

Sigil Magic Seminar

Foreword

This is the original Sigil Magic Seminar that was posted on the Obsidian Mirror Forum and on my live journal. It is the result of my own experiments and practices with Sigil Magic. It has also been tried out and worked with by members of the Discordians for

Softer Sandpaper Society - Purple Monkey Mafia/Cabal. This is the second version. There have been changes to the formatting, some of the text, hyperlinks, and other editing. I have taken out the biographical info at the end. This version also contains a couple of sigil examples. Other changes that may be made would include examples of magical languages and an alphabet of desire. After finishing the first version, I thought it could perhaps be an embryo for a book dealing with sigils and other magical practices. We will see. Interested people can contact me at the email address listed on this site. Any of you out there who try Sigil Magic are encouraged to contact me so we can share and compare notes or experiences.

At the end I have included my own statement about where I think magical practices should be focused. Interested people can read the *Nova Principia Magica* on p63 of this work. I have also included the very first statement by the Purple Monkey Mafia to give you, the reader, an idea of the sort of surrealist and magical stance that DSSS-PMM/C members take.

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-Irreverend Hugh, KSC

Contents

- 03. Foreword
- 05. Contents
- 07. Introduction/Part One
- 19. Part Two
- 27. Part Three
- 37. Part Four
- 55. From Sigils to Thought-Form Servitors
- 61. Bibliography/Further Reading
- 63. Nova Principia Magica
- 67. Purple Monkey Mafia Statement One

Sigil Magic Seminar Introduction / Part One

Do you wish to learn an effective and simple way of enchantment that requires no shift in belief and no membership to any religion? Sigil Magic may be for you.

Sigil Magic today is the most common magical technique used among Chaos Magicians. They have stripped away the tangled yarns of occultist pedantry and discovered the basic techniques for magic. They boil down to *intention, path opening, linking, gnosis, shooting/firing, and forgetting*. These are the essentials for any successful results magic. No matter what your level of magical training or experience, by the time you have finished reading what I have to present to you, you will be well on your way in the practice of Sigil Magic. From there, it is up to you.

Now, before some of you run in horror from this because I said the term 'Chaos', let me briefly explain Chaos Magic and where modern Sigil Magic came from. Forget old musty tomes left over from renaissance fantasies! (Unless you like that stuff, but trust me, reading old grimoires is an act of masochism.) In the Chaos approach, two people are said to be the main inspirations. They are Aleister Crowley and Austin Osman Spare. Both rejected the tendency of occultists to bog down any real magical abilities under tons of erudite but meandering explanations. Crowley grew to be disgusted by the Golden Dawn, which tended to err towards such intellectual armchair occultism. Aleister Crowley revolutionized the magical arts by emphasizing experience and practice...and the ability to train students to become Adepts on their own. Austin Osman Spare, who trained with Crowley for a brief time, could be said to have been an Adept on his own and contributed to the revolution by stripping away the erudition and emphasizing that everyone has the innate ability to practice magic and should therefore find their own unique ways. Out of this revolution, Chaos Magic eventually arose.

Chaos Magic as an approach can be said to have coalesced in the eighties. In the beginning, the word "chaos" wasn't even applied to what was being worked out. Kenneth Grant, Peter Carroll and others started publishing the results of their workings in various occult journals. By the nineties, Chaos Magic was well known, if a little infamous, by many others. The IOT (Illuminates of Thanateros) can be said to be the first 'stable' magical order that developed along Chaos Magic ideas. Groups like the L.O.O.N. (Lincoln Order of Neuromancers) and Z-Cluster kept up the chaos approach along non-hierarchical and 'open-

source' lines. Throughout this time, the writings of Austin Osman Spare, who had been a rather obscure and less well known figure, were discussed and expanded upon. The nineties also witnessed a new generation of Chaos Magic, which went beyond the blindspots and intellectual traps of the 'first wave' of chaos oriented practitioners. Such new faces such as Phil Hine came to the fore as 'spokespeople' for the 'movement.'

The Chaos Magic approach is really a 'meta-paradigmatic' approach, meaning it doesn't have a paradigm of its own but that it approaches all paradigms and beliefs as useful tools. Chaos Mages scoff at metaphysics if they're not laughing. They have developed some interesting approaches in ways to conceptualize magic, without getting too caught up in conceptualizing. But using a belief/concept is pretty damned effective. Chaos Mages, or Chaoists exist in many different traditions such as Wicca, Asatru, Thelema, Discordianism, Buddhism, etc. The Chaos approach defies such things as the "Threefold Law" and "Karma", stating that those things only affect the people who believe in them uncritically. Chaoists scoff at arbitrary definitions like laws/morality and strangely are more giving, compassionate, and balanced beings as a result. A Chaos Mage can invoke a completely self-fabricated deity and get the same results as someone using a traditional deity. (Those of you who wish to check out more thorough treatments of the Chaos Magic approach can find a veritable library online. Or you can read through the discussion of Chaos Magic topics in Part Four of this seminar.)

Interesting, huh? But for the purposes of this Seminar, let's get down to Sigils.

It was Austin Osman Spare and his Zos Kia Cultus that freed up what we now call Sigil Magic. In his world, occultists believed that one needed all manner of props and rituals to be able to perform effective and powerful magic. "Not so," said Spare. Demonstrating with sigils, he proved that magic could be done anywhere, anytime, and at a moment's notice...while being just as powerful as a group of Ceremonials practicing the Hoo-Hah for a week. Spare also thought that it was not necessary to be well versed in magical systems like the Kabbalah or Tantra. (Note: This was before the publicization of popular witchcraft in the form of Wicca in the 1950's.) To the utter despair of his critics, he proved himself right.

Since that time, Sigil Magic has been used effectively by thousands and has become identified as the central Chaostic form of sorcery due to its no-bullshit-stuff-like-pedantry approach to doing magic. There are as many styles of Sigil Magic as there are people performing it. Hopefully, after you have familiarized yourself with the techniques in the seminar, you will be able to use your own artistry in designing a Sigil Magic that is powerful because it is your own. The techniques of Sigil Magic are basically the central matrix of any 'spellcraft' and learning to create sigils is one of the best ways to learn how to design your own spells, methods of enchantment, and even complete magical systems. Do you want to learn this approach? Keep reading. Perhaps you could be the next great revolutionizer of magic? Why not? Don't put it past yourself.

Sigil Magic Mental Lubrication

Let's start off by stating that Sigil Magic works. Thus it is important that you know yourself pretty well before you start imputing your desires into the working. You will get what you enchant for. I will go on ahead and show you simple methods of Sigil Construction (for drawings, mantras, and body postures).

However, if you are completely new to magic I would ask you to practice motionless not-thinking meditation each day for a few days concurrently with your Sigil Magic practice. I recommend at least a week. This is to get yourself ready to be able to form a clear intention with out being distracted. Don't worry about the specifics of the meditation, it is clear enough from its title. Just do it and see for yourself...your mind should automatically become suited for this. If this doesn't work for you, please post your concerns or questions here. There are a plethora of other techniques to use. You will be surprised how easy it is to get started.

I will be under the assumption that you already practice some sort of magical hygiene in the form of banishing rituals, and grounding/centering activities. If you don't know how to do this yet, you can proceed with the sigil exercises, as good sigil creation sort of works banishings into the design. It is a very good idea, however, to regularly practice banishing rituals on their own. Such practices lead to strengthened focus and experience. If you don't know how to do banishings or any of that sort, you can find information everywhere. Or you can ask other occultists/students of magic.

The basic idea behind Sigil Magic is that one constructs a glyph or symbol of one's desire in a way that one forgets the desire consciously. After the enchantment process, one forgets the ritual, or whatever one did, as well. By all means, take a few notes on your practice, but then put them away. Once the process is out of mind and out of sight, your desire will become manifested. The process goes this way in order to override any 'psychic censor' you may have inside your mind. It is far too easy for your consciousness to not want to fulfill any desire in order to dissolve any fear of failure. Sigils are very effective in bypassing that altogether. Does this sound too easy? Well, of course it is easy to start doing Sigil Magic, but nothing can ever give you the expertise that a long period of practice will give you.

And now, here we go. Hold on tight and have some fun!

Sigil Magic Techniques (or 'Damn! This was easy!')

There are four main types of Sigil Magic that I use. They are Words, Pictures, Sounds, and Postures. For the purposes of this part of the seminar I will focus on the Words method. Once you learn that, you will be able to adapt the process to the other three methods quickly. You may even wish to try out other methods. (There are many more, such as Smell, Music, Taste, Color, Hand Gesture, etc.)

