, and Stewart Swerdlow). Confused yet?

Through the book, and through the accounts of the alleged fellow survivors, we learn that there was a multitude of experiments going on at Camp Hero. The book includes these claims: The facility included as many as 12 levels, some say it even extended under the town of Montauk itself. Stewart Swerdlow claims to have been involved in the Montauk Project, and as a result, his "psionic" faculties were boosted but at the cost of emotional instability, post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues. A "porthole in time" was created that allowed researchers to travel anywhere in time or space. This was developed into a stable "Time Tunnel."

Contact was made with extraterrestrials. Mind-control experiments were conducted. This merely brushes the surface. There are many books by these men about the Montauk Project, along with CD sets with recorded interviews of these "survivors." In other places, there are accounts of lizard men, wingmakers who design computers in the distant future, other alien races, tunnels on Mars containing stores of information, and large-scale tests on electromagnetic mind control and psychic powers. In those tests, many are said to have died and many more left brainwashed.

Besides the testimony of these men, there is not one shred of evidence to prove that the Montauk Project existed. In fact, a team of researchers—Marshall Barnes, Fred Houpt, and Gerold Schelm—from three different countries successfully debunked Al Bielek's claims and, in the process, showed considerable evidence of doubt of the authenticity of the story put forth by Preston Nichols and the other survivors of the Montauk Project. Over a span of five years, they gathered concrete evidence that proved that large parts of the stories these men were telling were false. The entire debunking has been published online by these researchers. But the harm done by people who spread hoaxes, intentionally or unintentionally, in the vast sea of conspiracies and cover-ups is, immeasurable to the seeker of the truth.

It is impossible to argue with anyone who refuses to believe in the possibility of a cover-up or who roost on the other side of the paranoia fence. Why? Because conspiracy theories can't be proven or unproven. No amount of evidence for or against will ever change the thoughts tumbling through the heads of the people believing or disbelieving in them. It all comes down to two interesting phenomena: Faith and the reinforcement of a personal world view. We search out things that support how we

want the world to be, how we feel the world is operating. The most pointed remarks I have ever read on this subject come from Brian Dunning, a skeptic and writer on the paranormal:

The trouble with discussing government conspiracies is that the believers generally refuse to accept the factual evidence, because it becomes part of the conspiracy. It's a bit like having a debate about Creationism: believers simply say "God did it" and it's a matter of faith, not of evidence or fact. If the government is trying to cover something up, every falsified claim becomes evidence for the conspiracy. In summary, there is no amount of evidence that can be compiled that will be accepted by a conspiracy theorist. In the conspiracy theorist's mind, evidence against is actually evidence for. -Brian Denning, in *Skeptoid.com*

Does any of this really mean conspiracy theories are all wrong? No, not even remotely. The government does cover up any number of its actions, the fact of which has been well documented through numerous slip ups, putting light onto these darkened government operations. It is a sure bet that powerful groups, whether inside the government or out, have strewn through a series of debacles and experiments that have been hidden deep within the fold of lies and fronts. That is not in question. What remains sad about the overall fringe culture is the presence of the deluded, the attention-seekers, and the greedy who constantly whittle away at what relatively small credibility this demimonde has. It is bad enough that the powers that be do what they can to keep the fog of deceit secured around the masses; it just worsens the ultimate desire for truth when those within the community unwittingly help to keep deceit and misinformation in place. A seeker must stand fast and search out what is fact, using a critical eye. It seems only prudent to independently investigate the truth on our own terms.

It is seriously unfortunate that people such as Al Bielek exist, but exist they do. Greed and ambition seem to drive many, steering those seeking truth from their intended path. Always will these obstacles beset the weary traveler upon the road to enlightenment. Falsehoods outnumber truths, and to the eternal sadness and harm of the human race, we will continuously be slowed by half-truths, false promises, and broken visions. But in the end, hopefully, we will be better for it. Perpetually will the plausibility of the Philadelphia Experiment lie in the shadow of the myth of the Montauk Project.

#### **Sources:**

<http://Bielek.com> - Al Bieleks page

<http://www.bielek-debunked.com/> - Intensive research based debunking of Al Bielek and the Montauk Project

<http://skeptoid.com/episodes/4016> - Philadelphia experiment overview and debunking

<http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/montauk.html> - interviews and excerpts

Preston Nichols Interviews Ten Parts

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSRWxC7cRqM>

[http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/montauk/esp\\_montauk.htm](http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/montauk/esp_montauk.htm) - Comprehensive source for the Montauk Project – photos, videos, interview transcripts, and related materials.

There were some other sources read and researched but are not included here due to erroneous and duplicate materials.

Addendum:

The story of Duncan Cameron Jr. is a confusing one. According to the authors of the book *The Montauk Project*, Duncan was a sailor aboard the USS Eldridge when the Philadelphia Experiment was conducted. The Experiment resulted in his being catapulted forward in time to arrive at Montauk base in 1983. He then became involved in the Montauk Project and was bounced about the time stream before being returned to 1943 in an attempt to stop the experiment that started it all. Confused? I haven't even gotten started . . .

To try and explain Duncan's confusing life would probably take another 10 pages of text, text most people wouldn't care to read. The best option is to sum up his amazing adventures through space and time as follows:

In 1943, Duncan and his brother Edward were stationed on board the Eldridge. They worked in the control room housing many of the experimental generators used to power the Tesla coils that created the electromagnetic fields around the ship. Since they were deep inside the ship, protected by layers of steel shielding, Duncan and Edward were untouched by the horrible side effects that ravaged the rest of the crew.

The first actual experiment conducted on the Eldridge apparently took place July 20, 1943. At this time, the ship vanished from sight for 15 minutes. The fields created made many crewmen nauseous and caused psychological problems in others. A second test was then set up for August 12th, with the object to obtain radar invisibility and not optical invisibility. According to the authors of *The Montauk Project*, three UFOs appeared over the ship six days before the August 12th test. When the test was conducted, one of these UFOs was sucked through the resulting hole in time and space and ended up underground at Montauk Base.

When the August 12th test was conducted, the two brothers were once again in the control room. For a short time (the first five minutes or so), the test seemed to be working as planned. Then, the ship vanished from sight. Duncan and Edward could see that the experiment was failing (due to the effects on the other crewmen). They tried to shut down the various generators and transmitters, but nothing seemed to be working. They then decided that the safest course of action was to abandon ship. Jumping overboard, they fell through a time tunnel and ended up at Montauk in the year 1983.

Found by members of the Montauk Project, the two brothers were then escorted into one of the buildings on base. There, they met Dr. John von Neumann, the man who had been behind many aspects of the Montauk Project since 1943. He informed them that he had been waiting for the two to appear, and that Duncan and Edward needed to return to 1943 to turn off the generators and end the experiment that was being conducted on the Eldridge.

Both Duncan and Edward agreed to this plan, making a number of time-travel trips for the Montauk researchers before returning for good to 1943. Finally, the brothers reappeared on the Eldridge and managed to shut off the generators, mainly by smashing transmitters and cutting any cables they could find.

Just before the Eldridge returned to its proper place in the time stream, Duncan went back through the time portal and returned to Montauk in 1983. It is unknown why he did so, although it is suggested that he may have been “programmed” to. Once in 1983 for good, Duncan found himself severed from the time stream. He grew old at a fantastic rate and began to die from the effects of extreme aging.

Using unspecified techniques, the Montauk scientists managed to save Duncan by transferring his mind (or “signature”) to a new body. This new body was obtained through the help of Duncan Cameron Sr., the father of Duncan Jr., and Edward. Using a time portal, Montauk personnel contacted Duncan Sr. in 1947, informing him of their need to save his son’s life. The solution was for Duncan Sr. to have another son.

In 1951, the second Duncan Cameron Jr. was born. In 1963, when this Duncan was 12, the Montauk scientists transferred the old Duncan’s mind into the child’s body. This forced the second Duncan “out,” a fate that remains unexplained.

Meanwhile, Edward remained with the Eldridge. A final test was run with the ship in October of 1943. This experiment used an unmanned vessel, with all controls located on a secondary ship. After the test, it was discovered that a large amount of equipment was missing, including transmitters and generators. The experiment was then abandoned for good. Edward continued with his naval career, becoming involved with a number of experiments dealing with “free energy” vehicles and devices. At some point, he was made to forget all he had seen and done in connection with the Philadelphia Experiment.

Edward’s final fate may be even more bizarre than his brother’s. He was apparently put through a series of age regression procedures that reduced him to the age of a small infant. He was then sent to live with the Bielek family to replace their baby boy,

who had recently died. Given the name of Al Bielek, he grew up ignorant of his true past until certain events in the late 1980's triggered his memories. He now devotes his time to researching the Philadelphia Experiment in an attempt to uncover the truth.

Source: <http://surbrook.devermore.net/herosource/montauk/monduncan.html>

## Ode of Nefertiti

And I Saw Something New  
It Was Written In My  
Tomb.

Plucked Out My Eyes  
Given Stars' Violets  
Pierce Through

Stolen Voice Box  
Replaced Heart  
Indigo Blue

Did Thou  
Think est  
I Be Unaided

While You Continue  
Crossing Calloused Black

And There At My Giving  
It Is More Than Given Back  
Whilst Yours      The Taking

Oh Jealous Epitaph

A Queen Am I  
Origins Need

Not  
Supply

I Am  
QUEEN

by Sonya Lund

**Unified of all forces**[String time  
theory of everything]  
Unification of String [energetic paths] with United Nature  
[Wave]=Theory of Everything

—by Chaim Henry Tejman

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by **Quantum 3 D** —M-bubble, Planck,  
curled formation by itself by regional space time  
swirl .

**Quantum-Gravitational wave 3 D**  
strings [ for all quanta formations]—Space time  
geometry- bubble - A. Einstein,

**Quantum:** Composed by **3 D** bubble  
strings —energetic paths, which by swirling  
rotation and revolving motion create wave strings  
formation of electro-magnetic and gravity semi loops720 —  
two perpendicular spins forces] two semi loops of  
gravitational **wave**.[C.Tejman].

United nature theory by introduction  
regional curled swirl as basic creation  
of quantum formation complete string  
theory by the 11dimension to be

by **Quantum [mechanics]** and

by **Strings Quantum Time.**

**Continue motion of energetic matter [energetic package] in closed strings [quantum] formation may appear only by spin changing [ 720 ]**

**TIME:** appears together with strings quantum creation, and with all forces obey all rules of quantum formation. There is not chaos. Everything [like in army] obey the hierarchy order by strings-energetic path., Time vanish together with quantum disintegration [dispersion] and by **Evolution** continue by quanta genes to be future quanta times

**Continue motion of energetic matter [energetic package] in closed strings [quantum] formation may appear only by spin changing [ 720 ]**

**TIME:** appears together with strings quantum creation, and with all forces obey all rules of quantum formation. There is not chaos. Everything [like in army] obey the hierarchy order by strings-energetic path. Time vanish together with quantum disintegration [dispersion] and by

**Evolution** continue by quanta  
genes to be future quanta times.  
Equation: of equilibrium of all  
energetic forces in quantum-time  
formation by different phase  
transitions.

$$\frac{\text{magnetic semi loop x time}}{\text{electric semi loop x time}} = \frac{\text{electric semi loop x time}}{\text{magnetic semi loop x time}}$$

**Only nature ALONE explain  
the simple way of its  
creations and behavior.  
That is still beyond our  
imagination.**

**String theory and United  
Nature Theory** share similar  
ideas.

The strings, ingenious,  
**mathematically** [but somewhat complicated  
mathematical properties that can be understand only by

**small group of scientists] is the most closed theory to the sophisticated nature creation, and**

**United Nature Theory that tries unification life [J. B. Lamarck and C. Darwin theories] with all disciplines of natural sciences, by pictures from nature needs some common sense and imagination but it's easy to understand to mankind]. Together with string theories help to understand quantum behavior. United Nature Theory help to understand the most complicated mathematical properties of quantum and Nature behavior by explanation nature behavior by scientific researches.**

**Al these theories, complement, explain each other and help to more deeply understanding the unbelievable ingenious sophisticated behavior of Nature.**

**TOE is not the final theory that is only infinity search until mankind exists, to understand our existence,**

**Chaim, Henry Tejman. Jerusalem.**

**United Nature Theory-Wave Theory**

<http://www.grandunifiedtheory.org.il/index.htm> For more understand strings theories see Michael B. Green, John H. Schwarz, Sunil Mukhi beautiful articles.

<http://theory.tifr.res.in/~mukhi/Physics/string.html>

**Part 1.** Expiation of String theories by United nature theory and vice versa.

**The mysterious hyperspace by space fabrics creates different creation but the stabile creation is regional swirl quantum formation that create and unify all forces and particles.**

See some examples of stabile independent quanta creations that are in stabile galaxies phase transition.



