

The Beholders of Night
An exploration of the Shadow Luciferian Path
By Michael W. Ford © October 2002

0) The Luciferian Essence

That the roots of Traditional Witchcraft as they have emerged passes beyond western culture as a cornerstone of middle-eastern origins, while reemerging in Europe to America as time moved forward. What should be understood as a universal approach to Witchcraft, shall the answer lie between the shadow and light, the essence between. The path of the Wise is existent between what is seen and not seen, the very connection a clue to what the potential of the individual can be.

Luciferian Witchcraft is the very result of sorcery which emerged in ancient cultures and times. The Luciferic lineage is traced back to the Fallen Angels of ancient lore, whom tasted from the shadow garden and the pleasures of both the spirit and flesh. That the Watchers and fallen ones, led by Azazel[1] – Lucifer, called later Iblis, understood the immortality of the psyche is between the path of the not-seen, the shadow and darkness which cultivates the Black Flame itself.

The Witchcraft tradition was explored in essence by the practitioners of Yatuk Dinoih[2], or Persian Witchcraft of which emerged from the sorcerous shadow-god Ahriman, the darkness which would create flesh. Ahriman is a pitch-black representative of the hidden and the secret, from which the profane should not see. Ahriman and its female counterpart, AZ[3], are the early fountainheads of the Gnosis of the Sabbat or Al-Zabbat, the freedom from the trappings of flesh and the awakening of the Nightside Consciousness. This is the Primal Gnosis of Sorcery itself, which is the dark well of the elixir of the Adept, the one who drinks of the dual ecstasies of the Sun and the Moon[4].

The Arcanum of the Luciferian Path is a resounding voice of the King and Queen of Witchblood, being Samael and Lilith[5]. The key to the gnosis of the fallen angels is within their very essence, being of the Sun and the Moon. The sorcerer may seek the sexual union of both within his or her self, allowing the pleasure of the waning Moon to be brought forth through the Sun, which is the gateway for demons and angels in copulation. If one seeks not the sexual genii, the antinomian path is brought forth by a solitary and capable mind, which is beheld by the Sethian Psyche, or Kingdom of Shadows.

The Luciferian Essence is found within the eyes of Cain, the father of Witchblood, buried deep within the dark well of the watchers, from which our mind is of the deep. Leviathan the serpent guards this gateway of the arcana of sleep, from which the twilight brings the Nightside of the Immortal, those who pass the veil of the Birth Caul of Lilith through the Essence of the Adversary. The Birth Caul itself is a vampyric reference to folklore of Europe. Called specifically the amniotic membrane, which is a birth caul which almost guarantees in European Folk Lore that one will return from the dead, is the mark of the vampyric aspect of Lilith, the death-mask of awakening towards the Nightside.

The Caul itself as described by Adrien Cremene gave the following account, published in Vampires, Burial and Death by Paul Barber- "Such an infant is born to a woman who has drunk of impure water mixed with the saliva of a demon, or to a woman who, having gone out in the night, her head bare, met a demon which gave her a red cap (coiffe) like his own, which cap causes the child to be born with a caul".

In an initiatory context which implies the connection of folklore with inspired magical practice, the Caul introduced in Ritual practice (by a blood coloured cloth, stained with menstrual blood or otherwise) is the Mark of Lilith and Cain, born unto the night within the mysteries of Vampirism.

The heart of the arcana is in the brain itself, it is our connection and desire to unite the Hand and the Eye in the Grimoire of the Fallen, which was long ago scribed in the blood of our spiritual

ancestors, those who walk the Ahrimanic Path long ago, when the deserts whispered the timeless name of Azazel, called our father and Lilith, the very womb of our birth and initiation.

l) The Left Hand Path

That the Luciferian Tradition is awakening from European Traditional Craft is nothing new, the emergence of the work in America leads to a Left Hand Path approach to the path of the wise. Considering much of the Witchcraft tradition is a conglomeration of various magical traditions, the term Witchcraft is as universal as its language.