Now, this is so easy you may have problems believing it would work but do it anyway. You have nothing to lose but your doubt. In the Words method, which is common to most Mages, whether

Chaoist or not, you write out your desire/intention as clearly as possible in a sentence. This is known as the Statement of Intent. (Get your intention very clear and exact, because what is left to chance will be chanced, and always remember Murphy's Law.) I will provide an example. (And it is so humorous, no one will wish to copy it.)

I WILL TO HAVE THAT PRAIRIE SQUID GET SICK

Simple? Notice that I use the expression "I will" as opposed to "I wish" or "please give to me" or anything of that sort. Why? Please don't ask that again. You are the magical operator, why are you asking? Do you ask the store clerk to please let you pay for something? Do you tell your food you wish to eat it? No. Well I hope not. Now—on to Sigilization. From your "Statement of Intent", remove all the repeated letters. Leaving us with...

IWLTOHAVEPRSQUJDGCK

Now take all these letters and combine them together into a glyph. There are as many ways of making them into a glyph as there are snowflakes. The point is to make something pictorial that one can remember and draw in one's mind. The resulting picture could end up looking like a cross between Chinese, Sanskrit, and Runes. But it shouldn't immediately suggest your intent.

Now some people may want to use magical alphabets or languages to construct the sigil and that is fine. Do whatever will work for you. I personally tend to use either English, glossolalia (channeled gibberish used to subvert the conscious mind), Irish

Gaelic, or some combination of the three, when writing my statements of intent.

Now you have made your Sigil. Now what? Watch a video, or something. Some people recommend making sigils right before the 'launching' of them. Some say wait. I personally find it more effective, if I have the time and patience to construct the sigil and impute my desire into it and leave it be for a while. I do other things and forget about it. When I feel the time is right, I launch the thing. However, if there is a pressing emergency, I whip the sigil up on the fly and launch it then and there. Some of that stuff has been pretty amazing...but I digress. (I'll write of my own personal sigil experiences once I have finished the seminar. I want everyone to have a few of their own first.)

Now after you have made the sigil you will want to see the intent manifest...probably to see if I know what I am talking about, but hopefully for other reasons too. The way I launch sigils is to attain gnosis. For those of you who may not know, gnosis is simply the ultra-awareness state that allows you to do magical operations easily. It is the actual reason why people 'raise energy'. There are many ways to achieve gnosis. I will list some of them...dancing, chanting (even more effective if one's chant is one's Sound Sigil), drumming, visualization, fasting, gorging on one's favorite food, hyperventilation, sensory overload, sensory deprivation, spinning around like a lunatic, sexual arousal (the favorite of most occultists)...or you can use states of boredom. (Please consult one's healthcare specialist if you have any health concerns over some of the more physically exhaustive methods.) There are many more ways of achieving gnosis. How do you know

you have achieved it? You will know. Trust me. If I tell you how to know, you'll fake the gnosis.

Once you reach the peak of gnosis (i.e...orgasm, or whatever) visualize the sigil in your mind clearly and launch it off into space. If you don't want to do it that way, you can try drawing it on some paper and burning it...or crushing it. I once crumpled up a sigil and threw it at the corner of the building owned by the person I was using my services against. Some people launch sigils during a sneeze—and this does work because the sneeze is an easy mini-gnosis state.

After you launched the sigil you put it out of your mind. And forget it. This is the hardest thing to do in Sigil Magic. But do it anyway. To gain practice in forgetting, it is helpful to start by constructing sigils that symbolize intentions you may not care too much for. The best way to forget the damned thing is to just rest assured that it is fired-off and will now work. End of story. This helps maintain your original intent linked to the sigil and it keeps probability for manifestation wide open. Sigils usually manifest your desire after you have completely forgotten them. I suppose the only way for you to successfully do this is to get experience doing it. Hard? Yes. But after you have a few successful sigils accomplished you will know what works for you.

The thing that works best for me is that I make the sigil, let it sit around until I have forgotten the meaning and then fire it off.

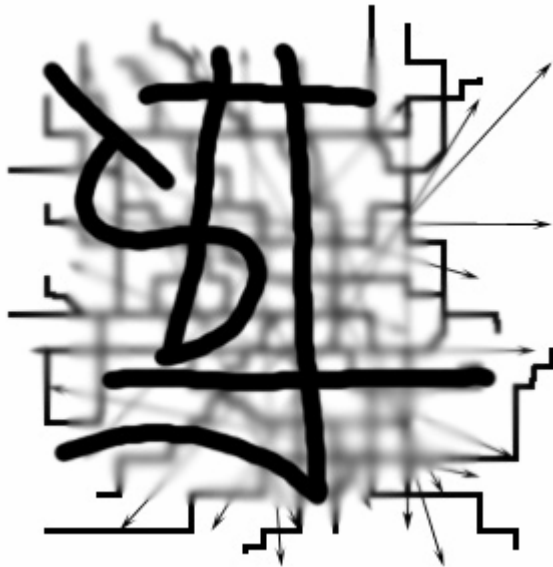
After you have started Sigil Magic, you should record your efforts and make any notes so that you can study your progress. I usually put a copy of any

Word or Picture Sigil in a notebook with a quick description of what its for. And then when making notes later about other operations I skip over the recently added Sigil if it hasn't been manifested yet. I must add that I usually know if the sigil has manifested my desire the moment it happens...my memory suddenly clicks together. For those of you who may have problems with this, do not worry so much. You may simply wish to just write down your S.O.I. with a date (for sigil launch) but without any copy of the sigil. This method tends to work as you will find yourself able to recall the sigil when your desire manifests.

Homework/Exercise

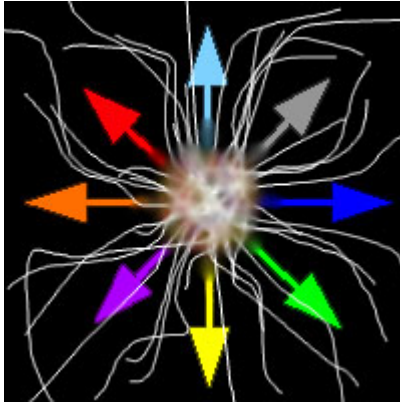
Using the above information, construct a sigil and launch it. To start, please use something that is easily obtained and is not rabidly desired. Please post any notes or questions you may wish to share here. Once your sigil has manifested your desire, you may wish to let me know about it. Also share any failures too. Failure is just another form of information which can be used to help. You have all you need to know to get started with Sigil Magic. Pretty quick, huh?

This is a representation of how a sigil glyph could appear:



The above is an Eris sigil. It's purpose is to gather and focus energy/power towards the goal of dissolving the current consensus reality, whether in your own mind (personal) or in society at large. Best times to launch are during the 'psychic quiet times', about 3-5am in your local. Replication and continued repeated launching does add power/energy to the sigil. It may eventually become its own thoughtform. In which case, I will have to name it.

You may wish to tailor it to your own tastes but please try to keep the black glyph intact. I deliberately kept it simple for those who want to memorise it.

Another sigil:

The above is a 'Chao Bolt' sigil. Its purpose is to focus as a center of energy for those working Chaos Rituals. It also acts as a 'buffer' between your own chaotic and/or magical microcosm and the anti-magical prejudices of the society around you. It is designed much like the Eris sigil above to be replicated and launched repeatedly. It can be launched anytime you choose without affecting its potency. You may also place a copy of it somewhere around your working environment. It gathers potency from repeated usage and even from repeated glances. When it does eventually become its own thoughtform it will assume the name of "Eris' Hairdo," which describes the sigil exactly.

Next Time:

The next parts of the Sigil Magic Seminar will get deeper into wide world of Chaostic magical operation. I will talk/rant about the 'psychic censor' and suggest ways of getting rid of or bypassing it. I will try to discuss Austin Spare's alphabet of desire and how you can go about creating one of your own so that your magical abilities become stronger than you ever thought possible. I will also get into the making of one's own magical language by using the popular Ouranian language as an example. Both of these approaches will allow you to make sigils that are infinitely artistic and complex in their operations. And if we are all lucky, I may eventually talk about how sigils can become thought-form servitors. And I will talk about any other thing any of you feel you wish to know about Sigil Magic or even Chaos Magic. (The next part of the Seminar will be posted in a few weeks.)

Fire away!

Sigil Magic Seminar: Part Two

Sound Sigil Introduction

Bear with me a bit. This intro may be long.

