

The Scroll of Set

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[1] Meet the “Other” Resident of Xemset: A Biography of Priest Ricco A. Zappitelli - by Constance Moffatt II°

Across the sands of time I come
To bring to you this night
Magic's myriad mysteries,
To make the mind take flight.

I stand within a whirling mass
Of color and confusion
And with my will and unseen force
Dispel conceived delusions.

And now within this universe
Of order and confusion,
I stand within but yet apart,
To know myself in unison.

I walk amid the crimson path,
The sands of ancient *Xem*,
And in the blackness of the night
Shall work the “Work” again.

Through the perfection of the majestic plane,
Proclaiming the name *Set-hen*,
I now stretch forth my will to bring
The “Old Ones” through again.

- Ricco Zappitelli III°

“Thoth”, beloved among all of us, is also known as Priest Ricco A. Zappitelli and is the “other” keeper and resident of XemSet. Anyone who ever meets Thoth goes away with a strong, vibrant imprint of his being. The creator of the introductory poem, he is an exemplar of the Order of Set.

“Thoth”, the Priest's magical name, is assumed from the Egyptian god of art, science, and time. He, the god and Priest, whose visible and active *neter* is Thoth, is extremely versatile and talented, and loves all Setians who make their very beings known to him.

Born 41 years ago in Brooklyn, New York, he learned typesetting and business in Detroit, Michigan and took both philosophy and psychology in college. He was always interested in self-developmental studies, both in high school and in college. His mother, half-brother, and sister still

reside in Detroit.

Thoth also resided in Los Angeles and San Francisco as he plied his trades of professional dancer [at which he is a master], bartender, waiter, and cook. Anyone who has ever had the privilege to taste just one of Thoth's meals comes to the realization that he is an expert in this field alone [he could give James Beard a real run for the money]. Presently Thoth is a very valued employee of Pacific Telephone Company as an operator.

The environment of a strict Roman Catholic upbringing made him search very hard for “truth and a religion that supported the use of free will and ennobled it rather than suppressing it and considering it evil”. This search led him eventually to the Church of Satan. Due to a vacation by Anton LaVey, Thoth's membership was held up for six months and he did not become a I° until February of X. He was a member of the Twilight Grotto in San Francisco.

“I had but a short time in the C.S. and would have loved to be in on the good times in the ‘good old days’. However, near the end of my first six months of membership, I began to wonder, ‘Is this all there is?’ and to yearn and hunger for more growth and evolution.”

Thoth became an Adept in the Temple of Set in August of X and was a member of the Anubis Pylon. After the change from the C.S. to the Temple of Set, “I felt at last at home and happy with a religious philosophy for which I had long been searching. I was happy that the Temple went beyond mere Indulgence to *Xeper* or evolution.” He was recognized as Elect and became a member of the Order of Set in February XIII, and of the newly-formed Thoth Pylon in September of the same year.

“Belonging to the Temple of Set to me means having a vehicle which I can use for my own evolution to the capacity of my ambition and desire; a vehicle to aid my brothers and sisters of Darkness and vice-versa. As a Setian I hope to become as evolved as possible in order to no longer be restricted to or limited by natural order, and to use XemSet to this end.”

A skilled artist, Thoth likes to paint and make wooden plaques, particularly of Egyptian deities. He enjoys dancing; science fiction, fantasy, and horror books & films; and philosophy, psychology, and “self help” books. Among his favorite things are noble friends; good food - spaghetti, lasagne, and rigatoni; and beauty. His pet peeves include self-centered or selfish people who can only talk of themselves “or from their perspectives”.

As the second resident of XemSet, those 20 sacred and magical acres atop Mid-Mountain in northern California, he feels a magical attraction to his home which fulfils his “love of the wilderness and need to be away from the masses”. It is here that he can be at peace and enjoy his beloved Russian Blue cat MerenThoth, and the newest

beautiful and gentle additions to the XemSet family - Sirius (male wolf) and Astra (female wolf).

Enthusiastic and full of life, Thoth offers these words to other Setians: "Always be mindful of having a 'true' heart and cultivating the desire to evolve above all else."