In the past, Witchcraft and Wicca was originally intended to be a shadow unto light way of living, from which the essence of the self is propagated in ones own Will, Desire and Belief. As time moved forward, a watered down version of the craft from which was passed down from Hermetic Occultism and other Pagan practices, brought much of the public essence of Witchcraft to be a watered-down, sometimes spiritually impotent off shoot of Christianity, which seemed to plague much of all Western culture.

In our primal selves, the forgotten areas deep within the mind, from which Christianity could not pervert, Leviathan guarded the gateway, and soon Lilith and Samael again emerged from the Light of Azazel, called Lucifer, the Bringer of Light. That the challenge of the initiate to the Adept is the very self, that the Dark Wells of the Watchers were guarded by our own demons and angels, and that we must unite the worlds to create the ecstasy of the self.

The Left Hand Path itself is the path of disunion from the natural order or Objective Universe. Witches, are considered wise unto their very name, which indicates and objective view of their own surroundings and life. Life is a great gift, even more so is the gift of freedom. Freedom is the chance to progress and develop ones own life in accordance to desire. A responsible and free individual stands at the gateway of possibility, from which limits are only placed by ones mind. To align ones own self with the natural order is to dissolve the essence, from which the consciousness would be devoured by the mind numbing devourer called Christianity, or the Right Hand Path. This is the very silk masked murdered of the self, which would caress us into the arms of the scorpion, which would destroy all of which we are to sacrifice the mind to the Void of Non-being.

The Left Hand Path is the strengthening of the mind, and the possibility of one becoming as a separate being, not in order with the natural universe, that he or she is uniquely different. This is the path of Lucifer and Lilith, those who stand within the dark wells and have illuminated the Black Flame of self-acknowledgement and the joys of the waking and dreaming worlds.

The Left Hand Path tests the individual, uniting the Demonic with the Angelic, and the balance between the two. It also frees one of the need for a spiritual father or mother, and to confirm responsibility and self-reliance by the individual themselves. That this is sometimes a lonely path is not a misstatement, but rather an angle of beauty of which we may seek comprehension of therein.

What is often misunderstood is the intent of the Left Hand Path. Many view the LHP as one in line with Christian Satanism or Diabolism, which is an inaccurate view of the path itself. The LHP is the freedom from such restrictive thoughts as Good or Evil, or the moral right of the day. The individual must seek to transcend both, and that the image of Evil or Darkness, is the Opposition essence of our selves, our secret essence or Holy Guardian Angel/Evil Genius of being.

The Black Flame[6] itself is the concept of the Gift of Seth, of Lucifer. The Black Flame is the awakened consciousness or Psyche of the individual, whom has torn down the Right Hand Path concept of Trust and Dissolution in a Tyrant Father who demands faith. The Black Flame is the immortal essence of the self, the True Will as which emerged from the fountains of the wells of darkness. The Black Flame is the Light which Brings the Watchers close to us, that we may drink

of their cups of ecstasies, the skulls and the secrets they contain therein.

The Black Flame itself is illuminated through the work of the Left Hand Path, through the development of ones own self-divinity, through our Famulus and Servitors, the Guardians and Angels of our Temple, the Arcana of Self as revealed in essence. Each individual is a model of Lucifer, whom is the imagination, or self. That we must shadow forth the Adversary to rebel against the natural order, to awaken the Black Flame of Self-Knowledge. We are thus Iblis, the Children of the Fire Djinn whom shall taste from the skulls of the sleeping.

II) The Adversary

"Oh moon nourished hauntings of dreams, who have tasted the souls' blood of life,
From the graves of Corpse-sleep from which ye emerge, from the pools of blood beneath the
fountains of red sea, that emerge from the dreaming sleep of Azrail,
Move now through the manes of the dead, they seek the commune of those in the warm flesh of the
living.

My shadow, as I build, calls forth the famulus whose spirit is the Djinn of the Noon tide sun, the fire
of spirit later withdrawn in midnight honor.

Moon hungering shade of the tomb, I summon thee!