Gratuitous flashback: When I was young, I discovered on my own the power of the human voice in enchantment. Of course, that's how I explain it now, but back then I had no explanation for it. I simply thought of it as the power of the word. There were a few instances where I would wish for something to happen, express it in gibberish (mimicking what I thought of as magical words), and then it would happen. I was never that big of a person, as tall as I have grown. Even as a child I was thin, very thin...Uma Thurman thin, but I am male. Thus I would find myself the target of bullies from time to time. Through the use of my special gibberish I was able to enchant unfortunate circumstances for those who would target me. Once I was involved in a

fight and was losing (this was before I learned how and where to hit people), I willed myself to be a predator and as I lay there on the ground being beat, I spouted my gibberish in a loud voice. The next thing I knew I was up and punching the attacker in the face. I ended up chasing the poor bastard all the way to his home and upstairs into his bedroom, where he tried to escape unsuccessfully. The kid's stunned parents acted as if they were frozen/shocked. The kid's huge dog ran off. The result of all this was that the bastard got in more trouble (from his parents and from the school) and I never became a target again. I had become, as I would explain it now, the instrument of Eris's Bitchslap.

But that was when I was young. Since then I have relearned the power of sound in studying Vajrayana Buddhism (often called Tantra) and in exploring martial arts such as Kendo. My emphasis has been mostly on the mantras of the Vajrayana system and in locking certain mental states into certain sounds, such as musical notes, that I can access just by thinking of the sound in my head. In Vajrayana we study various teachings and symbolize their expressions into sanskritized syllables which are best not translated. The purpose of this is to have the library of teachings accessible in a split second's notice—not as a collection of words but as an embodied experience, and to be able to change our mental states at will. Despite the fact that each practitioner learns many of the same mantras, they all become personalized. (Those of you with bad ideas about Buddhism need to read this parenthetical segue: Vajrayana Buddhism's goal is enlightenment, which is the fullest blossoming of an individual who is free of egoistic obstructions, by twisting those

obstructions around and opening them. The purpose is openness and freedom of will, not a state of bliss—though that is a good side effect. I am Pagan but I am also a dedicated student of the Vajrayana system and feel that too often people misunderstand that system.)

What this all means for you is that I am going to show you how to achieve magical enchantment ability using sound sigils...Nope. Actually you all have that ability right now. If you don't believe it, then suspend your disbelief and try this out.

Sound Sigil Mental Lubrication

For the purposes of this part of the seminar I want you to admit to yourselves that you like your voice and you enjoy hearing it. Forget about all the excuses of not being able to carry a tune or sing. Forget what others may have told you about your voice. If you are reading this then you are probably into magic and thus it is important to enjoy your voice. Your voice is a unique expression, unmatched by any other voice. Pick a sound that you enjoy making and make that sound right now...before you read any further...just make that sound for a few minutes. Experience this until the sound vibrates up from your diaphragm, seemingly and out through your mouth. Eventually it's as if the sound is coming through you spontaneously. Do this now.....

[Hugh takes a cigar break, while you all practice your voices.]

Uuummm. Good. You have practiced your voices. Now we are ready to get into making Sound Sigils.

Another quick segue: I am often inspired by the death-songs of some of the Tibetan Lamas who were lead to execution by the Chinese occupiers of Tibet. In those songs, one can find a liberating use of Sound Sigil Magic as it is used in the creation of personal song. One Lama in particular sang a song expressing his ultimate freedom as he was going towards the people who would kill him. By the time the executioners received him, he had already left his body. I would like to think that even those magical people who died by execution, such as Giordano Bruno left this realm comforted and empowered by their own voice.

That is an extreme example, I know, but one must be ready for any circumstance.

Making Sound Sigils: So easy you probably have done it already

I will show you all how to make chants/mantras for yourselves in much the same way that you used words to compose those picturesque glyphs during part one. Since you have been practicing sigils already (right?), this will be even easier. There are two ways to make Sound Sigils that I use. One is the aforementioned spontaneous gibberish style where you encode the gibberish with your intention. The second is as follows.

Let's start with another silly example...

IWILLTOSUCCESSFULLYLEARNTHIS

Now that the statement of intent is there. You can use the process discussed in Part One, taking out

repeated letters, and then coming up with syllables. Or you can simply pay attention to the sounds of the statement and rearrange them. Adding sounds and subtracting others to make it flow better. Giving us the sounds:

IWI TU SUKSES FULI LERN ISS

And to further polish it, a little rearrangement and modification:

EEWEE SESKUS NELFUS

Presto! A full blown mantra/sound sigil. Now to make it manifest your desire, one of the easiest ways is to keep repeating your mantra over and over again until your mind loses track of the associated desire and you get into the spirit of the sound. Don't hold back. Become enthused by your chanting, even if you end up spouting it out so quickly that it sounds nothing like what you originally started with. Launch that baby by however you wish. I like the dramatic pause, myself. Forget about the operation and grab a bite to eat or something. Since you have already practiced what you learned in Part One of the Seminar, there's no need to go into the launch and the aftermath in much detail here. You should be getting a feel for designing all aspects of a Sigil Magic system for yourself.

Easy, huh? Yeah. But start practicing with intents that are easily enough attained. Once you build up the confidence, go on ahead and try more difficult intents.

Now, some of you who have really been paying attention have probably figured out one of the

methods by which you can design your own magical language. And you are on the ball, because this is the most commonly used method. Wow! "You mean I don't have to go around reading mystical texts and learning things like Enochian?" No. You don't. You can design a magical language of your very own. And eventually, I will discuss this topic in depth.

Now in the Vajrayana system, we are given 'seed syllables' which are repeated over and over again with associated visualizations. Sometimes an elaborate ritual results, sometimes just a quiet gnosis. You are free to find your own seed syllables and use them in conjunction with certain visualizations...ie. a Word Sigil glyph you designed, or something else. You already know the most popular Buddhist and Hindu seed syllable, Aum/Om. There are many others. But also try coming up with some of your own.

As you have intuited, the possibilities of this are endless and it's up to your own creativity.

Homework/Exercise

Okay. You know the deal. Using the info above, design and launch a Sound Sigil. As always, record your design and efforts somewhere, in a way that won't bring it to mind too much, but adequately enough to be able to make note of any progress. Let me know how it goes. And feel free to go off the deep end and make some crazy sounding stuff. Let me know if your Sigils work, if you wish. If you experience failure, let me know because there will be a lot more for you to learn that way. Any questions?

Next Time:

Chaos Magic? Posture Sigil techniques...Austin Spare's alphabet of desire and how to design your own? Haha! You may have already figured that one out. I think you all understand the idea behind using gibberish at this point but if there are questions, I'll discuss that topic further. I will get into the formation of your own magical languages and possibly discuss the use of foreign or sacred languages in rituals and why that works. But the real hope is that I talk about how Sigils can develop into servitors, right? Or maybe you are starting to realize that for yourself.

Chant/Sing Away!

Sigil Magic Seminar: Part Three

Languages, Alphabets, and Posture Sigils

Since this was originally intended to be a short seminar series, I have decided to keep firing away at full speed. Anyone who wishes to revisit any of the topics in more detail can feel free to ask questions. It is hoped that by now you are gaining confidence in your sigil magic operations. This part of the seminar is mostly info about concepts, though I hope you would take a crack at practicing posture sigils and think about designing your own magical language. There are exercises dealing with the alphabet of desire and posture sigils. Take your time and trust yourself.

Magical Languages

You have all heard them in ritual or seen them written down. Whether the language is completely made up such as Enochian or it is a supposedly old and obscure language such as Gaelic, the idea is that there is more potency in using the language. "Well, Hugh," you say, "I don't have time to go learn a language." To which I say "What? You're probably an avid occultist of some sort...so you know a bunch already, right?" (Okay, my humor is not on today.)

The reason for the potency in using another language is not anything inherent in that language, it is for the same reason you use sigils. The use of the language helps to put you in a state of gnosis whereby your psychic censor or resistance can be bypassed. Now, there are of course many languages spoken. There are many dead ones used as magical languages...ie. Sanskrit or Latin. But, depending on the type of person you are, it may be most potent for you to use an entirely magical language. By magical language I mean that it was designed specifically through and for the use of magic. The most popular magical language to date is Enochian, which was either channeled or invented by John Dee. Another one which is growing in popularity and is used by many Chaos Mages is Ouranian. Now Enochian actually has a complex set of syntax rules. Ouranian, being invented and used by Chaos Mages, does not. (See the bottom for links to Ouranian information.)