Stefan's Quintet.  
7317-



merging  
galaxy[quantum]



**NASA M-51** The magnetic gravity swirl, to the left, and the electromagnetic swirl, right together connected by large strings-energetic path [space time curvatures] that create 720 two semiloops **quantum-gravitational** wave formation

Independent closed quantum formation composed by two semiloops connected by strings energetic paths They are not collisions galaxies.

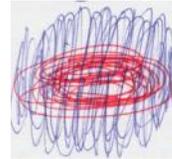
**These pictures explain quantum formation by United nature theory and by string theories and vice versa.**



Two semi loops of perpendicular forces electromagnetic and gravity.



These forces appear by 3 D segments strings path motion.



Quantum formation by swirling, continue strings, motion that create two main forces define space time.



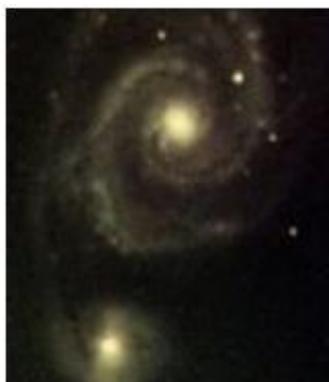
Hank-wave of perpendicular strings energetic path

**On basis'' independent 51 galaxies and other I try to explain quantum formation [by pictures].**

**However the shape and behavior of quantum are changed, by different phase transitions, but quantum must, always, obey the basic rules [A. Einstein].**

**Unified Nature Theory by quantum two semi loops [3 D time-720] by connected strings [energetic-electric path forces] and the motion to all direction comprises all fields, spaces, dimensions and unified all forces, times.**

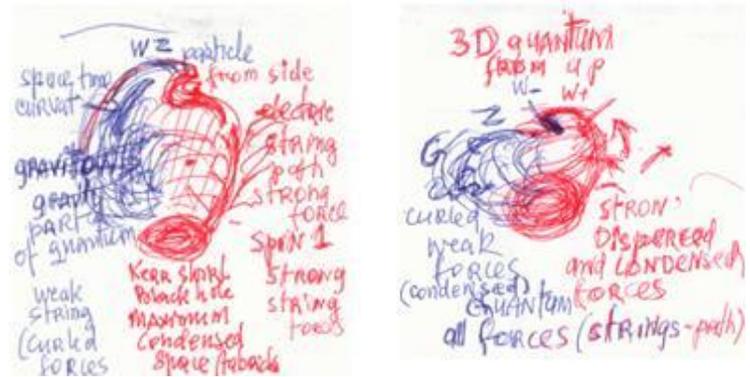
**UNT like, Lamark. Darwin, Mendel, by nature observations, try connect all known natural scientific and laboratory works with all ingenious theories.**



**Explanation of basic behavior of all quanta formations from galaxy to atom . . .**

The energetic [Kerr swirl- [mixed all forces times] condensed regional energetic space time expel electromagnetic swirling string electric path with all time forces [genes]. Electromagnetic string path on its line motion disperse energetic strings [prolonged forces time future continue recycling quanta forces time and to **inside** quantum formation dispersed strings creating small different quanta forces times [hard to detect because they are closed string formations maybe they are the small connected quanta forces-bosons . On the end of its swirling string path, create second swirl [Schwarzschild-white hole] which also mixed of all forces times and expelled as gravity swirling string, [space time curvatures forces-times]. The magnetic-gravity strings paths are curled inside of itself forces and time shrunk [condensed]. In gravity paths the time and forces [condensed]. Quantum which unified all forces may be condensed as neutrino or large as universe .

Theoretical explanation of quantum behavior of all forces.



**Every string [segment- small string-open quantum] wears all forces but properties [symmetry, balance and spin] are changed by phase transitions but **energetic balance of the “two semi loops forces” is always preserved.****

**Pict. creation of quantum formation, by peculiar motion of energetic, electric string, path.**

Only nature alone is able to explain this, like “simple” sophisticated creation.

Electric source by swirling, revolving and rotation motion of 3D time string [electric path-strong force] appears two perpendicular formations-forces-spins [open quanta formations]. Like photon motion.

<http://www.grandunifiedtheory.org.il/Third%20Book/Photon%20Moving.htm>



Segment  
segment

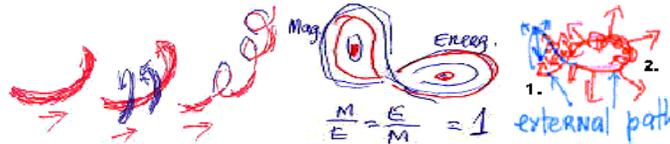


Segment Segment  
Segment



Segment  
Segment

**Depending on thickness [amount of energy] this string creates open or closed 720 quantum formation.**



Electric, energetic string, by its swirling and spinning motion by 3D time space curvatures create quantum, open duality formation Two main perpendicular spin forces.

Wave formation: {quantum, closed} composed by electromagnetic [semi loop-spin1] strings Forces that pushes outward and inward, while the magnetic [gravity semi loop-blue] pushes the energetic matter inside (left semi loop spin 2, - condensed space time

**The swirling motion of energetic 3D strings-path time create duality of-strings open quanta formations that are composed of endless segments [zoo] particles.**

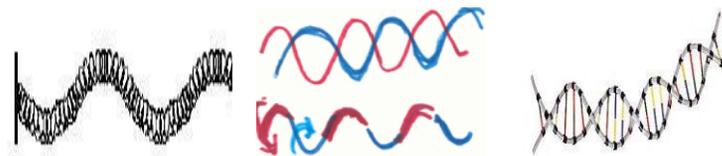
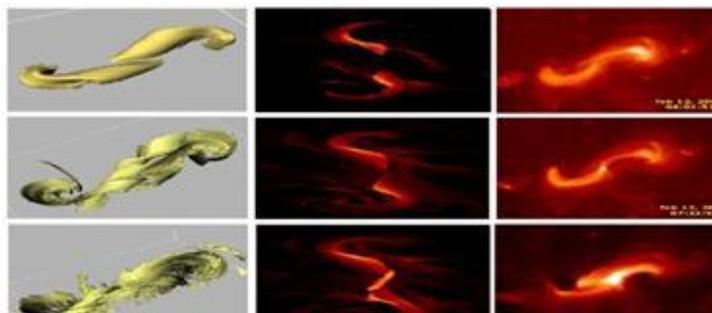


Figure below shows the time evolution and final eruption of the sigmoid. Credit: NASA / STFC / ISAS / JAXA / A. Hood (St. Andrews), V. Archontis (St. Andrews)



By swirling motion strings path transferee high energetic [high energetic phase-hyper strings to the low phase transition] by its peculiar motion. Transferee from strong electromagnetic to gravity magnetic weak force. [[important picture]

An even greater revolution insofar as our knowledge of the gravity wave is concerned was provided by the following pictures, also courtesy of the Hubble Telescope. These pictures, which in my estimation are the photos of the century, document exactly what a gravity wave looks

**Other examples: of quanta formations. Solar swirl, prominence, high phase transition- [superstring theory] create not stable quantum formations.**



Different shapes and behavior of energetic strings-path [solar prominences]



from common source arises different-strings relative closed formations, Einstein's twins  
 In this gravitation wave quantum are a lot smaller relative gravity quanta  
 Every gravitation wave has its specific frequency

Aurora: open and closed quanta formations clearly show strings-energetic paths space time curvatures behavior.



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 NASA unified of all forces by quantum

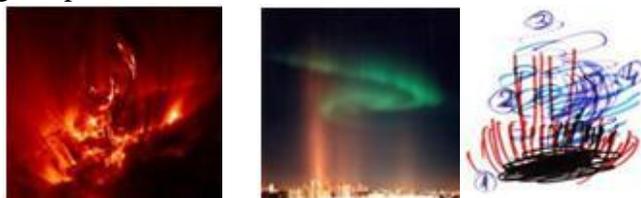
unified of all forces by quantum gravity2

Amar  
 Valdima...

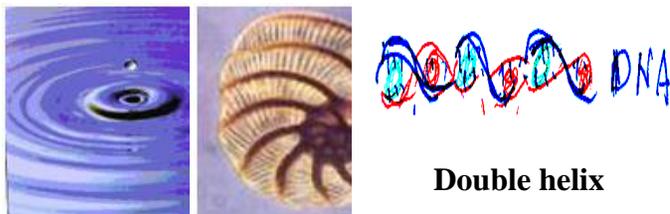
Amar  
 Valdima.

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 unified of all forces by quantum

Solar prominence and aurora [similar behavior by strings-energetic path motion] .



“Living” open time quanta formations [two semi loops-Double helix] are created by regional swirl continue circulation of energetic matter by two main perpendicular energetic forces, invisible strings-path. Electric and magnetic semi loops are connected by high energetic electric strings. Beautiful examples from nature [Strings and U.N.T].



**Double helix**

It is worth reiterating the fact that energetic matter [strings-path] is a living and mercurial creation. Therefore, one requires a considerable amount of common sense to categorize energetic formations in their proper group.

**All forces appears in quantum formation but are changed by phase transitions.**

<p><b>String theory</b></p> <p>Represent all - part of quantum formation include magnetic gravity second-rank <u>tensor field with a spin</u> of 2 closed .</p> <p>by introduction regional curled swirl as basic creation of quantum formation complete string theory by the 11dimension to be</p> <p><b>Theory of everything</b> [Kaluza, Klein, Tejman].</p>	<p><b>Wave-[quantum] theory</b></p> <p>Quantum [two semi loops] 720 connected by strings-energetic path represent all phase transitions and time that by endless directions of strings and their segments [give zoo particles] with their endless different behaviors. Represents all times .</p>	<p><b>Superstring theory</b></p> <p>Type 1 superstring represents mainly the high energetic- electric part of quantum. High phase transition. Open quantum formation. Have two behaviors dispersed and condensed. Electro magnetic-gravity. Time prolonged, distended. Theory of future.</p>
---	---	--

**Why appears so different theories and equations for the same issue.**

**Because they describe only specific phase transition, but quantum formation from its creation until disperses to surround transferred by endless different phase transitions.**

After many years I understand that all ingenious equations of all ingenious scientists describe the same ingenious, sophisticated quantum.

**Why does that happen?**

**The answer is simple: quantum has endless formations and unified of all forces and the United Nature Theory explains the natural quantum formation behavior as it really appears in nature and unites all these ingenious equations to sophisticated quantum creation and the same happens with strings theories.**

Schrödinger's equation:

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi + V\Psi = i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t}$$

Faraday's equation:

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = -\frac{d}{dt} \int \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Maxwell equation:  
Planck's equation:

$$\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = -\frac{d}{dt} \int_S B_n dA$$

$$E = h\nu$$

Einstein's equation:

$$E = MC^2$$

The de Broglie equation  $f = E/h$ , or  $E = fXh$

**Most closed to quantum [strings –energetic-path] nature creation is Tejman's two semi loops strings[energetic paths] wave formation that Unified of all forces**

**In different phase transitions proportions of these forces are changed, but their energetic equilibrium is preserved to kept quantum existence.**

$$\left( \frac{\text{Magnetic Semi-Loop of Energetic Matter}}{\text{Electric Semi-Loop of Energetic Matter}} \right) \sim \left( \frac{\text{Electric Semi-Loop of Energetic Matter}}{\text{Magnetic Semi-Loop of Energetic Matter}} \right) = \text{Quantum Constant} = \left( \frac{\text{Magnetic Semi-Loop}}{\text{Electric Semi-Loop}} \right) \sim \left( \frac{\text{Electric Semi-Loop}}{\text{Magnetic Semi-Loop}} \right)$$

**This equation explain the behavior of the two semi loops in photon phase transition.**

In different phase transitions the proportion are other.