[2] **New Executive Director Named**

- by Ronald K. Barrett V°, High Priest

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Priestess Linda Reynolds has been appointed Executive Director by the Council of Nine. Priestess Reynolds joined the Temple of Set in XI and was Recognized as a Priestess of Set in XIII. She is an avowed science-fiction fan and is co-editor of the newsletter *Stardust*. She is a graphics artist by profession and resides in Pacifica, California with Adept Jerry Reynolds and their son Ian Seth. I have the same confidence as Magistra Lilith Sinclair (Chairman of the Council), that Priestess Reynolds will be a definite asset to the Temple as the new Executive Director.

[3] **Rite of the Undead**

- by Ronald K. Barrett V°, High Priest

By now each of you should have received the announcement for the "Rite of the Undead", which will take place on 11/3/XIV at 9 PM. The Rite was authored by Magister L. Dale Seago when he was a Priest in the Church of Satan, and was performed by the Lilith Grotto in NYC. By popular demand it has been decided to resurrect ye old cape and fangs and do it again. Any Setian who can attend is welcome to stop in for a bite. The Rite will take place at the home of Priestess Sarris (Nexbet) in Berkeley, California.

[4] **Let Them Eat Their Sour Grapes**

- by Ronald K. Barrett V°, High Priest

There is no choice for me but to bring up an unpleasant subject involving our past Executive Director Colleen Huddleston and Marie Kelly - both of whom have resigned from the Temple of Set.

My reason for bringing this up in the *Scroll* is that they have resorted to mud-slinging at the Temple and its officials to I°s and II°s in hopes of causing confusion and dissention. It's called "sour grapes", and they have chosen the lay membership because they have lost face in the Priesthood by trying to establish themselves as "Setian Messiahs".

When asked to put their claims [that they had become the embodiment of Truth (Maat), that there was no longer any need for the Temple, that Set existed only in them, etc.] in writing, they refused and resigned instead. But rather than going off and "doing their own thing", they have chosen to try to take others down with them.

Their tactics are phone calls and letters, and there is no way that this can be stopped except by each of us letting them know that we are not interested in playing their silly game. Therefore I am asking every Setian to refuse any and all communication from them. If a letter is received from them, simply write "Refused" on the envelope and mail it back. If they make a phone call, hang up. Don't waste time arguing. Perhaps in this way they will get "the message" and the nonsense will cease. The Priesthood of Set is fully informed of the details of this entire affair and can answer any questions concerning it if necessary.

[5] **Set-II Plans**

- by Ronald K. Barrett V°, High Priest

Plans are now under way for Set-II at XemSet for the weekend of the Summer Solstice XV, and it promises to be a memorable event. Details will be announced in the *Scroll* as the time approaches, but you might want to mark the date and arrange vacation plans in advance. My wolves have promised to give a brief concert for the event.

[6] **And Thanks**

- by Ronald K. Barrett V°, High Priest

I wish to thank everyone who flooded my mailbox with birthday greetings. I was deeply touched by every one of them. A special thanks to those who "shocked" me by appearing at XemSet for a surprise party ... and for the beautiful gifts.

My best wishes to all Setians for a most magical All Hallows Eve.

Xeper ir Xem.

[7] **Tutankhamen's Egypt on T.V.**

Tutankhamen's Egypt, a BBC series by Cyril Aldred, is being aired on Public Television in 13 half-hour programs. Check your area for times.

[8] **Tarot Update - A Great Work**

- by Lynn Norton IV°

Temple artists! I am currently looking for an artist to work with on updating the *Book of Thoth* - the Tarot. If you feel that you could do justice to

this project, please contact me. Along with your letter of intent, please include a 9x12 oil or watercolor [the actual cards themselves must be done in oils] for my review.

Allowing for drying time, please reply by one month of reception of this issue of the *Scroll*. By way of warning I must state that this work will consume a large amount of your time and effort, and any painting completed will become the property of the Temple of Set.

[9] **Ruby Tablet Lives On**

- by R. Jzamon DeCecco III°

Dear Friends in Darkness,

The *Ruby Tablet of Set* is now under revision. It will be made available by approximately January XV to all II°+ members of the Temple of Set.