But why not invent your own magical language? It's easier than you imagined. The vocabulary and the syntax you generate can be as extensive as you wish. Certain sounds have a specific resonance to you that others may not notice. Certain Spewellyn authors may never wish for you to do this for yourself. The Golden Dawn definitely would not.

But who cares about fluffy-bunnies and arm chair occultists? I know some of you may find this metaphor sickening but imagine the universe as a cyber-world and all the users are mages. Now some mages cut and paste other people's code to make things happen. Some mages never even peer beyond the perceptions of their chosen browser. But then...some of those mages write their own code, develop their own language, and possibly make their own interfaces. It's all a question of what you want to get from magical practices. For myself, the two main reasons are the most common...illumination and change-in-environment.

That said, designing your magical language can take one of several ways, some of those ways simultaneously, or all of them at once. You could 'channel' up the language from wherever it is, or from whatever it is you wish to channel. You could design the language in much the same way as you would design Sound Sigils. Both of these processes will uncover sound structures that are meaningful to you and will seem to match the concept. If you choose to start designing a language, I recommend that you keep your vocabulary small and related to magical operations and concepts in a way that is relevant to you. Also invent words for which perceptions, feelings, or concepts that you have no word for. But, in the end, it's up to you. I recommend you to research a little about semantics and particularly languages such as E-prime. You may find that avoiding the use of essentialist type expressions (ie...'this IS that') will make your language more potent.

You will know you have successfully invented a magical language when the neighbors all move away

from you and your friends think you have gone insane.

Alphabets

This should be easy enough. You can choose to use pieces of what goes into your glyphs. You can borrow from other writing systems. You can rearrange the systems you know already. Most people prefer to use a pre-fabbed system such as runes, ogham, or one of the renaissance alphabets. It is easy enough to learn letters in several systems, though the combinations can be daunting. But to really make an alphabet your own magical alphabet, you may wish to think about what certain letter combinations mean to you. There are associations hidden in every symbol you use, and letters are an effective way of bypassing the psychic censor completely, due to the fact that because they are used forming words your associations go completely unnoticed. This can give you potency on a silver platter if you wish to deserve it.

Without further ado...

Austin Osman Spare's Alphabet of Desire

You heard me refer to this man as one of the founders of the Chaos Magic approach. He is often thought of as the grandfather. He was a brilliant man who, while not as (in)famous as Crowley, nevertheless opened up more possibilities for anyone

to become adepts than anyone before him. Crowley would have been happy. Maybe.

Spare was the one credited with releasing sigil magic from the bullshit it had been attached to by generations of occult traditionalists. Spare cut the crap and went to the bone. His alphabet of desire and his 'postures' can be added to your own practice, or can be used to see how you can develop your own methods.

If you wish to see Spare's own alphabet and what can be done with it, I refer you to the Chaoist Text 'Liber Nox' (Liber Null pg. 76, by Peter Carroll) which was written for people a little bit advanced. (But check it out anyway.) For the purposes of this seminar, I want you to make your own alphabet of desire (which is really what Austin Spare was getting at with his concept). I list the emotions in their dualistic polarities, that Peter Carroll developed, to start with. This is to show you how to do it. You can list them in a way that feels right to you. Or you can use my list, if you like. (Bear with me here...if you follow along, you will have your own alphabet of desire by the time you finish.)

SEX-DEATH

release-dissolution, destruction-lust, atrophy-frustration

FEAR-DESIRE

terror-joy, fright-attraction, aversion-greed

HATE-LOVE

anger-rapture, aggression-passion, loathing-attachment

LAUGHTER-LAUGHTER

Or you can use the seemingly simple

PAIN-PLEASURE, DEPRESSION-ELATION

The purpose is to lay each word/concept out with its associated symbols, glyphs, etc...for the effective use of that emotion or desire in magical operations and also for you to get a sense of your own emotional makeup in a direct way. Those of you who can refer to Peter Carroll's nice chart will get the idea quickly, but those of you who have to put together your own chart are at an advantage, trust yourself ! Think of making your alphabet of desire as a way of liberating yourself from all horoscopes forever. You will now be able to cast your own charts and the stars can be damned!

There are many ways of laying out your alphabet of desire. You can take the Kabalah's tree of life, tarot spreads, astrological charts. Whatever. I tend to use tantric mandalas. Some people use the chakra layout. Once you have a layout, the possibilities are endless for you. You can use it for divination, for spells, for designing more sigils...for associations that may surprise you.

Now, you notice that Laughter is its own opposite. Chaos Mages see laughter as the most potent force. It is the one thing you can take to its extreme and not worry about suffering its opposite. This may make no sense to you if you believe that

the opposite of laughter is crying. But I have used laughter to banish crying when it was not getting me anywhere. Laughter banishes everything you want it to. (Can't put down what you called up? Laugh at the damn beastie and it will be banished. Getting afflicted with the deadly mental disease of 'magusitis'? Laugh at yourself and you will be cured. Choronzon screwing about with your program? You know what to do.) Don't take my word for it—I am one who, after all, has used punk music in my rituals so I am sort of crazy—try it out.

Alphabet Homework/Exercise:

Using the above as a guide, construct-develop your own alphabet of desire. Research as much as you need to. You may find that you come up with an adequate 'map' of your own psyche. You should feel free to use your own symbols, pics, or other associations. Or use the common occult symbols, such as astrological signs, runes, etc. For now, just come up with a basic charting of your alphabet. Trust yourself, you have all the time in the world to make it more elaborate, if you wish. Also remember that it is not set in stone. You can change anything you wish. Just try to be honest with yourself as to what works.

Now...on to the next topic.

Posture Sigils: Some mental lubrication

Since your emotional states are experienced through your body, it should come as no surprise that you can use postures to effect changes in your emotions and in the practice of magic. But the idea of using your posture as a sigil may strike you as odd. Before I go on, I want you to think of postures and how they express underlying non-verbal cues. Look at photos of politicians or models. Pay attention to facial composition, shoulder lines, chin angles, and more importantly hand gestures and foot positions. Our body postures have developed over thousands of years before our species even had verbal language. Leaders use them effectively to establish subconscious control. You can use them to establish your own sort of control. Posture is one of the most potent magical methods you can learn. You can change your emotional state and even the environment around you with a change in posture.

Now that you have thought about postures. I want you to become comfortable in your own skin, okay? Regardless of your health at this point, or any aches and pains you may be experiencing. Try to find a posture that expresses your complete comfort and your inherent right to exist. (Well...just believe it for a while until you actually experience it.) Starting with that 'central posture', imagine other postures which express other feelings. Try a few animal mimicry postures, etc. If you are not as agile as you wish, don't worry. You can use facial expressions and hand gestures effectively as well.

Posture Sigils: Method (easier than breathing?)

So, remember the S.O.I. part? The Statement of Intent that you used in generating sigils? Well, when applied in posture sigil magic, it is so astoundingly easy to learn, it is crazy enough to work. You simply come up with your S.O.I. and link it to a certain posture or gesture, whichever one that makes sense for you. Achieve gnosis and then launch it by whichever of your favorite methods. I like launching and then finishing by, oddly enough, disassembling the posture by, say, getting up and going out for a walk. "Damn!" You say? That's all? Yes. In writing it down for you, that is all. However...the practice of posture sigils is about as difficult as any other sigil magic. You may wish to look at Tibetan Buddhist art for ideas. Each non-theistic deity posed is expressing certain mental states. They are learned by students for personal growth and for magical operations. If you are Pagan, you may choose to visualize one of your gods and than using posture, take on that godform and experience all the things associated with being that godform. You can also try movie-star poses, etc. This will help you a long way towards understanding posture for use in sigil magic.

Posture Sigil Homework/Exercise

Design and launch a posture sigil. At this stage of the seminar, you should have no problems doing this. As always, at least until you become well practiced and more confident, keep your intention simple and easily obtainable. You can enchant for fabulous wealth later on in your magical practices.

For now...think of simple things. Make sure that your posture sigil is clearly distinct from your day to day postures...hehehe. Also be aware that your posture sigil can be a combo of different postures and gestures in a time sequence, if you wish. Your creativity should be allowed to go off the deep end. Just don't injure yourself. If you want masochism, you can learn yoga.

You may be thinking that postures are limited in range. Trust yourself, they are as limitless as words and sounds. Especially if you know dance or a martial art. Relay any questions or problems or successes here. (I hope you are also recording your experiments in a journal somewhere.)