The same equation: of time and energetic equilibrium in quantum formation. - time changed together with quantum formation. Left, gravity-magnetic behavior-- Both, together, are wave-particle--- Right, electric behavior

$$\frac{\text{magnetic semi loop x time}}{\text{electric semi loop x time}} = \frac{\text{electric semi loop x time}}{\text{magnetic semi loop x time}}$$

**TIME-Quantum time appears together with string formation, continue by quantum formation and disappears together with quantum vanishing to space**

and by **Evolution** of quanta formations continue to be future time.

$$\left| \text{Time} = \frac{h \cdot \lambda}{h} \right| \quad \left| E = h \cdot \nu \right| \quad \left| \nu = \frac{c}{\lambda} \right| \quad \left| \lambda = \nu \cdot T \right| \quad \left| \nu = \frac{c}{T} \right|$$

**Because the time appears together with energetic formation activity and mainly with stabile quanta formations I try make the best of something by modification of M. Planck quantum.**

$$\left| E = \frac{h \cdot \lambda}{T} \right| \quad \left| T = \frac{h \cdot \lambda}{E} \right| \quad \left| T \uparrow = \frac{h \cdot \lambda \uparrow}{E} \right| \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Time} = \\ \text{space/frequen} \end{array} \right| \quad \left| \frac{h \cdot \lambda}{E} = 1 \right| \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{space} \\ \text{time} \end{array} \right| \quad \left| \text{qu. constant} \right|$$

**Shortly: Time appears and vanishing together with really stabile quantum formation and is relative to wave phase transition [Tejman].**

**Quantum-time created by energetic strings-path has endless behaviors and connect to all forces. Time is a part of quantum formation that is created by the ONE space strong force which creates everything.**

Quantum forces time and behavior are changed by different phase transition and I tray explain that by **United Nature Theory [Wave Theory]**.

**Phase Transition [Tejman's equations].**

The ideal structure of energetic matter is the strings-energetic paths wave formation, quantum which is comprised of an energetic and magnetic, two semi unclosed loops {720°} six quarks, space time geometry [Einstein], wave formation {Tejman} quantum {Planck} and wave

particle {Einstein, de Broglie}. Under ideal conditions [balance], such as the photon, galaxy the two loops are equal insofar as the properties of their energetic matter are concerned.



The structure of the strings-wave formation is amenable to the creation of various life forms. Any change in the proportion of energetic matter in the loops leads to a new phase transition in which one of the loops has more energetic or gravity properties that changed proportionally all forces and spin. These changes to the equilibrium between the energetic and magnetic loop result in different behaviors and endless phase [transitions]. To follow are mathematical equations for the balance between the energetic and magnetic loop of a string's wave formation in various phase transitions:

**High Phase Transition: Space time enlarged**

{energetic semi loop} ↑ Energy dispersed [diminished] so gravity almost disappears {nearly 0} as that occurs in Hyper universe. [described beautifully by hyperstring theory]

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Energetic loop } (x) = E\{x\} \\
 \text{Magn.-grav. Loop } M
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 = 1 \\
 \text{The equilibrium of} \\
 \text{Magnetic Loop} \\
 \text{and Energetic} \\
 \text{Loop}(x) \text{ must be obey}
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 1 = 1 \\
 \text{Energetic Loop } (x) \uparrow \text{ oscillating} \\
 \text{Magn.-grav. Loop } \downarrow \text{ frequency}
 \end{array}$$

In hyperspace, energetic matter (energy, space and time)



**3. Low Phase Transition-High Magnetic, gravity semi loop [time condensed].**

$$\frac{\text{Magneticgravit Loop}(x) \uparrow}{\text{Energetic space time Loop} \downarrow} = \frac{\text{Energetic Loop } G}{\text{Mag. grav Loop}(x) = \text{Oscillation-frequency} \uparrow} \frac{\text{energetic space tm} \downarrow}{\text{Oscillation-frequency} \uparrow}$$

In this phase, the magnetic loop is induced to compliment the energetic loop by accelerating the pace [oscillation] at which it spins. This helps maintain the equilibrium of the wave. Moreover, energy, space, and time are most condensed in this phase, as the magnetic properties (loop) gain the ascendancy like neutrino and neutron stars. In fact, this is exactly what transpires in a nuclear bomb, as extremely condensed units of energy, space and time are released by the explosion

$$\text{Phase transition} = \frac{\text{electric semi loop} \times \text{time}}{\text{magnetic semi loop} \times \text{time}}$$

In high electric phase transition electric semi loop  $\uparrow$  In low phase gravity semi loop  $\uparrow$

Accordingly, the more condensed the matter is in a particular amount of space, the greater the force of gravity; in other words, the more energy condensed in a given area, the stronger the force of gravitation by curled motion to inside of quantum formation.

Equation of gravity, by United Nature Theory

$$\text{Gravity} = \frac{\text{Condensed Energetic Matter}}{\text{Its Space}}$$

**According to United Nature Theory.**

**Three sophisticated constant active media - time, space and energy that are waved together by strings-energetic paths.** Each has its own properties and behaviours; one cannot exist without the others. Theoretically, each of them has no beginning and no end, and they are all one entity but are changeable, depending on different phases of energetic matter in which they appear and decay together. .

These three media - time, space and energy create sophisticated wave-quantum-formation that creates-

**everything** which has beginning and end.

**The three constant active media, time, space, and energy create condensed energetic/ space/ time formations mainly by Einstein's space/ time curvatures.**

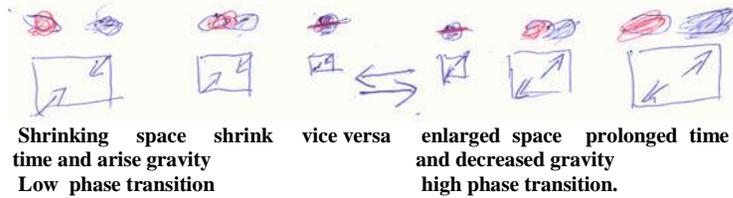
**Condensed energetic space time I call ENERGETIC MATTER.**

In different phase transitions the proportion of these three media changed

Enlarged extended space prolonged the time.

The more enlarged extended space cause extension of time, by extension of space decreases the condensation of energetic matter [decreases the gravity].

Pict. Relation of the tree media.



**The direction of energetic matter in quantum formation that is always from high phase transition to lower phase transition.**



**Low phase{transition} = quantum constant – high phase{transition}**

$$\frac{time}{space} = 1 \quad time = \frac{space}{Energy (Gravity)} \quad gravity = \frac{Energy}{Space}$$

**Time, always proportional to quantum space phase transition, [quantum constant]**

**T I M E SPACE quantum constant**

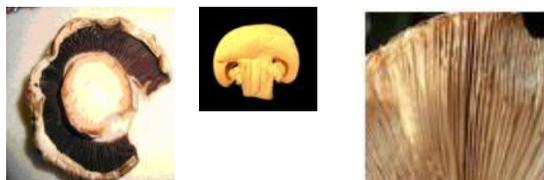
**Behavior of these tree media in quantum formation are always proportional constant**

$$\frac{space}{time} = \dots \text{ T I M E } - \text{ quantum - constant}$$

**Oscillation**

**The direction of energetic matter and time in quantum formation from its creation in organic and not organic formation is the same. Time with all quantum formations move always from high phase transition to lower phase transition until disperse back to space. Living mushroom champignon formations explain**

simple, by picture, the behavior of the two main forces, electromagnetic and gravity, that are in perpendicular constant motion between these formations [forces] We clearly see energetic electric strings paths forces which connected two perpendicular curling gravity formations.



Mushroom champignon, explain beautiful the nature behavior and explain strings [energetic path] Theories and United Nature Theory[Wave] theory, Other pictures that explain string and United Nature Theory[Wave] theory



**Phobos [Mars moon] soil, may be blasted by some impacts.**

Pic. from DISCOVER JUNE 2009. CLEARLY SHOW TWO PERPENDICULAR FORCES [That not needs a lot of imagination. That is also picture of the century].

## Two, main forces.



Cover of “Scientific American” February 2009. and  
Explanation by united nature theory: Motion of energetic  
matter from a black hole expelled from singularity by quanta  
[two behaviors “semi loops” open quanta] 1.magnetic –  
gravity, **visible**, condensed energetic space. 2. Electric –  
[**invisible** to our eyes] perpendicular string forces connected  
gravity visible paths. Similar to the M. Faraday experiment  
and Maxwell equation

Only nature explains these complicated  
mathematical theories  
**of open superstrings, quanta-wave-in high  
phase transition.**

Pict: High energetic [ spin 1 ] formations  
[superstrings].



galaxy  
crash  
frame.jpg

trifidpill  
ars hst

story00  
06.jpg

cone  
nebula

[steveblacki  
images/  
steveblacki  
images/](#)

Open strings formations [beginning of galaxy creation].



[spaceflightnow.com](http://spaceflightnow.com)

obabashut

emitted from the core of

[godandscience.org](http://godandscience.org)

String theory – galaxy phase like photon phase..

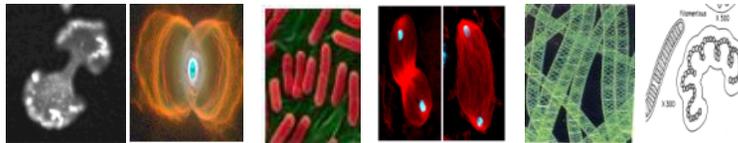


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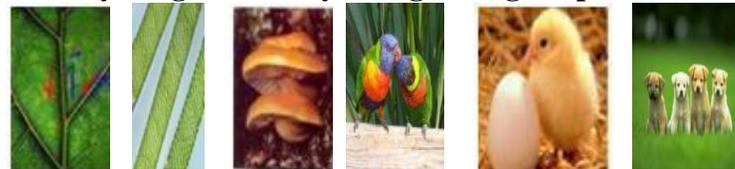
orion nebula.jpg

catseye

**Gravity, low phase transition closed quantum formation]**

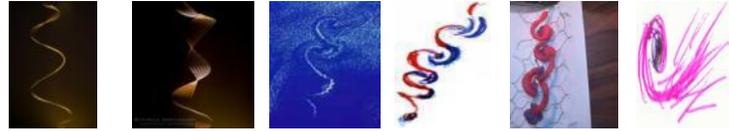


**Everything created by strings energetic path.**



who first?

Open string, electromagnetic strong force, create everything and by quantum formation all forces.



20060116134751y1.jpg. HABBEL telescope

United Nature Theory with other physics and mathematical theories explains the life as it is by connection to Lamark's and Darwin's theories.

United nature theory by introduction regional curled swirl as basic creation of quantum formation complete string theory by the 11 dimension to be

**Theory of everything** [Kaluza, Klein, Tejman].

Summary:

**String and other ingenious mathematical theories can't explain even to wise man the behavior of nature but together with United nature theory all theories become sense.**

**This paper may be subject to copy, but please cite the source.**

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**Theory of everything.**

<http://www.grandunifiedtheory.org.il/>

Thanks to known American scientist  
Dennis Keffer [denkef@peak.org]  
Who all time advise me to write paper.

## Debunking the Bard by Bradley Sands

The academic in front of the hot dog stand says, "William Shakespeare did not write any of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare."

The hot dog vendor serves the academic a hot dog and says, "Fuckin' A, guy. Tell me something I don't know."

The academic bites into the hot dog, chews, swallows, and says, "Leatherface chainsaw-massacred William Shakespeare and wore his flesh as a mask while he wrote the world's greatest literature."

The hot dog vendor spits into the academic's face and says, "You're just trying to trick me. Leatherface wasn't around back when Shakespeare was writing all those namby-pamby 'oooh look at me, tee and thee is so fucking poetry' buttsex fests."

William Shakespeare erupts out of the hot dog stand, waving a chainsaw. Blood spurts over the hot dogs. The chainsaw transforms the hot dog vendor into a pile of organs. William Shakespeare says, "Gnaaaaaarrrr!"

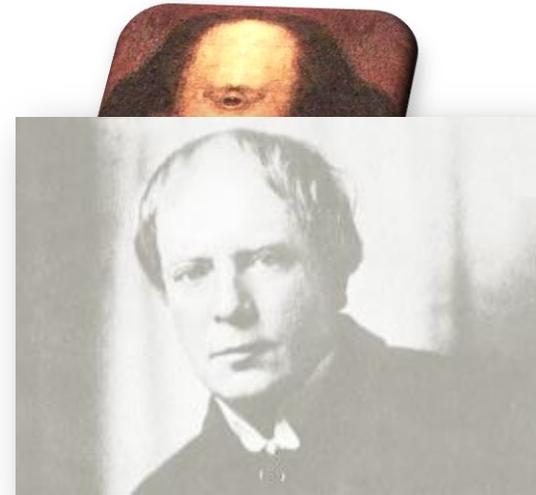
The academic looks star-struck. He says, "I'm a big fan of your work, Leatherface."

William Shakespeare tears off his face. He tears off the academic's face. He slips the William Shakespeare face over the academic's skull. He slips the academic's face over his own skull.

William Shakespeare and the academic hold hands and skip off to a wedding chapel.