I am pleased - and I'll add challenged - by this work, as I hope to at least attempt to live up to the expertise and talents of the previous Editor.

Any who wish to donate articles are asked: Please submit **only** neatly-typed or script materials (1-1/4" margin please), as the Editor will not retype nor correct articles. Materials **must not** have appeared in any other Temple publication. Authors, please retain a copy of your material, as your originals will not be returned to you.

Articles you may submit are not censored, so anything goes! Finally please remember appendices and credits where due.

As a guideline you may consider: (a) rituals, experiences, etc.; (b) pertinent scientific materials; (c) organizational items; (d) poetry, prose, etc.; (e) *ad infinitum*.

Since the *Ruby Tablet* will be an ongoing publication with additions, deletions, etc., there is no deadline for material. However for this first printing I would appreciate your articles by December 10, XIV.

I take this time to thank Ipsissimus Aquino, Magus Barrett, and Magister Norton for their valuable help thus far given this novice Editor. I also thank all of you who have submitted, and who will submit articles. Together we will make the *Ruby Tablet* live - and Become!

[10] **Thoughts on Windsor**

- by Willie Browning I°

(Washington, D.C. airport, 7/15/XIV)

The body of the Temple is the one of the many. We of the Temple passed through the gate of adversity and under the waters of the river of dreams, to gain the knowledge of the land of *Xem*. The power of the Majesty of Darkness in two places, yet one, came unto the seekers together,

alone, and left among his chosen the everlasting power of the love and compassion of Set. We of the chosen went forth into many places alone. Yet not alone, for the love and power of the circle of Set is not broken. For each of the chosen of Set may have the power of all by his will alone.

[11] **Surprise Party Held**

- by Constance Moffatt II°

Surprises and happiness abounded for Magus Ronald Barrett on Saturday, September 29, when a car full of Setians arrived at *XemSet* to help celebrate his birthday.

Priest Ricco Zappitelli had secretly prepared a double birthday celebration, in honor of Anubis and Xonsu, for all who could make the trip to the mountain of magic.

Anubis was quite visibly surprised when some of the unexpected guests "appeared" from the bedroom, where they had been hiding. [Magistra Lilith Sinclair and Adept Connie Moffatt had flown from Los Angeles to San Francisco, to the surprise of even Thoth.]

Adept Paul Uriaz, Los Angeles, was already a guest at *XemSet*. Joining Magistra Sinclair and Shetat for the drive to Potter Valley were Magistra Linda Thomas, Priestess Linda Reynolds, and Adept Richard Arbib.

The day was one of deep discussions, intriguing and humorous tales of the "old days", playing with the unbelievably gentle wolves Sirius and Astra, great food, a marvelous birthday cake made by Thoth, strolls around the land, and a ritual of birth and jubilation.

The night was warm and tranquil under a very bright and large half Moon and myriads of silvery-white stars, as Magistra Thomas, assisted by Magistra Sinclair, Priestess Reynolds, and Adept Moffatt, conducted the joyful working. At its conclusion the sky was dark and cloudy, with a distinct chill in the air.

Back at the "castle" more refreshments were served, another round of entertaining memories were recounted, and pictures of Anubis from birth to the present time were shared to the delight of all present.

All too soon the San Francisco-bound group climbed aboard Xonsu's black chariot for the ride back to the nether world. A memorable journey, back-in-time, to honor a Magus of the Æon of Set had come to an all-too-soon conclusion. Love and good memories journeyed within all.

[12] Cat Risking

- by Paul Uriaz, Jr. II°

If I were to establish a philosophy, what would I call it and why? "Cat Risking" seems appropriate. Now what is it? Is it game buffoonery I just happened to think up because I've nothing else to do?

No. Actually it is a method, song-and-dance type of creativity I have been employing in my 23-odd years of existence. It is a style of exhibiting what you are when you aren't in fashion, or when you are and everyone else isn't [which is the case with me]. It seems like a "love affair", this unfashionableness and I.

A cat risk is a deep look into what you need, then acting upon it and recoiling back with horror or splendor at your boldness. Before the effect catches up with you, you act upon something new so that a laid-back satisfaction doesn't ensue.