Next Time:

By this point in the seminar, you are at the point where you can tell me what you'd like the topic(s) to be for the next time. Feel free to suggest something that may be bugging you or interesting you. This is the pivotal point where the 'lesson' type structure gives way to more of a dialogue. For the next time I will discuss the psychic censor, ego and all that jazz. But anything else any of you may want to discuss will be included. (This time before starting the next part of the seminar, I will wait several days or more...in order to gather feedback...and I mean it this time.)

Sigil Magic Seminar: Part Four

This part of the seminar is the lengthiest, in terms of what I will discuss. Many of the topics herein will be paradoxical to what you may have learned or know of so far. Please bear with me and discern what you can truly get out of all of this. I will slip into discussion about broader chaos magic topics that may be of interest to many of you. I hope some of you have done some research. Hopefully, I have given you some tools to fish with, as opposed to just giving you some fish. I will recap what you have learned so far. And I will also suggest some 'icings on the cake', so to speak, on working with sigils. There are a bunch of exercises at the end. You will have much to practice. And it will all be fun. But first read these quotes. They will establish a good frame of mind.

"At that time, gaze into and beyond the immediate vista, into the Aeon...the spaciousness beyond your

meannesses, beyond your borrowed precepts, dogmas and beliefs...until you vibrate in spacious unity. Indraw your breath until the body quivers and then give a mighty suspiration, releasing all your nervous energy into the focal point of your wish; and as your urgent desire merges into the ever present procreative sea, you will feel a tremendous insurge, a self-transformation. And the Devil himself shall not prevent your will materializing."

-Austin Osman Spare

"So, if you hurt the Butterfly, you hurt yourself, but your belief that you don't hurt yourself protects you from hurt...for a time! Belief gets tired and you are miserably hurt! Do what you will...belief is ever its own inconsistency. Desire contains everything, hence you must believe in everything...if you believe at all!"

-Austin Osman Spare

"It doesn't matter which belief system you use, so long as it turns you on. Read that again, it's important."

-Phil Hine

"In the mirror of death all of my actions and desires take on true meaning."

-Dorje Naljor

Recapping

By this point in the seminar you are familiar with ensigilization in at least three methods. You have grasped how to begin designing your own magical system with sigils. (Or at least how to incorporate these methods into a system you already have.) You have started creating your own Alphabet of Desire, or some equivalent work. You are starting to figure out in a very visceral and personal way

what most occult systems are pointing to. (Well, let's be ambitious here.)

Any lingering doubts about the existence of magic and your ability to learn it?

Any problems encountered in the sigil process?

One of the most common problems encountered is that upon creating and enchanting a sigil, many people can't get the association out of their conscious mind, due to the inherent beauty of their creation. Never fear. There is a way out of that jam. Try not launching sigils until you have collected a few of them. Then mix them up a few days later and launch them. By this point you will have probably forgotten what each sigil's S.O.I. is and so the association is effectively forgotten. For some reason, this trick works powerfully. Try it out. (Note: It is obvious that this won't work if you need to do emergency enchantment in a pinch. In which case, do the sigil, find the quickest way to gnosis, and fire. Practice at the whole thing will make this easier.)

Another trick is to ensigilize using a language you barely understand. Or combine several fragments from languages you know into something consciously unintelligible. I, for instance, have great fun using a reverse Gaelic mixed with English. By the time I have translated my S.O.I. into such a manglam, I can safely enchant the damned thing without worrying about any interference from the psychic censor, or from my own 'lust for result'. You may wish to try something like this.

Or you can use magical language...something you only use for enchantment and never in a daily

context. Ouranian is great for this. But you may have designed your own.

You may also experience having a few sigils that can be used repeatedly. I'll leave that puzzle up to you to solve.

Throughout this seminar, I have assumed that you are practicing some sort of daily, or frequent, centering/banishing exercise. You are, right? The successful sigil process has banishing worked into it, but banishing by itself is good magical practice and hygiene.

Ethics of Sigils

You may be worrying about ethics. Let me state fully and clearly that I have purposely left it up to you. Not because I feel ethics to be unimportant. I just believe that you being reasonable adults have already absorbed or developed your own ethics. For me to tell you to follow mine is ludicrous. With this in mind, I will tell you what has worked for me spectacularly: An attitude of respect for all processes and beings I may encounter on my life journey. Of course, if encountering any nasties, I will banish with extreme prejudice, mind you. But that's because my own self-respect is the foundation. Another principle I have followed which kept my mind functioning even while it explodes is that anything or anyone, including yourself, that tells you that one must sacrifice something of beauty in order to attain another thing of beauty, is most likely lying to you.

Feel free to adopt any ethics you feel are sound, or generate your own. Real ethics grows from within.

Before I get into thought-form servitors and how sigils can become them, I would like to talk about Chaos Magic.

Broader Chaos Magic Topics:

I will now discuss some ideas related to Chaos Magic as a whole. They are from my own perspective as a student of the Chaoist approach. You can consider me a proponent of 'Chaos Magic' if you need the category to put me in. But be forewarned I may not always reside there. As a Discordian, I need not be called anything, even that. My own entry into the study and practice of Chaos Magic was by accident (of course), but I'll get into that later.

A lot of people have the mistaken notion that Chaos Magic is its own system, with its own rules and traditions, etc. Strictly speaking, it is just an approach to working magic. There are some techniques and styles unique to Chaos Magic, such as the Chaosphere and the use of laughter as a banishing ritual. The eight magics system has been developed by Chaos Magic practitioners leading to some interesting ways of seeing magic.

There is a lot of hysteria in the magical community expressed towards the Chaoists. This is due to hearsay, rampant imaginations, the self-cultivated infamy of many Chaos Mages, and ignorance. (And the fact that some Chaoists sound like the pompous asses they often rant against.) Since you have already learned and practiced some

sigils, it may be of interest to you to read about the general atmosphere in which sigil magic has been developed recently. You can possibly come to your own conclusions. I will also include a couple of exercises you can try out for yourselves for the purpose of broadening your experience and strengthening your confidence. In the end, I hope some of you will go further than any of us could imagine, and have a lot of fun doing so.

Suspension of Disbelief

Magic works! Read that again. And again...got it? The only way you are going to know this for sure is to try it out. Not only does magic work, but it works all the time. Remember that. Just like when you watch a film and suspend your disbelief in order to enjoy it. Suspend your disbelief in the rest of your life. Disbelief is simply reversed belief. And neither one need be adhered to unless they are useful.

You may be thinking that that is a stupid thing to say at this point in the seminar, because you have already discovered that magic works. But tell yourselves that it works again. You would be surprised at how many times you get magic to work and still have a lingering doubt about it. So, tell yourselves it works, again.

The Psychic Censor

It is obvious to people who do/make magic happen that growing up in a society that denies this possibility can make it difficult to enchant successfully. This is due to the mental conditioning experienced from childhood and on up about what is possible and what it is impossible. Someone like myself tends to bypass this 'inculcation' through ontological trickery (such as occurs in Discordianism). For others, it becomes necessary to adopt a magical tradition with its attendant props and beliefs—which is another effective way.

The psychic censor is that part of your self that denies magical reality in order for you to function well in society. Getting rid of it is out of the question, at least until you know what you are dealing with. Many people go through a long process of de-conditioning in order to deal with it. Sometimes the censor acts as a wise guide. At other times it will be your inner 'inquisition' which beats yourself into submission to external ideas.

The censor is well known to you already. It is that which gets you to somehow not notice magical events occurring around you all the time. It makes you terrified or sick. It keeps your awareness from being mixed up in alternate realities. It makes it hard to recall dreams. It edits out telepathy and prescience. It is the reason why we have developed systems of divination in efforts to trick it. But without it, it may be next to impossible to deal with daily social life. So they say.

The psychic censor mostly protects everyday awareness. But don't think of it as its own being. It is

simply a process of our minds. So our magical operations are geared towards drawing our consciousness away from everyday awareness and into some other state in which magic can be done more easily. There are some powerful shamans who have befriended and thoroughly integrated this censor into their being so that it presents no more of a problem. And if you are like them, then bless you! Some will call it the 'double' or the 'shadow' but it is not quite that. Like the shadow-self (or deep self), however, when one becomes aware of it, one can deal with it.

It is important not to confuse the psychic censor with the deep mind. Think of it more as unconscious resistance.