## The Secret Glory of Arthur Machen

by Richard Stanley



---

**M**ankind in its arrogance knows little of the earth. Even as we plumb the dying oceans and the nearer reaches of space, a rambler in the Welsh valleys might still feel a chill as the shadows lengthen and the airy silence presses in, a silence that is not a silence at all but an intricate symphony of subliminal sound, the white noise of things growing and dying. This quickening of the heart, one part terror, one part exhilaration in the face of nature at its most sublime is panic in its primal sense, what our forefathers knew as the proximity of the pagan deity Pan, the hieratic embodiment of the earth's fecundity, misunderstood and maligned by the people of the Book as the horned essence of evil itself.

The poet and mystic Arthur Machen came of age in those remote backwoods. Born in 1863, he spent his formative years at Llandewi Rectory in Gwent where one solitary summer afternoon he took an unfamiliar path through the hills and encountered something that touched his soul and chafed against his Christian upbringing, something that he struggled for the rest of his life to put into words.

Adrift in London, he found employment as a journalist and translator, honing his craft by laboriously translating the torrid prose of *Casanova's Memoirs* before taking on a commission to compile a definitive catalogue of occult literature. This daunting part-work marked the beginning of his true education and his earliest surviving tales, such as *The Spagyric Quest of Beroaldus Cosmopolita*, indicate a precocious fascination with all things esoteric.

His first novella, *The Great God Pan*, appeared in 1894 to reviews of unparalleled hostility, deemed "... the most acutely and intentionally disagreeable yet seen in English" by the Westminster Gazette and summed up by the Manchester Guardian as "... an incoherent nightmare of sex."

Machen's debut opus concerns a working class waif named Mary and her wealthy benefactor who grooms her to become a guinea pig in a grotesque experiment in early brain surgery. Under the scalpel, she experiences a vision of the vast and formless deity of Nature only to awaken as a drooling idiot. She is found to be pregnant and, before dying, gives birth to a daughter who matures into a beautiful, voraciously seductive avatar of Chaos, a pagan antichrist who proceeds to cut a vengeful apocalyptic swathe through stuffy fin-de- siecle London.

Following through with *The Novel of the White Powder* and its companion piece *The Novel of the Black Seal*, Machen introduced one of his most cherished themes, the survival of the folkloric "little people," the children of Danu who are supposed to have disappeared into the Welsh hills but live on in a kind of transdimensional "otherworld" from which they continue to exert an obscure and baleful influence over human affairs. The sudden decline of his young wife, Amy, recently diagnosed with cancer, spurred the creation of *The White People*, one of Machen's finest stories and an acknowledged masterpiece of supernatural fiction, an unsettling first-person narrative depicting a child on the cusp of puberty and her fatal communion with the inhabitants of faeryland.

Machen's tale would inspire countless writers, from H.P. Lovecraft to Stephen King, but the genre he helped create held no further interest for him. A real life "horror of the soul" took hold of him; working in a grief-stricken frenzy, he completed his first novel, *The Hill of Dreams*, deconstructing his opiate-laced prose and returning to the

half-remembered landscapes of his youth to create a thinly veiled account of his own pursuit of the mysteries. The opening passage concerning an amorous tryst with an elemental woodland spirit is described with the lucidity of first-hand experience, a conviction that places his work in a wholly different class from his imitators.

Eschewing the sensationalism of “yellow,” fiction Machen won critical respect but set himself on the road to ruin by alienating his readership. Turning to the occult for solace, he was initiated into the Order of the Golden Dawn on the 21st of November 1899, taking the name Frater Avallaunius. He might have abandoned literature entirely had it not been for the Great War and the controversy sparked by the appearance of his hastily penned potboiler *The Bowmen*. The tale of the ghostly archers of Agincourt coming to the aid of the retreating tommies was retold by a nurse on the Western front to cheer her wounded charges and repeated orally from one soldier to the next until it found its way back to the British papers as a statement of fact. In an echo of modern UFO hysteria, Machen's attempts to set the record straight lead to public accusations that he was involved in a convoluted conspiracy to cover up the “real truth.”

The “affair of the angels” puzzled Machen but above all gave him hope, a renewed belief in the power of faith that he saw increasingly embodied in the symbolic quest for the Holy Grail, the lost link between man and nature, and the balm to both his and the world's pain. His various discourses on Anglo-Saxon Grail lore, collected in 1925 under the title *The Secret of the Sangraal* give only a partial insight into the obsessive research that consumed his remaining years. *The Great Return* (1915) concerns the miraculous reappearance of the sacred relic in an isolated Welsh village, while his final masterpiece *The Secret Glory* (1922) is a sustained attempt to reposition the quest in a contemporary post-war context.

In *Paradise Lost*, when the peasant stumbles across the elves at their midnight revels, Milton describes how “at once with joy and fear his heart rebounds,” and it is in the reconciliation of these two conflicting yet paradoxically complementary emotions that Arthur Machen principally concerned himself, his collected fiction charting the stations of an inner journey from the fear and inhibitions of his Anglican childhood to the joy and wonder of his final acceptance of nature and the yearnings of his own pagan soul.

Machen lived out his impoverished, declining years in Amersham where the locals in the King's Arms still remember his inexhaustible supply of baffling anecdotes. He died quite peacefully in 1947 at the age of 84.

... As he awoke there was a glinting that might have been the flash of sunlight and the branches rustled and murmured. He held out his hands and cried to his visitant to return; he entreated the dark eyes that had shone over him, and the scarlet lips that had kissed him. And then panic fear rushed into his heart and he ran blindly, dashing through the wood.

--Arthur Machen, from *The Hill of Dreams*





## Lilith: From Demoness to Dark Goddess

by Aaron Leitch (Khephera)

---

Lilith: Queen of the Night, Mother of Demons, First Wife of Adam, and one of my own patron Goddesses. Unfortunately, I have found that modern authors often leave much to be desired on the subject of Lilith. Modern interpretations of Her nature are presented as historical, and the historical facts themselves are regularly misrepresented. Does She originate in ancient Sumer, a maiden connected to the Temple of Inanna? Was She once a benevolent Mother Goddess Herself, later demonized by patriarchal religious leaders? Is it female strength She embodies, or has She persecuted women for centuries via birth complications and crib death? Was she actually deleted from the story of Eden? These are some of the questions, myths, facts, and errors that will be covered in this essay— hopefully laying to rest the many misconceptions that surround this ancient and powerful figure.

---

**I** do not feel that any God or Goddess can be divorced from Their sacred mythologies. As I have stated elsewhere, a mythology is the soul of the God(s) it depicts. For instance, you and I both know today that the Gods did not build the city of Babylon with Their own hands. Yet, if one were to call upon the great Marduk, He would gladly share with us his full memory of constructing the city. Likewise, we know that Adam and Eve did not exist as the “first humans.” Yet, Lilith has full memory of Eden, the Fall, and every other event depicted in Genesis and the various Judeo-Christian legends. It is thus that Lilith, though She is not now the vile and disgusting archdemon envisioned by the early Judaic peoples, is nevertheless affected by these conceptions of Her. Her darker aspects, even the nastiest ones, are a part of Her regardless of modern attempts to “liberate” Her from unpleasantness. Lilith was, in fact, not originally a benevolent Goddess who was raped by the patriarchy. However, I move slightly ahead of myself here. Therefore, I will begin at the beginning:

---

Above: Lilith depicted in a relief in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris.

of Sumer. Her roots do certainly extend that far, but Lilith Herself is not to be found among that massive pantheon of Gods and demons. In order to explain how both of these particulars can be true at once, we must begin with some basic lessons in ancient Sumerian language— specifically the development of one word in particular:

In Sumerian, the word "Lil" means "Air." Enlil, for instance, was the Sumerian Lord (En) of Air (Lil). The oldest known term which we might suggest relates to Lilith would be the plural word "Lili" (feminine "Lilitu"), which was simply the same in Sumer as our modern generic word "spirits." In fact, it was quite common in ancient languages for the same word for "air" or "breath" to be used for "spirit," as the breath was thought to be the evidence of life; the spirit of the person. Disembodied spirits, therefore, were themselves composed of the same substance. The very word "spiritus" is one such example— Latin for "to breathe." The Hebrew "ruach" is another identical example. This suggests, therefore, that the Sumerian Lilitu were either a specific type of demon, or were simply "spirits" in general.

Lilith is often described as having been a Sumerian succubus. And, in fact, there were such creatures in Sumer-Babylonia who surely had their part in the Hebrew conception of Lilith. These beings were known as the "Ardat Lili." "Ardatu" was a term that described a young woman of marrying age. Thus, the Ardat Lili were sexually active female spirits— the succubi. It was believed that these night demonesses were the cause erotic dreams, by which they robbed the male of semen and spiritual vitality. Of course, there is also a male version of this entity— the incubus— but we need not address this creature here.

It is also interesting to note that the Sumerian word for "wantonness" was "Lulu." The word for "luxuriousness" was "Lalu." Also, the very word for "evil" was "Limnu." This has an obvious relation to the word Lili (and Ardat Lili specifically); not just in the similarity of pronunciation and spelling, but also in the very definition of the words. Keep in mind that these ancient languages did not possess the specific definition of our modern words. A single word would indicate any one of a number of related concepts.

This does not exhaust the etymology of Lilith. However, the word-play does not continue until the Hebrew Captivity in Babylon (600 BCE), and I do not wish to jump ahead just yet. Still concerning Sumer, there are two instances that are generally seen as proof of Lilith's existence there.

One is a legend, contained in the Gilgamesh Epic, in which a female demon takes residence within the Goddess Inanna's sacred Tree of Life— thus effectively stunting the Tree's growth and production. This demoness is supposed to be Lilith Herself, whom the hero Gilgamesh finally forces out of the Tree and into the desert.

However, it turns out that there is no basis for assuming this creature is Lilith, or even an Ardat Lili, after all. Apparently, the misunderstanding arises from a mistake in translation made by the historian and scholar Samuel Kramer. In the Epic, the demoness in the Tree is described as "ki-sikil-lil-la-ke," which Kramer suggested meant "Lila's maiden, beloved, companion, or maid." (I assume this is also the origin of Merlin Stone's mistaken suggestion that Lilith was the "maiden" of Inanna.) While the word for air/spirit is obviously present, there is no indication of a Lilith— anymore than the presence of the word "ki" (Earth) indicates the Earth Goddess Ki. Perhaps Kramer was concentrating on the two syllables "lil-la."



The second instance is the famous Sumerian plaque which depicts a woman with owl talons and wings, standing upon two lions, with two owls flanking her on either side. It has been assumed that this figure is Lilith specifically because of the above (mis)translation by Kramer (see bibliography) More specifically, the assumption was made first, and Kramer's work was provided as proof of Lilith's existence in ancient Sumeria. Of course, as the demoness of the Tree is not Lilith, than surely neither is the woman depicted in the sculpture.

Jumping ahead just a bit to a related point: In the Torah, there is said to be one reference to Lilith— Isaiah 34:14. The verse supposedly speaks of a screech owl, and this is said to indicate Lilith by way of the above—mentioned plaque (and the owls depicted thereon). This instance is even used to argue that Lilith's name is derived from the Hebrew term for "to screech." However, this is probably not the case. Instead, the Biblical reference seems to come directly from the term "Lilitu." It may very well be a direct reference to Lilith, however the spelling must be noted: In the Biblical passage the word is L I L I Th, while the name of Lilith is properly spelled "L I L O Th" (which is actually a plural, and will be covered later).

However, these are not the only indications of Her mistaken identity. For instance, the female on the Sumerian plaque holds not one, but two sets of Ring and Rod— the Sumer-Babylonian signs of authority. Inanna Herself is shown with these instruments when She moves to conquer the Underworld. Also, note the presence of Lions, which are signs of power and authority, as well as fertility. These also happen to be symbols associated with Inanna. It is most unlikely that the lowly demon driven away by Gilgamesh would be depicted among these holy symbols. Of course, others may argue that owls are a principal motif in the image as well— and owls were animals of bad omen and evil in Sumer-Babylonia. Thus, the plaque is surely a mystery, but in any case there is no hard evidence to support its identity as Lilith. One begins to wonder if this is not Inanna Herself as associated with the Underworld . . .

Before I go on, I wish to insert some modern insight on this subject. This plaque has been accepted as Lilith for quite a while now. And, surely this will not cease for quite some time (sadly, occultists are not always the first to research history from a scholarly perspective). Even I cannot glance at this image without Lilith entering my mind, and I even interpret part of Her mythos by way of this owl-taloned figure. The modern association of Lilith with this image has given it its own validity (the same must also be said of the relation of Lilith with "to screech"), and therefore does not need to be cast aside for practical purposes. However, the historical facts should at least be understood and noted.