From beneath the city of Chorazin have your rested, yet though I go forth to the city of shadows, I
embrace the darkness within and beyond!" – From NOX UMBRA by Michael Ford

The Essence of Perpetual Revolution, or rebellion from the natural order, is the very concept of the Opposer. To oppose one must seek to free the self from the limits set within society's context and rules. This is not an advocating of crime, but rather to work within still societies rules, mastering it all along. The True Will is the essence of the Adversary, which seeks to break free from the accepted order, an often unfertile result of the Dayside World of the Humanistic fellowship, which in time, leads to a stasis of being. It is in the solitude of the Shadow can then the essence be revealed, to present the endless possibility of becoming.

The Adversary is called and known by many names and titles. Among them are such as Shaitan, Iblis, Satan, Lucifer and Set. Such God Forms are masks of the Prince of Darkness who within ourselves offers freedom and divinity for those willing to strive for it. The Adversary itself is the gateway from which we discover our own Will, or direction of endless possibility of desire. This is the very conscious gift of the Artist Austin Osman Spare, whom of Witch Blood, gave us the gift of self liberation in the form of the grimoire "The Book of Pleasure". That we may translate the system of the Hand and the Eye, within our personal universe form this Luciferian Doctrine to our own desire of becoming, shall be the greatest distinction from the order of the Right Hand Path.

The Adversary exists within the 8 pointed Sabbat Star of Chaos, called often ALGOL. The very essence of Chaos is disruption and the opening of possibility, that we may destroy that which hinders ourselves and thus creating a new form of Order. Order exists until the self grows into stasis, thus Chaos then grows into a positive self-liberation process. The Opposer/Adversary thus holds the Black Flame of Being within Chaos, that we are both the Red and Black Dragon, the Sun and the Moon respectively.

Evolution itself is possible when the mind reaches back to the Primal Well of Darkness, which holds the secrets of our origins and Luciferic Divinity, from then Liberation is an available process of the Divine Gift.

III) Saturn, The Watchers and Luciferian Spirits

The Saturnian Mysteries[7] is only one avenue of magical exploration which may be explored within a Sabbatic context, not to, by any means, destroy an ongoing tradition but rather develop it.

Through such excellent magical focuses, from the Fraternitas Saturni to the work of Stephen Edred Flowers, which at face point is unrelated, the Sabbatic Gnosis itself is closely related by means of effective initiatory material. The Luciferian Path itself is reflective of this gnosis, known by the essence of exploration and self-discovery through the Saturnian Sphere.

The work of Saturn itself is one connected with the Left Hand Path. As the Saturn Sphere is connected with Demiurge Saturnus, or Satanus, the self is the avenue of which this planetary influence is found. Saturn, as being held in two Octaves or "rays", is itself a means of psychic isolation from which the psyche is refined to a deified level.

The Watchers, or Fallen Angels of Ancient Lore are the guardians of the path of the wise. Such Angels dwell within the shadow gardens of twilight, of dreams and the nightside of being. We must listen closely, for their wisdom is that of the gifts of Lucifer and Lilith, that through the Adversary can such beautiful musick be heard!

The Watchers, as brought forth by Shemyaza/Azazel, is the divine gift brought down from the sky unto man, whom was a primal sleeper which carried the bestial desires of the planet. The Fallen Angels thus brought divinity with the Abyssic daemon of self, that we were divine in our Dual Essence.

It is through the self-alchemical work of Saturn, that one emerges awakened in unity. Saturn is the Guardian of Death, or Daath or the Guardian of the Threshold[8]. In Saturn there is a Lower and Higher Octave, which is a passage way of self-exploration and self-perception. In the lower octave is Satan or Satanus/Saturnus, the Guardian of the depths and the Daemonum of the Earth.

Saturnus is the breaker of cosmic order, the essence of ALGOL or the Adversary, as well as death and regeneration. The Demiurge Saturnus is related to the number 666, being that of Sorath, or the Sun. Satanus in this aspect is one form of the Adversary, being rebellion, death and Chaos from Stasis. The very fire force of the Sun is in the Eye of Satanus/Saturnus, Misrule and self-liberation through Antinomian awakening of Saturn.

The Higher octave of Saturn is Lucifer, being Light, Wisdom and illumination. Lucifer/Iblis is the Imagination thus Azazel, the fallen Djinn of fire. Lucifer represents also rebirth, inner strength, reason and solitude.