Sometimes I think of the censor as a threat to my open mindedness. Other times I see it as a necessary process to keep me from wasting time. But in the end, it has been diminished in my life due to long terms of practicing trance work. This shows that the psychic censor can be controlled. One can learn how to be aware of the chaos of magic all the time. (I call that awareness the 'second attention' which I learned from psychology.) Many people argue over what the psychic censor really is and how it affects us. My best advice to you is to explore for yourself and enchant accordingly.

Magical Models

Chaos mages think of magic by using one or a combination of four different models: The spirit model, the energy model, the psychological model, and the cybernetic/information model. Each one of these models is a useful way of explaining magic. Many occultists will spend more time arguing about which model is right, then actually trying out the models for themselves.

The spirit model is probably the most encompassing due to its antiquity. There is an other/spirit/unseen world interlaced with ours. Magic is done by controlling, offering, or dealing with spirits. If one accepts that there are spirits and there is a spirit world, that can explain all magical phenomena. Sometimes the mage or the witch will describe something as having power and that tends to be where the spirit model blends with the energy model.

The energy model tends to be effective in explaining magic for many people but can not explain retroactive enchantment or other little goodies developed/discovered recently. What we think of as shamans tend to favor the spirit and energy models. The energy model is also useful in working with healing magic. It encompasses the prana/mana/chi/orgone/vril...and whatever other words are used to describe it. Energy is said to empower objects and workings. Energy is said to be launched. This model tends to not be able to explain how I could launch a sigil for something to occur to someone halfway around the world without having to send any energy. Even so, the energy model is one of the most successful models one could use.

The psychological model is useful in explaining magic to skeptics, and I have used this model frequently when talking about magic to others, with an important caveat. The psychological model cannot adequately explain how I could cast a spell on someone without their knowledge and without them even being visible to me—and still the spell gets results. Ritual and props create psychological changes or states whereby desired influences are allowed to manifest in one's life. One 'psychs' oneself into doing what they thought impossible. Writers on the occult tend to get muddled down in the psychological model simply because it is a convenient way to hide from the skeptic's question 'Does magic work?'

The cybernetic or information model, which tends to be favored by people like Peter Carroll, explains magic by saying that the universe is stochastic (remember ancient Greek anyone?) in nature. Magic creates small changes in the brain/body which, in turn, create greater changes in the universe in accord with the mage's intention. It seems to be an information transfer which causes the change. This last model is the newest, in terms of magic, and has not been completely worked out, but those interested should read Peter Carroll. It doesn't adequately explain the existence of spirits and such, though it makes a good try of it. And for me, it is not as fun as the energy model can be.

Most people will slip into one or two of the models. Some people will bitterly argue over the 'correct' one. I say that it is probably useful to keep them all in mind and slip into whichever one is useful for the particular magic you wish to work. I personally see the merits in each one. Together they

are useful for thinking about pretty much all forms of magic. If you do stick to only one model, what will you do when the universe decides to give you something that doesn't fit?

Chaoist Principles

Holey shit! We have principles? Yeah...fortunately not too many: The avoidance of dogmatism, personal experience (Do It Yourself), technical excellence (it helps to know well what you're doing), deconditioning (from beliefs, ego-fictions, baggage, etc.), diverse approaches (often within the same mage), gnosis/ASCs. This is what many Chaoists will agree upon, before they start arguing about whether or not Hastur is a good thing to call up, hehehe. (But a Hastur conjuration can be good exercise because no one gets us running faster than Hastur. Sorry. I had to.) Any of you interested in more discussion of these principles can read Phil Hine, who ruined our reputation for "having no principles at all", by letting the cat out of the bag. Hine also came up with the C.H.A.O.S. qualities of Confidence, Honor, Attentiveness, Organization, and Sensitivity. (He also makes it simple to contemplate training to be an adept by his D.R.A.T. acronym standing for Discipline, Relaxation, Attention, Transformation.) (The bastard! Now everyone knows we are nice people.)

However, one thing that distinguishes Chaos Magicians from other occultists is that we don't get caught up in labels like Left/Right Hand Path. We use them all. We explore them all. "You have magic, we'll try it!" could be one of our mottoes. Chaos Magicians

may also adopt the principles of other systems that they may be into, such as Thelema or Wicca, etc.

Empty Handed Magic

Like the martial arts adept who needs no weapons, the magical adept who uses no tools, props, or rituals, is said to be practicing empty-handed. This is the sort of person who can probably ensigilize the air in front of her within a split second and have results immediately, during a pause in conversation. Sound fantastic? You could probably do it now, if you give yourself the gift of practice and the license for it. I remember the first time I was able to spontaneously visualize a banishing pentagram. I was so excited. Nowadays I can visualize a whole bunch of glyphs and symbols on the fly, but the act of doing so is still just as exciting as the first time. Many of my magical operations are done that way. (And I really do hope that magic excites you, otherwise...why do it?)

Besides the cavalier belief shifting, this is probably the reason why many people fear Chaos Magic more than anything else. Experienced adepts need no tools. They slip in and out of magical defenses with ease. They pull out thought-form servitors on the fly. They practice divination without tools, much like a psychic. They do all the things that go against all the magical rules you may have learned. Empty handed magic is more possible than you think. And even someone who is not an adept, someone crazy like myself, can pull it off from time to time. The key is confidence. What can help you

build confidence (and this pisses off a lot of other occultists) is the idea of "fake it till you make it".

And remember this: Empty handed is free from left and right handed labels.

Diversity

Do you believe that you can conjure up things from the totally fabricated Cthulhu mythos? Well, it doesn't matter. People do it all the time. (The funniest thing about the Cthulhu mythos is that there are people who take it seriously, even when not in ritual. When I tell them that I have banished Cthulhu by laughter, they look at me in horror.) Can you make up a god-form and then call upon it for results? People do that effectively as well. I don't want to disappoint anyone's preconditioned ideas about how things should work. But the fact is that more things work in more ways than you can ever imagine. In today's post-modern world, media and corporate images contain a lot of power. And those images are used effectively to manipulate you on a deep level. So why not use those images to your advantage? Using a Pagan mythology and working with those gods can be effective, but so can using a modern mythology, such as a sci-fi series. Modern images from the media do contain thought-forms that people have given a lot of power to.

Now many people will say that in using Pagan pantheons, it is wise to stick to deities from the same pantheon. And I wholeheartedly agree, except for the fact that I don't stick to pre-made pantheons and still get the same results and love my deities as much as

any other Pagan. (Even if my belief in them is not permanent.) Eris would have my ass if I stuck to one pantheon. This doesn't mean I go around robbing from pantheons without actually learning about them. Nope. I learn as much as I can about each particular goddess/god that attracts me. But I am not beholden to any cultural paradigm (and lets face it people, neither are any of you, despite what you think), because I grew up in a post-modern urban environment. It is wise to know what works with each particular pantheon before taking what you can out of it, and also to approach any teachers/elders with the respect that they deserve. Most elders have no problems with me being Chaoist, if I am truly there to learn from them. It's usually their students that take issue with me. I have been in circumstances where it appeared that I gave more respect to a pantheon than the people who stuck within it. (The quirks and foibles of humanity!)

There are also many things around you in daily life that can be used effectively as spell foci and tools. Sugar containers, pots and pans (I am a kitchen witch after all, and I can prove that kitchen witchery goes back thousands of years from kitchen to kitchen, all the way to the first campfire...whatever), tobacco pipes, drumsticks, trumpets, glasses of water, pillows, string/yarn, belts, shoes, scarves, TV, computers, html code, playing cards, matches, breath, clocks, cell-phones, and so on. You get the idea? (I have used all of those at one time or another.) When I started learning Witchcraft (capital W), I was never introduced to the athame. I was trained to use my hands, and told that if I needed a tool I could get a knife from the kitchen. Sounds silly? Hah! Just watch out if you see

me cooking stew while stirring counter-clockwise and muttering to myself.

Also living in an urban environment and loving it meant that I had to put up with a bunch of Pagans crapping on me about how much better it is to be in nature. Yeah? Pffft on that! I learned to raise energy from the third rail in the subway ("metro" for you non-yanks). The sidewalks are just as much alive as the trees. The graffiti on the walls are effective to incorporate as glyphs. In so many ways, the urban environment is just as magical as the 'natural' one. Did you ever think about that? I enchant by streetlight and get the same results as someone using the moon. I sometimes use streetlight changes to activate spells. I have used a flashlight to launch sigils. Microwave spells? Does this sound silly? Who cares? It works and it works damned well. Piss on anyone who feels magic shouldn't be done that way! Magic is what you make of it and so much more than any preconceived idea could describe.