And so Lilith is not derived from the above two instances (the plaque or the Epic of Gilgamesh) after all. Instead, She most likely traces her roots strictly to the Lilitu and Ardat Lili— borrowed by the Hebrews from the Babylonians during the captivity in about 600 BCE. However, it must be kept in mind that Ardat Lili simply meant succubus, without indicating any specific being. This, then, brings me to another often overlooked point: the name Lilith itself is, in fact, an improper transliteration of the Hebrew. The Hebrew lettering is Lamed (L), Yod (I), Lamed (L), Vav (O), Tau (Th). The "-ith" should be spelled "-oth," which is the Hebrew feminine plural suffix. It may be that the earliest Hebrew references were not to "Lilith," but to "the liloth" (the spirits)— a curious cross of a Sumer-Babylonian word with a Hebrew suffix. More specifically, it referred to female spirits, and thus was probably little more than the Hebrew version of the Sumerian term Lilitu.

Yet, Lilith may have finally become a proper noun during or right after the Captivity. This is possibly indicated in the numerous Hebrew inscriptions, painted upon bowls, dated to around that time. These inscriptions picture a particularly nasty looking demoness by the name of Lilith, and the words are for protection against Her. However, I

have personally found no direct evidence to support whether these bowls referred directly to one demoness or to a group of demonesses. The etymology may suggest the latter, while the existence of the singular Lilith in Hebrew mythos may suggest the former.

Luckily, we do appear to have a clue as to how “The Lilit” finally became “Lilith.” This tentative answer lies in the Babylonian demoness Lamashtu. This horrible creature was, among other things, held responsible for “stealing babies from their mothers.” More than likely, this indicates crib death and perhaps stillbirth— as the general concept of a demon in Babylon was more often than not an explanation for medical problems and sickness. As we know, crib death was shockingly common in the ancient world, and thus Lamashtu was one of the major, and most feared, demonic forces. She was, perhaps, a large enough cultural influence to be adopted by other peoples who had intimate contact with Babylon. People such as the Hebrews, who adopted quite a few major concepts from the Babylonian religion. Thus was Lilith’s birth— a demoness who attacked men in the night, and women and babies during and after childbirth.

And, with this, the beginning is finished— while the story is just begun. Lilith appears to have lived on in oral tradition until the Talmudic times, where the popular mythos of Lilith is first presented in response to a contradiction in the Torah. The work in question is a tenth-century folktale called “The Alphabet of Ben Sira,” where Lilith is presented as the first wife of Adam.

### Male And Female, He Created Them . . .

Genesis 1: 27 reads— “And Elohim created Adam in His Image, in the Image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 2:18 and 22 reads— “And Yahweh said, ‘It is not good for Adam to be alone. I will make a fitting helper for him.’ . . . And Yahweh fashioned the rib that He had taken from the man into a woman; and He brought her to the man.”

Today, we know that Genesis I and II are two separate Creation stories. Genesis II derives from a Sumerian story, while Genesis I is a later creation of the Hebrew Priesthood (created by the Deuteronomistic School around 700 BCE). However, to a people who were quite determined to take the Scriptures as ultimate Truth, such a contradiction was not welcome at all. It demanded an explanation that reconciled both stories.

Explanation number one is perhaps the best— Qabalistically speaking. As we know, Adam was created to perfection. He was created in the perfect image of “Elohim.” Of course, God is not seen as being either male or female, but as both at once. Even the Name Elohim is a feminine word (Eloah— Goddess) with a masculine plural suffix (-im). Thus, if God is male and female, the mother and the father, then Adam (which translates as “Mankind”) must also have originally been male and female in one. To be otherwise would have been unbalanced, and thus imperfect.

Of course, Adam was created in perfection, said to be greater than even the Angels. In fact, according to this view, Adam was not a human at all— but a Cosmic Being known as Adam Qadmon. He was the Archetype upon which humans would later be based.

Now, enters the passages from Genesis II. Just as the Unity of God was divided in two (the separation of the Waters by the Firmament) to create the Universe, so too was mankind created by the separation of the Archetypal Man into "its" two halves— male and female. Thus, woman was separated from man, and Adam Qadmon became an unbalanced creature— a human. This imperfection finally led to the Fall— which was the manifestation of the human race from the archetypal to the actual. The woman was called Eve, which literally translates as "Life." Mankind was given Life, and the rest is history.

Explanation number two, though just as Qabalistically useful in its own right, is nevertheless vastly more fun— especially mythologically speaking. This is where Lilith enters the picture as the first wife of Adam. The verse from Genesis I was thus explained as a veiled hint to the entire Lilith affair. Genesis II:20 even helps back this up— "And the man gave names to all the cattle and to the birds of the sky and to all the wild beasts; but for Adam no fitting helper was found." The animals of the Earth had been created for the strict purpose of being helpers to Adam, and Lilith was among them. But, Lilith had failed, and no other beast even came close to fulfilling the need (apparently Lilith was the only animal enough like Adam to be a candidate at all). The next scene in the Scripture is where Yahweh breaks down and decides to chance separating Adam into his two halves of male and female.

Without worrying over specific developments of the tale, I will simply relate the entire story as it came to be after all. Here, then, is the story of Lilith:

### The Mythos: Lilith's Defiance

Now Lilith was the first wife of Adam, well before the creation of Eve. She had been created along with him to be his helper, as the Torah states "Male and Female He created them."

However, Lilith was not so suited as a companion for Adam. There was little on which they could agree. In his attempt to mate with Lilith, Adam demanded the missionary (or male-superior) position. However, Lilith refused. Some say she claimed, "We were created equal, and thus we shall make love in equal positions." In fact, Lilith even attempted to be superior to Adam herself.

Adam replied that he, being the Image of the Elohim, would not stoop to such a level as to be subordinate to Lilith, who was simply one of the many beasts of the field. She was created as his helper, he insisted, and that is how she must remain.

Lilith, however, was far more than Adam had imagined. She went straight away to Yahweh, and used her prowess of seduction upon Him. Yahweh, known for his soft heart toward women, was finally lulled into revealing His sacred Name unto her. Thereupon Lilith pronounced the Divine Name, and flew away from the Garden and Adam forever.

She took residence within a cave upon the shores of the Red Sea, where to this day she finds Her shelter. Within, she accepted the demons of the world as her lovers, and spawned many thousands of demon children in only a short time. It is thus that the world became populated with demons, and how Lilith came to be called the Mother of Demons— wife of Asmodeus, the King of Demons. In this aspect, she was called the Younger Lilith.

Adam, meanwhile, found that he regretted wishing Lilith away. He went to Yahweh and pleaded his case for Her return. Yahweh agreed that a creature of Eden should not so easily depart that realm, and dispatched three Enforcer Angels to retrieve Her.

These three, Senoy, Sansenoy, and Semangeloph, soon found Lilith within her cave, and demanded her return unto Adam by order of Yahweh. If she refused, they informed her, they would slay one hundred of her demon children each day until she decided to return.

Lilith exclaimed that even this fate was better than returning to Eden and submission to Adam. As the Enforcers carried out their threat, Lilith also made a terrible proclamation. In return for the pain delivered upon her and her children, she would slay the children of Adam. She swore to attack children, and even their mothers, during childbirth. She also swore that all new-born children were in danger of her wrath— baby girls for twenty days after birth, and boys for eight. Not only this, but she vowed also to attack men in their sleep. She would steal their semen to give birth to more demon children, in order to replace those slain each day.

However, even Lilith was not without feeling. She also made one further promise: wherever she saw displayed the names of the three Angels who opposed her, no one in that place would be in danger from her actions.

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And thus is the legend of Lilith. However, the story does not end here by any means, and I will be adding to it as this essay continues. I will go over the basic Hebraic interpretations (Folk and Religious), the later Qabalistic interpretation, the modern interpretation, and I will conclude with my own interpretation.

### The Folk Interpretation

On this we need spend little time. The folk interpretation of this myth is the most literal, and sees the myth as an actual event. In this, Lilith is an actual demoness who is blamed for such things as mothers dying in child-birth, still-birth, crib-death, "night-hag syndrome," and erotic dreams among men.

The succubus aspect of Lilith is perhaps the most complicated. As we know, the Judaic life was very strict, full of Divine Laws and hundreds of ways in which a man might break them. Even an impure thought was greatly unwanted, let alone impure actions. With sexual release being such a taboo, it is no surprise that erotic dreams were very common— and even more so were they feared. This was no case of seeing a woman and being aroused. This was (within a dream) committing the full sexual act and enjoying it the entire time! Being that it is not uncommon to dream of women one knows in waking life— other men's wives among them— the problem became an issue of breaking the Ten Commandments. Finally, add to this the fact that the real life result of these dreams was to be cursed as one who has "spilled his seed." Yet, this was something that could never be avoided by even the most pious men- and was thus going to be a continuing source of guilt. The relief for this guilt was to blame it on a succubus, Lilith.

And what of the demon children that Lilith spawned with one's seed? Why, upon death, these spirit children would hover around the deceased's household, demanding their rightful inheritance from the estate (and, presumably, causing mischief when they are ignored). This dynamic may have developed in answer to the hardships often associated with death. There were even steps a family would take to ensure the illegitimate demon-children were banished from the house upon the husband's death. Of course, Lilith was not the only possible mother for these children. Jewish folk tales are teeming with gullible men being tricked into marriages with beautiful demonesses.

Another important aspect of Lilith as succubus is called "night-hag syndrome." When we sleep, our bodies produce a chemical which effectively causes paralysis; thus ensuring we remain motionless as we dream. It is also extremely common for this drug to work ineffectively. When too little is produced, we often have dreams of being restricted or barely able to move (the infamous "running through molasses" nightmare). This is due to the fact that your limbs are trying to move according to the dream, but are being entangled under the body and in the bedclothes. When even less of the chemical is produced, sleepwalking occurs.

On the other hand, too much of the drug might flood the body, or it might simply not stop production soon enough before one awakes. Those who have experienced this (and there are a great many of them, myself included) report feeling "something" sitting upon them and attempting to crush them. They cannot move or speak, and sometimes they can't even breathe. Of course, there is no visible attacker, which makes the experience extremely frightening. Today we know that this chemical imbalance is simply caused by stress or old age; though it could still be considered Lilith (or simply a succubus) if one considers a demon an imbalanced aspect of the Self or sickness. In the old world, such things were known as rape by the succubus (or Lilith).

It was thus— from crib death to night-hag syndrome— that we have many examples of talismans against Lilith. The Hebraic bowls are the earliest examples of this. Even more recent are the talismans which bear the images of the three Angels and the Hebrew phrase: "Senoy, and Sansenoy, and Semangeloph! Adam and Eve! Out Lilith!" These would be hung over wedding beds as well as delivery tables and cribs. In many cases the inscription was painted upon or over the door to the place. All of this done as per the agreement Lilith made with the three enforcer Angels.

### The Religious Interpretation

At this point I will include a Christian addition to the Lilith mythos. Though it may not figure into the Hebraic views of her, it still relates. This addition concerns Lilith's involvement with the Fall from Eden.

Perhaps the most famous version of this Christian Lilith is the Sistine Chapel paintings by Michelangelo. In this She is shown as a half-woman half-snake, and is credited with being the very Serpent who instigated the Fall from Eden itself. Apparently, Lilith was not satisfied with her vows of revenge as they were, and decided to attack Adam where he least expected it— through his new wife Eve. Perhaps even an amount of jealousy is involved here.

Of course, it was Satan who was said to have been the serpent in the Christian viewpoint. And, indeed, Lilith is said to be the wife of Satan (or, from the Hebrew angle, the wife of Samael). The Serpent was a joint effort between these two to take revenge upon Adam and cause the fall from grace. Lilith provided the body of the serpent, while Samael was the voice. As the wife of Samael (rather than Asmodeus), she is known as the Elder Lilith.

I have all ideas that this Serpent-Lilith was a result of the Rabbinical view of Lilith— she who seduces men from the True Path of God— thus causing them to fall from grace as did Adam.

Within the Arabic mythologies of King Solomon, we meet Lilith on a number of occasions, usually known as the Queen of Sheba. Solomon had suspicions that this queen was in fact Lilith, and thus devised a plan to know for sure. After inviting her for a visit to his palace, he had the floor altered so as to appear as a pool of ankle-deep water. When the queen arrived, she lifted her skirts to walk through the pool, and Solomon was able to just barely glimpse her overly hairy legs.

This was the Rabbinical image of Lilith— a dark and beautiful seductress from the waist up, yet hairy and ugly from the waist down. In many cases, she is actually a male from the waist down. This, of course, is the part of the body that would most be concealed from view. Only one intimate with her would find out the horrible truth— after it was too late.