In the unity of Saturn are both the Star of Algol[9] hidden (without the Averse Pentagram) and the mark of Demiurge Saturnus. It is through Satan/Iblis (fire) that one emerges in Light, thus Lucifer is the Black Flame in the darkness, the light in the darkness. It was in medieval times that Saturn itself was the outermost planet, holding the secrets of self – transformation, death and the darkness of the soul.

The workings of Saturn are focused within darkness, and the possibility therein. The self-alchemical process of moving through the sphere of Saturn is relative to darkness in that the initiate moves through the chthonic realms of the Earth (Satanus or Mephistopheles), or the Demonium of the Earth, from which one then rises through the higher octaves of Saturn (Lucifer). Within a Sabbatic sense, the Arcanum of Lucifer is presented in the dual essence of self-liberation, isolation and transformation. Just as Lucifer/Azazel fell from the sphere of light to the darkness of the earth, shall a new knowledge be gained in the exploration of the chthonic realms of the psyche. From tasting and knowing the darkness shall the light be controlled and mastered unto the self.

One of the specific focuses of the Sabbatic Path is one rising to acknowledge that the only God is the self, from which all other God and Goddess find their existence in, it is from the well spring of the abyss (the subconscious) that we nourish our Great Famulus and Demonium of the Depths. The individual will then soon realize that there is no God and there is no Devil, yet we as the image of

the Adversary, are both God and the Master of the Devil, the gifts of the fallen angels themselves.

IV) The Dragon and Vampirism

"I come before you, night born as the Queen of the Dead. Behold unto my death mask, the Temple of Azothoz as a current of the living flame. I shall bless each one of you with the devil's sight, the serpents tongue shall speak of the secret alphabet which ye all shall scribe on the walls of the Sunless Palace, scribe your name in the black book of the dead, with the witchblood of your veins, you are all my children, of Lilith-Hecate, your father is Ahriman, Lord of Phantoms and Darkness.
" – Lilith in NOX UMBRA by Michael Ford

The Dragon itself holds a significant role within the darker and self-liberating aspects of the Sabbatic Path, being specifically a evocation of latent forms from which we become. Considering the Dragon itself is a model or form of the Adversary, the symbolism of the Red and Black Dragon are present.

The Red Dragon itself is Shaitan or Samael, the dual aspects of self-liberation and transformation. As the Red Dragon is a mirror or exteriorized (viewed as a form outside the self) form of the primal self, the Dragon is also a form of ourselves developed and initiated into the Luciferian Mysteries. The Dragon itself as the Adversary is viewed in the initiatory context as both Shaitan and Lilith, the Beholders of Night. The Dragon itself is considered the center point of the Sabbatic Arcanum, the initiatory path of the serpent, which coils and encircles the spirit or psyche of the individual.

'Arimanius frowned, the author foul of Evil, how with Shades from his dire mansion, he deformed the works of Oromazes, turned to noxious heat the solar beam, that foodful earth might parch' (Yasht xix.11,12)

The Black Dragon is symbolized as Ahriman, the averse force of darkness and shadow. Ahriman in Zoroastrian terms is the great force of Evil and Darkness, whom was created divine but chose the shadow path. In the Ancient Persian religion of Zoroastrianism, Ahriman (called also Arimanius or Angra Mainya) is one of the earliest forms of the devil itself, the father of those of the shadow, the demonium of the earth.

In the ancient witchcraft religion (Yatuk), Persian Sorcerers used blood of wolves[10] (who are sacred to Ahriman) to call upon darkness. Ahriman was probably in this sense, one of the first Vampyre forms of ancient history. While similar to other fallen angels such as Azazel/Iblis or Lucifer, there is a strong separation of Ahriman from such fire djinn. The reason for this is that Ahriman is of death and shade, a black flame of essence hidden by the cloak of darkness. Iblis/Azazel/Lucifer is an Angel of Light, self-liberation and illumination of knowledge (Gnosis). In this however, do not dismiss the forces of darkness, they are essential to ones own individual initiation and growth. It is in the darkness that the roots give the nourishment for the tree to reach for the Sun.