The point of all this is to help you see that magic is not limited by anything but your own resistance. (Oh...did I mention consensus reality? Ah...well...)

Do It Yourself

In the end it is up to each one of you to create your own path of development. You are each personally responsible for your creativity and innovation. You cannot absolve yourselves of that by claiming adherence to any tradition or belief. Whether you work from one tradition or from several

influences, you have to Do It Yourself. The Chaos approach to magic is one big Do It Yourself. There are groups of Chaoists who practice ritual together to be sure, but if you join one, they will be interested in what your creativity can do. Your personal experience is more important than what any text, tradition, or authority has to say when it comes to dealing with magic. If you are in a coven that practices Cthulhu Wicca and you don't like it, then feel free to move on and find a group that you like. Ultimately it is down to what works for you. Magic is like art. It is much better to create your own art through your own style. You are wise to study other people's work, but it comes down to your creativity in the end.

Random Beliefs

Polytheism? Atheism? Monotheism? Animism? Agnosticism? Pantheism? Humanism? Whatever the belief system, if it exists, Chaoists are encouraged to try it out for a while. It is thought to be an excellent training method for practitioners to expand their minds and their ideas of what is possible. It also helps to loosen the grip on narrow views towards oneself and other people. In ritual work it allows one to incorporate the requisite beliefs of certain magical systems in order to attain results from the magic and to learn about the particular system. This belief fluidity is probably the hallmark and strength of the Chaoist approach. It allows a perfectly advanced Chaos magical adept to also be a strong Wiccan and vice versa. With the difference being that most people are content to inhabit one system of beliefs for their whole lives, and there is nothing wrong with

that so long as those people are aware of it. The Chaoist is the sort of person who, even after finding their main 'home' belief system, will keep exploring other systems and using them.

We all need systems to frame our magic ritual in. That is what a ritual refers to, does it not? Many Chaoists will pick up a certain belief randomly and live within it for a certain amount of time. Some will pick a belief system every day and try to approach life from that system throughout the day. Noting down any changes in emotionality, ability, perspective, and magic, the Chaoist becomes like a shape shifter with beliefs. Another angle on this is the right/wrong exercise whereby a person chooses to be wrong for a day and ardently defend views they consider, or know to be, wrong. There is much to be learned about one's mind this way. If nothing is true and everything is permitted, then belief systems and perspectives are really just artistry.

Fun

If you're not having fun with magic, then it is probably not for you. Why else do it? For learning? For knowledge? Well...isn't knowledge and learning fun too? Enjoy yourselves when doing your rituals and casting your spells. That is the point of existence after all...the pursuit of happiness. (At least, it's the point to my existence.)

Other topics?

The above are chaos magic topics that I felt would be relevant to any of you who are practicing sigil magic. If you would like to talk about any other topics, let me know. There are so many.

From Sigils to Thought-form Servitors

Advanced Sigil Magic Lubrication/Exercises:

You knew I was going to do it, right? I was going to tell you a way to do sigils which is completely strange to what I have already discussed. I am Discordian, after all. Well...here goes. Hold on tight and get ready to have some more fun with magic while getting results. (If you can pull this next thing off, you are an adept. Go for it!)

Continuous Creation of Sigils

Some of you are going to hate me for this next bit of info, but...many of you may have figured out that the act of creating the sigil can actually empower it. Sometimes you can just leave it be and

you get the results as if you fired it. "Holey shit!" you're saying to yourselves right now. Let me explain. Hehehe. You will love this!

From the idea that creating the sigil is the most potent empowering/charging of it, I want you to try making a sigil in this way. Note that this sigil will already be charged and ready to go so be sure about your S.O.I. During creation, think only of the sigil and its creation. Once made, copy it on as many surfaces as you can at every opportunity. To add power to it try drawing copies of your sigil in public places on surfaces normally reserved for advertisements and such. (Note: Please be aware of the potential illegality of doing so.) Some people have put sigils on moving billboards such as on trains or buses.

Sometimes other people seeing the sigil, even while not knowing it, will add to its potency. It is recommended that if you do the 'public surface' method, you may wish to make a stencil of your sigil, thus making copies easier. Try many methods, and see which works for you. No matter what works, you may wish to push your boundaries a little bit to get yourself a little nervous, adding a little frenzy gnosis to the act, just in case.

Sigil WTF?

I didn't give this exercise at first, because I wanted you to get a little comfortable with the sigil process. But now you are ready for another experiment with sigil magic. Try making a sigil in the way you have been introduced with the forgetting of

the S.O.I. while creating it. Launch. And then try making another sigil, but this time keep your S.O.I. or intent in your mind while creating the sigil. Try mixing copies of them and alternate with or without forgetting your intent while drawing them. See which methods work best for you. Test this out. You will be surprised.

Thought-form Servitors

Some of you may have gotten the uncanny impression that your sigil had taken on a life of its own. If that is the case, you know what servitors are about. The construction/creation of them is very simple, but the uses and purposes of doing so could fill a book. Only you would know why you wish to do so.

Much like in role-playing games, you generate a character with attributes, characteristics, and appearances. Along with your S.O.I. for creating the thoughtform, you ensigilize all the aspects you can. Those of you that want to do this exercise: Design a ritual for the launching of a simple servitor. For this exercise I suggest that your servitor is designed for a simple operation or task, after which it dissipates. Some witches will create servitors using spells and chant the conditions of life into them as they are created. You, being an avid sigil magic student, will use ensigilization. Just like in old grimoires, you should end up with a pretty glyph representing your servitor, unless you are an artist and can literally draw your servitor into life.

This is one of my favorite magical operations. I have used thought-form servitors for all sorts of aid. I have also used a few repeatedly, to the point where they gained enough energy and autonomy that they became independent beings and I subsequently released them into the broader world so that others can have access to their help.

It is important that if you intend on your servitor to be temporary than you make its conditions of existence very clear before you launch. Some people have wasted a lot of time cleaning up the messes that unwanted servitor 'help' caused. Once your servitor becomes 'aware' through repeated use, it will probably seek ways to stay 'aware' and you must take care here.

This thought-form servitor topic may be a bit much for some of you, but it is good to be aware of this fascinating part of magic, and to know that you do not have to be a grand adept ceremonial mage to partake of it. There is a reason I didn't get into too much of a discussion as to how/what servitors exist/do.

Beliefs Exercise

For a day, choose a belief system that is strange to you and act as if you believe it. It is important that you first study up on the belief system you will use, of course. After doing this, record all of the impressions you have. It may be helpful to think of this as akin to acting out a character or role playing. Those of you who have acted, or those of you who are good role-players, will probably be able

to do this exercise with little practice. Try to see what it is like to view the world as a Buddhist (and Buddhism has hundreds of approaches), or as an atheist, or as a non-urban shaman. Or some other belief systems. This exercise has actually been named 'metaprogramming' by writers such as Robert Anton Wilson, and it may be helpful to read their material. I recommend his 'Shrodinger's Cat Trilogy' for this.

Do It Yourself Exercise

My example of the flashlight sigil launch mentioned above will help jar your mind into creating some novel ways for you to do magic. In my flashlight launch, I have the pictorial sigil(s) ready to go. I place the sigil on the floor or altar (depending on where I am), and while in a state of frenzied excitement, hold the flashlight in my hand(s), aim at the sigil. I move the light closer to the sigil until it is on it and most of the light is trapped. Then I rapidly lift the flashlight off the sigil, immediately turning the light off. The sigil is launched. Note: I have done this method successfully in many different ways. Sometimes I spin around with the flashlight on during my pre-ritual banishing. (I may be onto something there.) (Then again, I might just be crazy, or a little weird.) (Parenthetically, of course.)

For this exercise I want you to come up with a novel way of sigil launch or construction using some everyday ordinary objects, perhaps...or using more traditional style magical tools. It is up to you. Try this out and then please let me know what it is you have done, how, when, and to what effect (if possible to say).

Next Time:

I do believe that this will be the last installment of this seminar, unless some of you want more. I am going to move on to writing about Discordian magic which you may or may not see posted somewhere. Eris has decided to persuade me to also write down some more holey scriptures. But as always, if you have any questions, I will answer them as best as I can.

Bibliography / Further Reading

There are many guides to sigil magic on the web. You really need not read that much. It is important to practice it. Here are some books dealing with Chaos Magic, chaos related issues, and about other magical endeavors for your reference. You can find a lot of technical, theoretical, and chattering information about Chaos Magic online for free as well, so money, or lack thereof is no barrier to those who really want to learn. As for sigil magic, if you have gotten this far and tried all of the exercises, you are well on your way.