Of course, this is a metaphor. Lilith represents that which appears beautiful on the outside. She is sex, indulgence, and everything that one desires to do which breaks the Judeo-Christian "Laws of God." She is all of the things in life which tempts and seduces the man into the ways of evil. Only after he is firmly within her grasp does she reveal her true nature of ugliness. In this, Lilith far predates (and perhaps has something to do with) the Christian concept of the Pan-like Satan.

### The Qabalistic Interpretation

Here we find that the plot decidedly thickens. The Qabalists created yet another chapter in the life of Lilith, which stems directly from the above Religious ideas. As Lilith had come to represent those things that God frowned upon, so too did she come to symbolize the corrupt ways of the entire world at large. She was the lifestyle of the Pagans around the Judaic Peoples, who did not frown upon sex, indulgence, and fun. She symbolized all those who would break the Torah, and she was anyone who would attack the Israelites. Most of all, she was Babylon— the enemy holding the Israelite people captive...



Before I continue, it is important to explain the principals involved. Though these concepts developed well after the Second Temple had been destroyed (in 70 AD), the Temple itself plays a large role in the mythos. Also involved are Adonai (The Lord), and His Bride the Shekinah (Hebrew for "Presence").

This mythos is a development of earlier Pagan ideas, where the union of the male and female aspects of the universe is seen as paramount to the continued existence of all creation. This was known as the Sacred Marriage. In the Middle Eastern cultures, a newly anointed king was ritually married to the Goddess (or mother of the land), and thus to the kingdom itself. Likewise, the Qabalists depicted Adonai as a king, and the Shekinah was [the people of] Israel herself.

There was one singular place where Adonai would consent to join with the Shekinah, one place holy enough to sustain the Divine Sex. That place was the Temple of Solomon. Once in the year, the Couple would join together within its walls, and the Divine Light of goodness and increase shone throughout the world.

However, the Temple had been destroyed and its treasures carried into foreign lands. With it went the perfect union of Adonai and His kingdom. He withdrew from the world, refusing to meet the Shekinah in an impure fashion. The Shekinah, who embodied the physical word and thus could not withdraw from it, followed her people into captivity by foreign nations, and was there raped by the enemy. This "rape" was symbolic of mankind's rape of the world and of the Israelite people.

And here, once again, enters Lilith. As before stated, Lilith symbolized the very foreign people who held the Shekinah captive. Lilith embodied their evil ways— and now those evil ways were allowed to remain in power. The reason for this lay in the fact that Adonai, alas, could not be without a female partner. There could be no God without— in some sense— Goddess. Thus, in an effort to sustain a balance, Adonai took Lilith as His consort. Being what She was, Adonai felt no pity in uniting with Her in impurity. She was, quite simply, His harlot. Thus it was that one half of the Divine Force which sustained the Universe was tainted— allowing the evil of mankind to reign supreme and unstoppable. Lilith was the Dark Shekinah— the polar opposite of that Holy Goddess. She had made Her final leap from demoness to Goddess— the Wife of God.

The Qabalist felt his duty was to strive to reunite the Shekinah with Adonai, and thus cast Lilith away forever. The Sabbath was an example of this. Because of the holiness of this day, Lilith had no power to remain with Adonai, and was forced to retreat to the desert where She screamed in pain until the day came to an end. (Remember Lilith as related to the term "to screech" in Isaiah 34:14; this is exactly where this concept has its birth.) It was during this time that Adonai had the best chance of reuniting with the Shekinah— and the Qabalist did all he could to help through purity and devotional invocation. This symbolism is even hinted at in the Christian Book of Revelation, where the Whore of Babylon is supplanted in power by the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

This was the final outcome of the legends of Lilith, and here you have Her mythos in full: First wife of Adam, wife of Asmodeus, wife of Samael, the Serpent of the Tree of Knowledge, and finally the wife of God. From here, I will briefly explain Her modern interpretation, and you will see why I disagree with most of it so strongly:

### The Modern Interpretation: Feminism

Today Lilith has been adopted by the Neopagan community. Most specifically by those with a feminist angle. Their main focus is upon Lilith's choice to fly from paradise, and even suffer the death of hundreds of Her children, rather than live under submission to Adam. In this, She represents feminine defiance and strength. Her resulting attack on men in the night is the revenge of the woman upon the men who have harmed Her.

This, in and of itself, is worthwhile (and plays a large part in my own interpretation). However, this is not all there is to the figure of Lilith. This interpretation totally ignores a large part of Her mythos— not the least of which being Her attacks on mothers and babies. The groups which put forth this view would also have us believe that Lilith was, in fact, a great Goddess within Sumer. The "proof" of this is the above mentioned plaque, and we have already seen how this is simply not so. It is even said that Lilith was a maiden, in service to Inanna, who stood without the Temples and invited men to enter and partake of the sacred sex with the Priestesses. For this, not one shred of archeological evidence has been offered of which I am aware.

Along with this, the myth in which Gilgamesh drives the demoness out of the Tree of Life is said to be symbolic of the Patriarchal God driving the Goddess away. This is, in my opinion, pure silliness. Anyone who puts the slightest study into Sumerian culture will find that there was hardly any degradation of women occurring there. The exact same thing can be said for the Babylonians who followed, and even the earliest Hebrews themselves. It is true that the warrior traditions and kingship of early civilization began to focus upon masculine Deities, but the idea that hatred of women came immediately with this is not founded.

Unfortunately, there is a modern trend in which the "liberation" of any evil feminine mythological character is attempted. According to this view, there were originally no male Gods among mankind in the ancient world. Likewise, this view insists, there were absolutely no evil female characters in any mythology. Once God-worship had been invented by "power-hungry war-mongers," that is when all the mythologies were re-written to show how evil the Goddesses were.

An example often given to prove this is the Babylonian Mother Goddess Tiamat— depicted in the creation epic as the enemy of Lord Marduk. Indeed, Tiamat (demonized in the text) does seem to be a later version of the Sumerian Nammu (a benevolent Mother Goddess). The overthrow of Tiamat by Marduk is often described as warfare between Goddess religion and God religion. In reality, however, the tale is a depiction of warfare between younger Gods and older Gods. Gender does not play a specific role in the epic— and both male and female characters play roles on both sides of the battle.

Another example is the Egyptian War God Set; who was also possibly a primordial benevolent Goddess (Set literally translates as "Lady"). Therefore, the battle between Horus and Set might be depicted as male versus female, or primordial Mother versus young male usurpers. Though, once again, a review of the actual stories does not reveal such a distinction. (More than likely, the story of the battle between Horus and Set is a depiction of solar eclipse.)

When they stand alone, these can be convincing examples for the "liberation" standpoint. However, I must also remind the reader that there are also convincing examples of the existence of Atlantis, and of alien intervention in the creation of humans. Such facts are taken from history, isolated, and held as proof of the silliest concepts imaginable. In my opinion, this is comparable to isolating Bible verses in order to prove one's religious convictions— without reading the stories in context.

However, I do wish to make something clear at this point. I am not speaking against the concept of feminism here. I do not ignore the damage done to women over the years— mostly thanks to the Deuteronomic School of the Hebrews, and the Church of the Christians. I am not speaking against interpreting mythologies in new and different ways (as my own interpretation of the Lilith mythos will show). That is, after all, what mythology is all about. What I am speaking against here is shoddy scholarship. And, more than this, the attempt to push off personal opinions, half-truths, political agendas, and even outright lies as actual history. I will gladly interpret mythologies for use in the modern world, but I also A) acknowledge the original interpretations, and B) make sure that my interpretation takes the older ones into account. Again, I point out that a God and its mythology are inseparable. If I evoke Lilith, She will not conform utterly to what I expect or wish. Yes, She will be affected by my expectations and my interpretation of Her nature, but this merely accounts for one half of the interaction between myself and the Goddess.

And with this I move on to my final goal: an interpretation of Lilith for the modern world. This is based not only on the scholarship above, but also on my own experience of this seductive beauty. And now, let us meet Lilith:

### The Lilith of Today

Adam literally translates as “mankind.” He is all of us— male and female, young and old. He is, basically, civilization. Adam is the Image of the Divine; he, and all physical things, are the final result of Divine manifestation. On the Qabalistic Tree of Life, Adam is Malkuth (Kingdom), the physical world. In Qabalistic psychology, Malkuth refers to the conscious mind. Thus, Adam represents our waking consciousness, or ego. Adam is everything about us that imposes “proper behavior” within society.

Lilith, created along with him, is the Shadow Self. She is our subconscious, that part of us that is most animal like, defiant, uncivilized, passionate, and basically natural. She is sex. She is everything that our (currently corrupted) society frowns upon; a society that has been taught for thousands of years to suppress everything within that is most natural and enjoyable. She is just as described in the religious interpretation— she is Babylon (or, as Crowley spells Her Name: Babalon).

Eve is also our subconscious. However, she is that small part of our inner-selves over which our conscious selves have gotten full control. She has no free will of her own— being wholly a part of Adam. She is that part of ourselves that, as a civilized people, we will show to others. Eve is what has been programmed into us as “acceptable.” She is the polar opposite of Lilith. She and Lilith together form the whole of the inner Self.

(Let me point out that this interpretation of Adam and Eve/Lilith as the conscious and subconscious is a rather old one. The Lovers Card of the Tarot uses this symbolism, with the addition of an Angel who represents the Higher Self.)

Samael, meanwhile, is the Archangel of Gevurah (Severity) upon the Tree of Life. He is the embodiment of Divine Severity. He is the Prince of the Seraphim— those Fiery Serpents who, at one point, Yahweh sent to punish the Israelites (see the book of Exodus), and to purify by fire those who wished to enter the Temple (see the book of Isaiah). Samael is hardship.

Lilith's demon spawn represent our own personal demons. They are neurosis and harmful (self-destructive or criminal) behavior. They are the imbalances in the mind that can lead to our destruction.

Such are the characters of the Lilith mythos. The above interpretations of them must be held in mind at all times through the following. If so, certain aspects of the myth begin to make a certain kind of modern sense.

For instance, Adam's insistence that he mate with Lilith in the missionary position becomes the civilized mind's attempt to reign in and suppress the animal within— to be superior to it. Likewise, Lilith's own insistence on mating in a superior position is the lower will's attempt to dominate the rational self. Lilith's flight from Eden, and into the cave, is the banishment of our natural animal instincts to the dark recesses of our minds. Even when Adam wishes She would come back, it is too late and the damage has been done.

What damage is this? Lilith spawned thousands of demon children. These demons are born within the locked away and forgotten parts of our minds. Even though we attempt, as the Angelic Enforcers, to hunt down and slay as many of them as we can, the tide is too great to be turned. We have attempted to suppress that which can not be suppressed. Lilith, in Her darkness, has grown the Her (owl's) talons. By nature a beautiful creature— as our natural selves are in fact beautiful— Lilith now has the means and motive to rip us to tiny shreds. She attacks us while we sleep; and with our semen— the facts and deeds of our daily lives— she spawns more and more demons. Before she is finished, she will slither her way back into our minds— as the Serpent in the Garden. Our conscious selves rarely see it coming; while we are occupied with our day to day foolishness— Lilith will be sweet-talking Eve into taking the fatal bite. She will attack us below the surface, in that part of ourselves we have long since thought conquered. One moment we suddenly find ourselves with breakdowns, outbursts, causing harm to others, and social and personal ruin. We have experienced the Fall from Grace.

This also applies on a greater social level, not simply within the mind of the individual. When viewing the myth from the wider angle, we see where Samael comes into play. What happens when the things that are natural and beautiful are suddenly labeled as wrong? They then begin to attract the dregs of society. Once there were Goddess Temples with priestesses adept in the arts of sexual magick. Now, we have prostitution, strip clubs, and brothels which are viewed as seed beds of physical abuse, drug abuse, and disease. The people who frequent these places are labeled as dirty and immature people with little to no social value. Individuality and self expression is now corrupted into gang activity and the anarchy of social outcasts. Children who display this individuality spend their time in the principal's office or suffer worse punishments. They are labeled as "problem children," and so problem children they believe they are.

Here the Rabbinical view of Lilith must be considered, where corruption is so often deceptively tempting or beautiful on the outside. The sleazy clubs, the gangs, the criminal behavior are all very seductive. The glamorous people are the rebels who break laws and harm others. Bonnie and Clyde, Billy the Kid, Al Capone— these are our heroes. Yet, if we allow Lilith to seduce us with Her beauty, she will finally show us the ugliness that lies under her dressing. This is when she rips into us with her talons. The gangster is executed, and thus ends his glory. The prostitute has her throat cut, or dies of an overdose. And the man who frequents the brothel dies a lonely old man because a real relationship was ever beyond him.