Ahriman is thus a form of the Vampyre, the shadow which grows in the darkness and solitude of psychic seclusion, isolation and loneliness. Many forms may be taken by Ahriman, from Toad to Dragon, Shadow and Wolf. Ahriman is the model for our Nightside Primal Conscious, the kingdom of the demonium or infernal realm. This is not a moralistic Evil designed to perform harmful deeds against others, but rather a model of self-initiation from which the essence is awakened or discovered through the opposite. The offuscation of the self or Lunar Eclipse is the night – calling of both Ahriman and Az, from which through the Vampiric transformation of self can one reach the consort of Ahriman, known as AZ.

AZ, the Primal Lilith,

"The reason that they felt ill at ease was that by eating and drinking they laid themselves open to Az-concupiscence: their bodies were no longer self-sufficient but depended on nourishment from

outside, and this in turn ultimately led to their own wastage and death when they themselves are devoured by Az, for Az is not only the demon of gluttony and lust, she is also the demon of death who is never sated; she is the demon 'who swallows all things.' - : The Dawn and Twilight of Zoroastrianism, R.C. Zaehner, New York, 1961

Az, which is a female demon related directly to Ahriman, is considered a harlot and Goddess of Death and Blood. In this aspect Az is related or a blue-print for, Lilith, Hecate and Babalon. She is the Vampyre Queen, the immortal witch whom creates the alchemical elixir of endless existence, the very core essence of the Luciferian and Vampyre. Az may also be related to KALI, the Goddess who devours and brings life. The Vampyre in this aspect is one who feeds of the blood - lifeforce or the nectar of the mind, the imagination, thus revealing the Vampyre as a solitary being who holds no need in the actual draining of blood. The blood itself is symbolic, as an invocation to the Dark Well of the Fallen Angels, the subconscious or imagination (Iblis, Shaitan).

Az is connected with the word, Azhi, meaning a serpent. The Chaos of the divine feminine or lunar essence is explored through a Godform relation to this Goddess, thus the magician invokes AZ to understand the feminine within. It is the Serpent and Dragon which are the immortal avatars of the well of the imagination, the blood pool of immortality and the endless existence of the psyche.

Death and the grave exists a challenge and significance within the Shadow Sabbatic Path, being of two primary points. One is that death and darkness is a challenging image and concept which the magician must overcome mentally to invoke a higher point of self-initiation, to understand opposites and their dual meaning. The second is that death is a gateway of self-transformation and thus the relation of the vampyre and the grave is this; that the developed and isolated psyche strives for survival beyond the grave, that the mind may prove immortal to exist thus as the fallen angels or watchers.

The Dragon of Darkness is our freedom within the Nightside world of Atavisms and the Lesser and Greater Famulus of the self, that the Sabbatic Path awakens our potential as Gods and Goddesses. Reach forth into the shadow, for it is there that Lucifer and Iblis emerge, and through the Nightside may the gates of immortality open.

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[1] Iblis, the Black Light by Peter Lamborn Wilson. Gnosis Magazine.

[2] Yatuk Dinoih, a grimoire of Persian and Left Hand Path Witchcraft by Michael W. Ford.

[3] Lilith, Awlraun-Lilith, see Azothoz by Michael W. Ford

[4] Azothoz, a Book of the Adversary by Michael W. Ford

[5] Yatuk Dinoih, the Ritual of Infernal Union

[6] The Black Flame is the essence of the isolated divinity of self, the unity of the Sethian God Form of the individual. See Azothoz, Lords of the Left Hand Path by Stephen Flowers and The Diabolicon by Michael Aquino.

[7] FIRE AND ICE and LORDS OF THE LEFT HAND PATH by Stephen Flowers.

[8] Ayn al-Qozat explained Iblis/Satan as the Gateway between worlds, or the imagination from which we shall manifest ideas.

[9] Shades of ALGOL, A Grimoire of Left Hand Path and Sabbatic Witchcraft by Michael W. Ford
[10] See YATUK DINOIH by Michael W. Ford.