Condensed Chaos - Phil Hine
Prime Chaos - Phil Hine
Oven Ready Chaos - Phil Hine (free download)
The Pseudonomicon - Phil Hine
T.A.Z. - Hakim Bey (you can find this online as well in various formats)
The Book of Lies - published by Disinformation
Liber Null & Psychonaut - Peter Carroll
Liber Kaos - Peter Carroll
The Chaos Magic Website
Chaos Matrix

Nova Principia Magica

Chaos Magic is one of the few occult approaches today that wholeheartedly embraces the use of cutting edge technologies for magical applications. Many people in the occult are stuck in systems which use rather obsolete technologies, and that is fine so long as the effect occurs. But what of people for whom the modern and the post-modern has more relevance? What is out there for the Pagans of the city, the urban shamans, or the electric alchemists? Music and the arts have progressed into cutting edge technologies. Magic should be no exception.

Things have changed since the renaissance, in case you haven't noticed. Instead of religion and culture framing the possibilities of social thought, in our times, society has its collective desires framed, expressed, and consummated through the use of the mass ensigilization known as advertising. You can stand there and recite an incantation from your grimoire all you want, and that will still be effective. But wouldn't it be more effective to use the tools of

modern enchantment...the logo/glyph, the jingle, and the mass media? Renaissance alchemists used the most advanced technologies of their times and today's modern occultist should not shy away from that spirit. Never forget the old tools with which your forbears and mentors achieved success, but also never forget that you will need your own more relevant tools.

There is inherent power in the altar, the use of candle, the use of strange languages, the chanting of pagan deity names, and other traditional occult paraphernalia. That is why they should still be used by those who wish to do so. But to honestly tell me that there is no inherent power in the microwave oven, the webpage, the stencil maker, techno music, digital photography, TV, and other post-modern occult paraphernalia is to be blinded by cultural prejudice. And if you call yourself a magician, or whatever word by which you think a similar concept is embodied by, you neglect post-modern items' occult significance at your own peril.

The problem with modern Witchcraft is the tendency of many more Pagan brands of it to focus on and emulate the blinkered and backwards looking occult thoughts of its founders. Of what use is the emphasis on ruralized and romanticized 'earth' phases to those who live far removed from that sort of lifestyle? To reject the urban is to reject all that is magical in today's world. The city is 'mutable earth' in action. To be blind to its power and the uses to which it can be put is to be willingly ignorant. Practical and effective Witchcraft changes with the times and the needs of the people who create it. A practical modern Paganism that wishes to include the use of magic in its cultures should keep this in mind.

A romanticized or ruralized 'back to nature' view can make one aware of the self-annihilation inherent in our society's treatment of the world, but at the peril of blinding one to effective ways in halting that self-annihilation.

I am not insisting upon a myopic rejection of all things that have made up our occult past, because the study of those things does help one gain freedom. What I am insisting is the wholesale adoption of modern technologies by the magicians of today. Why not use a TV to scry from? The occult things that would scare the shit out of you lay just behind the everyday items you find all around you. Traditions are what you make of them, but don't let traditions make a slave out of you. Magic is in its effectiveness and it really doesn't matter what tools or materials you use so long as the effect occurs. Anyone who tells you otherwise is either prejudiced by beliefs or lying to you.

Some things we can afford to do without: predetermined maps of the otherworlds, the idiotic use of the term 'karma' (which few Asians understand correctly, let alone Westerners), the insistence on religious methods (whether theist or atheist in tone), and anything else that would try to preprogram the living chaos of magic.

It is in this spirit of innovation and exploration of modern technologies for magical applications that I open up this discussion. In the coming months I will report of my own experiments in this vein. I hope that any of you who read this and take interest will do the same. You never know what will arise. Share either the use of modern technology for magic, or novel and/or experimental approaches. Or share your

aversions to such things. I will start off the discussion with a Purple Monkey Mafia statement.

Purple Monkey Mafia Statement One

[This originally appeared as a broadsheet/flyer. It was first printed and distributed in a cruder form back in the cold snowy winter of January 1999. It was reprinted and distributed this past January (2004) as a result of the launching of the 23Cluster magit-prop collective. In April of 2004 the Purple Monkey Mafia/Cabal in Chicago dissolved for many personal and magical reasons. But the 'cabal' resolved, or came back together officially as the Discordians for Softer Sandpaper Society, around Samhain 2004 due to many new developments within the Discordian Society as well as some fresh new faces who want to continue our activities.]

It doesn't matter whether you believe in magic or not. We will use magic to subvert everything you stand for. We will dream walk you. We will enchant you. We will cast spells upon you. We will manifest

your own desires solidly in front of you through the use of your own secret memories. What right have we to invade you like this? Well, what right have you to invade the quality of our air through driving your polluting vehicles? What right do you have to lower the standard of our lives by your incessant breeding of yuppie children who over-consume? We are the conspiracy that can not be jailed, assassinated, or silenced because your authorities have not the tools nor the means to fight us on this battlefield. If you think this is a Discordian trick or a joke of some kind, good. And may the gods bless you on the day you realize that it is not. Trying to stop chaos is like pissing in the wind, it may make you smugly happy, but it will not do anything else.

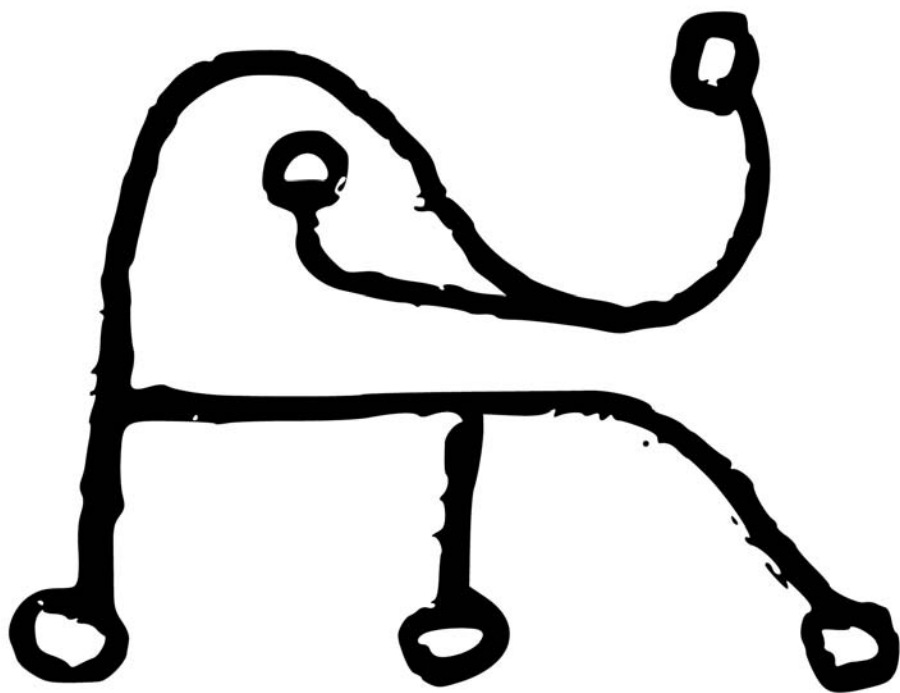
We are the ignorant bastard children who have stumbled upon the wisdom which you can never attain. This pisses you off to no end, even if we offer that wisdom to you for free, because it is not wisdom you want, but the acclaim you feel is your due for having wisdom. And that is why wisdom is denied you. If only you knew the powers inherent in foolery. You can keep lying to yourself. The multiverse is not fooled.

Your system of possibilities is not a prerequisite for our actions. Your beliefs will not stop our magical subversion. Your control will not stop our laughter as we watch your system eat itself and you with it. Don't think you can run and hide, for you will only get exhausted, and we will still be there, inside your deepest thoughts, subverting them against you. We are the chaotic children of Eris and have always been here threatening and overthrowing your tepid systems of domination. We have put up with you for long enough to allow you to paint yourselves into a corner. But we tolerate your ruination of our planet

no longer. If you think this is a declaration of war, you are right. Occult assaults on everyone of your institutions will become more common from this day forth. If you think this is some surrealist joke, remember it. In the future you may fucking well wish it was.

KALLISTI!

Traverse and Hugh, KSC



**Seminar
Magic
Signil**

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(a.k.a. the Purple Monkey Mafia)**

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