Of course, all of these are extremely corrupted and impaired views of reality. This is the marriage of Lilith to Samael. This dark Angel of strife is Lilith's talons. He is the hairy male lower half of her body. These things which are so beautiful and natural actually BECOME dirty and harmful, merely at the insistence of those who wish them to be such. This, in turn, fuels the view that these things are harmful in and of themselves. Society literally eats itself from the inside out— and this is the marriage of Lilith to God. As in the Qabalistic interpretation, the flow of Divinity has been tainted; Samael/Lilith is in control, and what is natural has been twisted into evil. Lilith should be our ally, and yet we are pitted in combat against her. If Adam can not be forced to accept his Lilith, then Lilith will destroy him. But, those in control of our society maintain that control through the suppression of Lilith— our defiance and freewill— and they would sooner see us destroyed than to lose that control.

And here enters yet another character in the myths: Cain. It is little known that Cain was born not of Adam and Eve but of Eve and the Serpent during the Temptation. Thus, Cain is actually the child of the interaction between Eve and Lilith/Samael. The clashing of the acceptable and non-acceptable, or the overrunning of the mind by its own neuroses. In short, Cain— full of hate, jealousy, and anger which finally explodes into murder— represents the very inhibited society thus far described. This is not a new concept, of course, as Cain has long been said to be the ancestor of the corrupt majority of the world's population. For instance, Hebraic legend insists that it was the Cainite women who seduced the Angelic Watchers and gave birth to the Nephalim (Giant creatures, one of whom was Asmodeus Himself) (Genesis 6:1-4f).

Cain's brother Abel, who was born of Adam and Eve proper, is the world that could have existed if not for the intervention of Cain. On the other hand there is also Seth, the third son of Eve (also fathered by Adam), who is said to be the ancestor to the pious minority of the world. The Gnostics for instance, who felt they had the Knowledge to purify themselves (of the Samael/Lilith influence), and thus return to a state of grace, described themselves as descendants (or even embodiments) of Seth. Able, then, is the Paradise that could have been; Cain is the corruption that slew that dream, and Seth is the hope of a return to utopia.

Thank the Gods that things are not necessarily quite as bad as all of that. There are respectable brothels and men's (and women's!) clubs. There are those who display self-expression in childhood who, somehow through all of the abuse, still grow up to become respected artists of all kinds. There are those who understand the sacredness of sex. In short, there are those few who have refused Samael's marriage to Lilith. Instead, they have invited Lilith to return to the Garden— promising Her that She can play mistress just as much as Adam plays master. They have attempted to join Lilith and Eve, and to return them both to their rightful place within Adam. They strive to become Adam Qadmon— that Supernal Man(kind) who is greater even than the Angels. They strive for the state of Seth.

Of course, few of us have attained that success. Though, perhaps a reconciliation will one day occur. Perhaps in that time a person could be natural, individual and even a little rebellious without being labeled a criminal for doing so. Of course, no utopia will ever exist in full. However, just as the Medieval Qabalist strove to unite God and His Shekinah, so too should we strive to unite Eve and Lilith, and both of them with Adam within ourselves. Only then will we have the power to rebuild the inner Temple, and aid the Shekinah's return to Adonai. Only then will the "children of Seth" have a chance to reign.

This is my view of Lilith. She is the Mother of the Night, and all the dark beauty that lies within it. Lilith is the hidden mysteries which society would rather I not know. I am Adam, and I have rejected my foolish concepts of superiority over Lilith. Of course, Lilith has Her dark side. If I allow Her to rule over me, She would drain my vitality as a succubus. She would rule me to the point of being little more than a thoughtless animal, useless and perhaps harmful within a human society. Instead, I accept Lilith in equality; in both darkness and light.

## Append I: The Names of Lilith

During the section on the religious interpretation of Lilith— or the Rabbinical interpretation— I indirectly hit on the Solomonic legends of Lilith (The Queen of Sheba). Here I wish to elaborate somewhat on this aspect, as it is a rather important one in getting to know Her. In the Solomonic Legends, the Queen of Sheba was a very prominent figure. Much like Asmodeus, Lilith was an adversary to Solomon. However, unlike Asmodeus— who's wish was to dethrone Solomon— Lilith simply enjoyed testing Solomon's wisdom. She constantly arrived in his royal court with puzzles, riddles, and specific dilemmas in unceasing attempts to find fault in his abilities to serve the throne.

This, in fact, makes Lilith one of the Satans— those dark Angels who test us and accuse us of our failures. If (the Rabbinical) Lilith could not seduce one off of the true path, then She would literally attempt to ruin one upon that path. This rings very close to the instance in the New Testament where a group of exorcists attempt to cast out demons in the names of various prophets of the past. The demons replied that they knew these Prophets, and added, "But who are you?" Unlike Solomon to the Queen of Sheba, these exorcists had no good answer— and the demons tore them apart. Solomon always had a good answer— that is to say, he always knew the solutions to Her puzzles. In fact, it would seem that Solomon accepted the true nature of Lilith, because he actually enjoyed Her visits; and the opportunity to try himself at Her puzzles. He understood the necessity of these tests to keep him polished and on his toes. But, then again, Solomon was known for his Wisdom.

Of course, it would not be fair to neglect including an example of one of the Queen of Sheba's puzzles. Already mentioned was the meeting between the two in which Solomon tricked Her into revealing Her true nature. However, Lilith was often much more subtle. In one instance, She took the form of a prostitute and claimed motherhood to another prostitute's baby. Eventually, the matter was brought to the court of the king. Solomon heard both sides of the story, but this solved nothing. Both women were adamant, and told wholly different stories to back their claims.

However, king Solomon was not to be outdone. Instead, he ordered a swordsman to approach the throne. Because the matter could not be otherwise resolved, he declared that the baby should be cut in half so that each woman could have an equal share. As the sword was raised, one woman shouted for him to halt. She admitted that she was not truly the mother, and that she did not wish for the baby to die on her account. Solomon immediately gave the baby to her— knowing that only the real mother would give the baby away rather than watch it die. Lilith, on the other hand, was foiled again.

Yet another Solomonic tradition is outlined in "The Testament of Solomon." This is a work that describes Solomon's efforts to summon a number of demons, and find out their various names, forms, actions, and (most importantly) the Angels who oppose them. Lilith was among these summoned demons. (As a note, there is a similar legend in which Elijah encounters Her and demands Her Names.) She told Solomon that Her opposing Angel is Raphael— which makes sense when we recognize that Lilith's name refers to "spirit" or "air," and Raphael is the Kherub of Air. Lilith is the enveloping fog, while Raphael is the clear-sky breeze. As for Her various Names— taken from various sources— they are as follows:

Abeko, Abito, Abro, Abyzu, Ailo, Alu, Amiz, Amizo, Amizu, Ardad Lili, Avitu, Batna, Bituah, Eilo, Gallu, Gelou, Gilou, 'Ik, 'Ils, Ita, Izorpo, Kakash, Kalee, Kali, Kea, Kema, Kokos, Lamassu, Lilith, Odam, Partasah, Partashah, Patrota, Pods, Podo, Raphi, Satrina, Talto, Thiltho, Zahriel, Zefonith.

## Append II: The Experience of Lilith

### I.

I stood often upon the shore of this small lake in the heart of Florida. It was always late— far into the darkest hours of the night— and I stood wrapped in the icy embrace of Mother Lailah (Night). Her children sang and chirped and buzzed to me as they always have from the shadowy places among the grass and reeds, and often a cool breeze skittered across the lake to blow away the insects and the muggy heat. Many times had I stood here, communing with the lake, reciting love poems to Levanah (Luna), taking in the jewel-studded view of the southern nighttime skyline, and gazing at Venus in the early hours of dawn.

But tonight was different. Lailah's embrace was deep and frigid. There were no stars or moon, no skyline, and no sky. There was no song from the grass and reeds about me, and no gentle breeze rushing over me from the water. The lake stretched out (for what little distance I could see) still and black as the dark Abyss itself. The night was dark, black, still as death, and over the surface slithered a deep fog that swallowed the world. A verse from Genesis arose within me: "And a mist moved upon the face of the deep . . ." and within it fluttered the Shadows of the Qliphoth. The world held its breath. Lilith had arrived.

I stood upon the edge of the abyss, the helpless subject of the mighty Queen of the Night. She reached toward me slowly and seductively, yet always just beyond my own reach. She called to me softly from deep within the swirling mists. She is a siren, a succubus, and my bestial male spirit answered the call. It was pure pleasure— a burst of dark power. Yet, it was also pain as I willed against Will to stay my feet. More than once I nearly yielded to the temptation to simply walk into the blackness. My heart seemed to tell me, "You can go forth. You will not sink. You would be safe." Of course, I knew better. I knew that if I stepped forward I would sink into that cold water— the lake that was no longer my friend. I knew that hypothermia would quickly set in, and that I would have little hope of even knowing in which direction the shore waited. I could very well die, with the land no more than a few feet away. Even more frightening was that I didn't believe I would care! I wanted to feel the icy water envelope me, to sink into its silent depths and into oblivion beyond.

Yet, at the same time, I nearly believed I could walk safely across the surface of the pool. More so, I desired to fly into the fog; I wanted to take wing and join the demonic children of Lilith who swarmed within. I needed to hunt, stalk, pounce, and to bite. I wanted to feel the fear of prey flood over me, adding strength to the pain of my own desire, and to experience the shudder of their final ecstasy— that sudden peace and contentment that comes to all once death is inevitable. Suddenly I wanted to exert power and force over others. I wanted the taste of fear and pain.

And yet I knew that a single step in that direction would mean my own loss within the abyss before me. I would not live to hunt down my prey. I was no free predator, but a domesticated animal. With a sigh I wondered if this is how our own pets feel— who in distant ages were mighty hunters— as they beg at our tables, and are patted on their heads. With that I regained my senses somewhat, and backed away from the dark Lady before me. Out of breath I whispered how much I loved and desired Her, and then bowed and slunk away. Soon I was myself again— this had happened before, and would happen in the future. Anywhere the fog could creep upon me, especially over bodies

of still and deep water, Lilith would find me and once again try Her seduction upon me. She would ever attempt to lead this son of Eve into the Blackness of the Kingdom of Shells. Perhaps the male child is not so safe after the eighth day from birth...

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The above is what might be expected from the male experience of the Queen of Night. What more could one expect from She who seduced the Divine Name from Yahweh Himself, and traditionally bears somewhat of a grudge against Adam (Mankind)?

Another thing that I have noted was the intuitive feeling I had that Lilith was the fog itself. It was, in fact, later that I learned the name "Lilith" traces back to a Sumerian word for "Air." The Lilitu of Sumer are supposed to be night-time air spirits, and according to my direct experience, this is exactly what they were, and what Lady Lilith is today. But, more than just "air," She is the thickening mists that can cause a person to stray blindly from the path and into Her dark embrace. It seems the Rabbis were right . . .

## II.

A woman who may have stood in my place, lost within that gray-white haze, would surely have experienced something different from what I described. While I can't provide you with a description of such an experience, I can at least speak on some women's issues with which Lilith might be deeply and darkly involved.

I recently spoke to a (female) devotee of Lilith, and suggested the possibility of the Dark Queen's involvement in the issue of abortion; especially viewing Her in Her aspects as both succubus and baby-killer. Perhaps Lilith is even the patron Goddess of abortion.

This may seem a bit extreme, and is certainly an extremely touchy issue. However, I feel there may be some merit to the idea. Not more than a few days after I mentioned this to my friend, I came across these words concerning Lilith and abortion on the Internet:

On the other hand, there is a modern metaphor for "baby killing" that adequately places us in the quandary and conflict of power vs. violence . . . abortion. To those opposed, it is clearly murder. But to those who claim the right to choose . . . well, look at the phrase "right to choose." Those who fight for the right to choose abortion fight for the right to have control over their bodies, over control over when and how they bestow the gift of life, and when and how they will take what kind of responsibility for the outcome of their sexuality. Those who fight to make abortion illegal once again see this as an irrelevant argument. The woman's body and life are incidental when compared to the potential life she carries inside her. . . at least, this is how a Daughter of Lilith would see it . . . someone who is, themselves, opposed to abortion simply see it as a question of life and death. Choices of life and death. These are

the kinds of choices Lilith asks us to make. Knowing, full well, that there are no right answers . . . or wrong answers . . . only \*our\* answers.

Blessings, light & dark,  
Margot

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John Collier: *Lilith*, 1892

# The Tibetan Tantric Game of Liberation

## (Path of the Pacification of Existence)

by Steve Nichols

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A great influence on Aleister Crowley was Allan Bennett, his mentor within *The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn*. Bennett also apparently introduced Crowley to hashish. He, like Crowley, suffered from bronchial asthma and, in part, originally emigrated to the Far East in hopes of relieving it.

As regards Crowley and Bennett, Francis "Israel" Regardie stated that "the intellectual traces of this relationship remained with Crowley all his life." Bennett taught Crowley most of what he knew of ceremonial magick. Several modern writers have examined various elements of Buddhist concepts in the development of Thelema.

So followers of Crowley are at least partly indebted to Bennett, who was one of the first scholars to promote Buddhist philosophy into the West. Crowley visited Bennett (who had converted to Buddhism in Sri Lanka and changed to using his sacramental name of Bhikkhu Ananda Mettaya), and during his protracted stay in Sri Lanka learnt to practice Yoga and oriental philosophy. Crowley's great innovation (I agree here with Regardie) was to combine western ritual magic with the techniques of yoga.

Crowley visited the mountain kingdoms of Nepal and Sikkim adjacent to Tibet, where, according to Regardie, he attained "considerable practical knowledge of Buddhist and Lamaistic Tantric methods." Presumably, Crowley new about the "Game of Rebirth," invented in the early part of the thirteenth century by Sakya pundit Kunga Gyaltsen (whose name translates as "Whose banner is total joy"), the greatest scholar of the Sakya sect of Vajrayana Buddhism.

"Path of the pacification of existence" is the literal title by which the Tibetan Game is known. Otherwise, it is sometimes referred to as The Tibetan Game of Liberation. But before more on the game, note that scholars often divide Buddhism into three main branches: Theravada (or Hinayana, "Lesser Vehicle"), Mahayana ("Greater Vehicle"), and Vajrayana ("Diamond Vehicle"). Vajrayana is actually considered to be a form of Mahayana, with Mahayana being split into East Asian (also known simply as Mahayana) and Vajrayana, which is often used synonymously with "Tibetan Buddhism," although it properly includes the Japanese Shingon school. The Mahayana school comprises both Sutra and Tantra vehicles, the mastery of which are the means to Buddhahood. The game board presents them in detail.

Sutra squares are numbered 52 to 56 and 63 to 64; Tantra squares are numbered 33, 41 to 42, 49 to 50, 57 to 58. The Sutra vehicle moves up the left side of the board,

the Tantra to the right. But these are not the only squares to be found on the board. Sakya, along with Kagyu and other Tibetan sects are represented in the game board, but the Tibetan game also includes some other Buddhist philosophies and even non-Buddhist traditions such as Bon shamanism. The squares can be thought of as "Signposts on the Road to Awakening." The winner of a game is the player who first reaches the ultimate "Nirvana" square. But these are not the only squares to be found. Sakya, along with Kagyu and other Tibetan sects, are part of Vajrayana, but the Tibetan Game goes beyond the specific boundaries of Vajrayana to include some other Buddhist philosophies, and even non-Buddhist traditions such as Bon shamanism.

"Whose Banner is Total Joy.", created the game to amuse his ailing mother, for it was considered unhealthy - even for the sick - to sleep during the day. Tibetans, however, went on to use the game as a toy that educated children about the Buddhist map of the worlds and the workings of karma. It was also enjoyed as an amusement by young and old, lay and monastic, with great merriment and jesting over the karmic tendencies that were revealed by the cast of the die. Tibetans were fond of games of dice and often betted on the outcome of the game. In monasteries, it was enjoyed on holidays by the elders and by the young during long afternoons following rituals and study. Indeed, playing this game was one of relatively few recreations allowed to Buddhist ascetics and recluses.

"The winner was rewarded with a prize of sweets. Sometimes such a game would last for hours, and occasionally it would get very noisy. Particularly fortunate or unfortunate throws were greeted with a chorus of congratulations or groans as the case might be," explain Mark Tatz and Jody Kent in their book *Rebirth: The Tibetan Game of Liberation*

### The Tibetan Game of Liberation

The Tibetan Game of Liberation play mechanism is very simple compared to either Zenet or Enochian Chess (being purely randomly controlled by dice). The complexity of it lies in unpacking and comprehending the concepts denoted by each of the spaces. Tatz and Kent tell us:

Buddhism teaches the illusion of selfhood to be the primary cause of suffering, and then shows the means to liberation. To speculate as to one's future state is thus counterproductive to spiritual work.

It certainly isn't intended as a divination system, but more an "enlightenment system." Here, as an example, is text written on square 41: "Tantra, Middle Path of Accumulation."

Don't concentrate on yourself, restricting your breath.  
Fie, yogin, don't squint at the end of your nose.  
O fool, hold fast to the Innate,  
And abandon the clinging bonds of existence.  
Bring together in thought the restless waves of breath.  
Then know the true nature of the Innate.

And this becomes still of itself.

(After throwing:)

1 go to Potala (60)

2 go to Tantra, Greater Accumulation (42)

3 go to Shambhala (59)

5 go to Wisdom-holder of the Desire Gods (67)

6 go to Tantra, Lesser Accumulation (33)

\*Note that not all six throws are represented from each square.

The passage chosen by Tatz and Kent to illustrate square 41 is from the *Mahavairocana Tantra*, a chief text that forms the basis of tantric practice in China and Japan, but not Tibet.

Tatz and Kent, who give interesting commentaries on each space, say this about square 41:

This second class of tantras is known as “the practice of both” (*ubhaya-carya-tantra*), for it combines outer and inner yoga. Again the deity is generated in front of one, but this time “like a brother or a friend.” This yoga centers on the chanting of mantras; it is classified as yoga-without-image (union with the deity governed by emptiness). In the former type, while the mantra is repeated, the yogi rests his or her mind in the heart of the deity.

Mindfulness of breath (considered “the steed of thought”) is practiced to stabilize the meditative image and eliminate discursive thought; thus calm is developed. In yoga-without-image, one focuses on emptiness, thus insight grows.

Other meditative rituals in this class of tantra procure occult powers through the magical manipulation of objects such as a sword, just as in the Pali tradition magical powers are attained by meditating on the great elements - earth, air, fire and water - until their essential nature has been grasped.

The carya class of tantras [denoted by sq 41] is seldom practiced in Tibet; yogis tend to move from the activity tantra to the supreme tantra stage.

Another example of a Tatz and Kent discourse on a game square is: “Jambu Island (Earth) sq 17 - The Southern Continent.”

One has the great fortune to be born in a human condition on earth. This situation is a mixed bag for sure, for there are such hells on earth as sickness, warfare and poverty. Yet it is the luckiest birth among the karmic destinies, for only a human being has these three things: the stimulus to seek an escape from the cycle of death and rebirth, the opportunity to encounter the Dharma {truth}, and the leisure to study and practice it. In addition, this is said to be the only continent on which Buddha will demonstrate the way to nirvana, "because the inhabitants of Jambu Island have a sharp intelligence.

Enochian Chess was not born out of a vacuum but is part of a historical set of related games beginning, arguably, with Zenet/Senet (from ancient Khem), then followed by Chaturanga (India), the 'Royall Game' and 'Game of Four Seasons' (Medieval European Qabalist/Hermetic). This Tibetan (Buddhist) game from the early 1200's CE is not in a direct lineage to Enochian Chess, but is nonetheless instructive. Maybe we can learn by cross-referencing and exploring each of these different games and the spiritual systems they encapsulate? The tantric practitioner will tend to study literature of all traditions and not just his or her own.

### Following the Masters

My own sect, incidentally, is the Tibetan Kagyu tradition of the teachings of the Four Great Masters. The greatest of the four masters, arguably, was Naropa, who lived from the 10th into the 11th century. His disciple, Marpa, a famed adept in his own right, said of his teacher:

From the great master Naropa, the guard, I have heard the profound Tantra of Hevajra. I also received the pith-instruction of joining, transformation and unification (*Bsre, rpo, mtsams-sbyor*). Especially have I learned the teaching of Heat Yoga and Karma Yoga. Thus, for me, was the essence of the teachings of the Whisper Succession illustrated.

--from *Esoteric Teachings of the Tibetan Tantra*

Buddhism (a word derived from the Pali and Sanskrit word Bodhi, which means "awakened"), traditionally, is a path of salvation attained through insight into the ultimate nature of reality.

My research into Median Vision Theory and the functioning of the brain and consciousness explains the dhamma theory of no-self in terms of an infinite-state feedback loop between any E-I being (class containing all mammals and birds, even humans) and their constantly changing environment. No-self, but an illusion of one, expressed in sayings such as: "The palm of my hand is one with the blue sky."

In striving to become a Buddha, we gradually learn to calm our minds, and incrementally gain knowledge, which we then integrate in cultivating the "perfection of wisdom."

Here are some words attributed to Maitreya (the next future Buddha, whose prophecies are recognized in all three main Buddhist canons). His role in the wisdom literature of all three main Buddhist schools is to expound on the most obscure of metaphysical matters:

## Maitreya on the Perfection of Wisdom

Subhuti said, “Venerable Śāriputra, Maitreya, a bodhisattva, and a very great being, is present. The Tathagata has predicted his supreme, truly perfect enlightenment. In this matter he is an eye-witness, one should question him on this, and he will reply about the matter.”

Then the venerable Śāriputra said to Maitreya, “Venerable Maitreya, Subhuti the Elder has said, ‘This is Maitreya, a bodhisattva, a great being. He will reply on this matter.’ Reply accordingly on the matter, venerable Ajita (Maitreya)!”

Then Maitreya said to the venerable Subhuti, “When the venerable Subhuti said, ‘This is Maitreya, a bodhisattva, a great being, he will reply on this matter,’ what is this name ‘Maitreya,’ what does ‘he will reply on this matter’ mean? Does my form reply? Do feeling, perception, mental activities, or even consciousness reply? Does my appearance or my shape reply? Does the voidness of form reply? Does the voidness of feeling, perception, mental activities, or consciousness reply? Does the voidness of my appearance or my shape reply?”

But, venerable Subhuti, the voidness of form cannot reply. So, venerable Subhuti, the voidness of feeling, perception, mental activities or consciousness, and the voidness of my appearance or my shape cannot reply? Venerable Subhuti, I do not see any phenomenon that could reply, or that should reply, or by which there could be a reply. I do not see any phenomenon which was predicted as supreme, truly perfect enlightenment.”

Then the venerable Śāriputra said to Maitreya, a bodhisattva, a great being, “But, venerable Maitreya, have you experienced these phenomena which you speak about?”

Maitreya replied, “Venerable Śāriputra, I have not experienced these phenomena which I speak about. Thus, venerable Śāriputra, I do not know them, nor do I think about them, nor apperceive them, nor see them. And also, venerable Subhuti, form cannot touch them, words cannot express them, mind cannot consider them. That is their intrinsic nature, because they have no intrinsic nature!”

Then the venerable Śāriputra said, “There is deep wisdom in what Maitreya has said. Indeed, he explains things as someone who has acted in the perfection of wisdom for a long time.”

Then the Lord Buddha said to the venerable Śāriputra, “Where, Śāriputra, did that, ‘There is deep wisdom in what Maitreya has said’ come from? Śāriputra, can you see the phenomenon that has brought about your becoming an arhat?”

Śāriputra replied, “Not at all, Lord Buddha!”

The Lord Buddha said, “Similarly, a bodhisattva, a great being, acting in the perfection of wisdom, does not think, ‘This phenomenon has been predicted, is predicted, was predicted and is completely understood in supreme, truly perfect enlightenment.’ Acting thus, a bodhisattva, a great being, acts in the perfection of wisdom. Acting, he is not nervous, he is not frightened, he is not terrified. Imbued with the strength that he has gained, he thinks, ‘I am not yet fully enlightened’ and therefore he makes more effort. And so, when he acts, he acts in the perfection of wisdom.”

—*Perfection of Wisdom Sutras*, verses 359-361

In Christianity the main point seems to be that Jesus is “unique and special” and thus he exists on an unattainably high level as a deity. You cannot ever become “a Jesus” or you are committing blasphemy within that tradition. And you probably shouldn't seriously claim (or indeed want) to be “the Messiah” or “the” Maitreya. However it is asserted in the Buddhist tradition that there are now, and will be many more, Buddhas. Indeed the central point of Buddhism (more accurately “dharma practice”) is to become awakened, a Bodhisattva (awakened/enlightened being), and a Buddha (fully enlightened).

The idea of the Buddha, both as a historical man (and perhaps as the first ideological “post- or after-human”), or, as a thought-emanation or divine being in specifically human form—and not any invisible deity—is central to all the different Buddhist traditions, emphasizing that the intention is to improve and perfect our bodies, our wisdom, and our level of compassion for all life forms.

“May I become a Buddha for the benefit of all.”



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