In short you savor the act of your risk of creativity as a positive statement of why you risked in the first place. To risk again: a habitual taking a chance. Now if the risk has a devastating effect, think about it. If you had not taken the risk in the first place, you would be ignorant of future possibilities and opportunities.

When an individual has something unseen/unnamed within him, and creativity to him isn't an easy task, and he wants to unleash the jeweled beast upon the world, Set forbid! It's like taking a child away from his mother! "Make sure he eats well, doesn't stay out too late, and we'll you know his problem of inconsistency. I've left his rubber sheet and quilt in case."

Worry kills creativity, and fear of rejection is the root cause of closeting creativity. We live in a world where you can paint by the numbers, clip out a coupon, and play a musical instrument [which may cause a postman to howl most humorously], earn a living stuffing envelopes [and they don't say where]. In other words what the world outside the Temple of Set exemplifies as creativity are acts of programmed risks which are safe in essence.

To really create, one must become what is created and live the consequences of one's actions. To do otherwise would be to expend creative energy without direction or purpose. There are great pleasures in creating "a la" cat-risking, and occasionally [and it does happen] I find my rear end sailing over the bridge of stupidity, booted by none other than impulsiveness itself by taking a bad risk.

But I would not have grown and experienced as much as I have if I didn't investigate a few cat risks. Once you make a habit of risking, you'll find the doors of magical enlightenment open for you.

[13] Starlight Magic

- by James Lewis III°

But speak to me at night, for the sky then becomes an entrance and not a barrier. - *Book of Coming Forth by Night*

Once after viewing the elaborate ritual chamber of an acquaintance, the conversation turned to the furnishings of a chamber. As we're all aware, to accoutre the chamber with the "just right" articles can be amazingly easy - or devilishly difficult. In discussing this, I brought out that chambers such as I'd just seen have many highly positive aspects, but I also thoroughly enjoy holding outdoor ceremonies. Magus Barrett, Priest Zappitelli, and others who've experienced this will know what it is to work without walls; but let me share this with some of you who might, circumstances requiring, hold indoor ceremonies only.

Within cities and with non-Setians nearby, we tend to be rather careful about sound; after all no one wants a ritual stopped by police investigating a report of unusual noises. So to this end we either hold it back and down or go to the expense of soundproofing the chamber as far as possible. For my own part, to "hold it back" is distracting, and soundproofing is a waste of money.

My home is eight miles from the edge of a small town, and my nearest neighbor is a mile away. There are no street lights to attract insects, no honking horns to disturb the silence, no sirens, no sounds of neighbors, and no neighbors to wonder about sounds. There is only silence, unbroken save by the singing of birds and an occasional bass noise from a random bullfrog or two.

One definite advantage I've found is the physical limitation of the surroundings (such as four walls) is gone. Do I want an area closed in by the black pines? Or perhaps an open area? They're available simply by choosing the site. Whichever, something there is about standing robed amid the darkness, something in seeing the stars glitter overhead like hurled diamonds, that emphasizes the vast power of Set, the Setian, the pulsing Black Flame, and the ritual.

Ritual is, of course, a changing of things. The Black Magician changes and defies the rules of the Greater Law to suit his purposes; he changes the methodic order in which things and events would otherwise fall. It is part of *Xeper* that we change and grow, and that with growth comes greater insight.

One thing I've come to understand more clearly is a thing Magistra Sinclair told me: Set spoke to her saying, "The stars: Look to the stars, my daughter. It is there you shall find me." The

wording is impressive and beautiful, but I had no great appreciation of it until two significant and spaced-apart things happened. First, under the open sky of midnight, I looked to the stars, the stars seen by the first Children of Set.

The statement took on a new meaning rather difficult to express in words. It was that I was becoming aware of something that was aware of me. Something big, something powerful, but something benign; and moreover something that was aware of me long before I was aware of it.

The next impact came on attending a conclave, where about me were those wearing Pentagrams of Set. "Look to the stars ...". Again there was an awareness of awareness. Once more a problem arises when using inadequate language of English. It cannot be described. It must be experienced.

Returning to the setting of the outdoors: As beautiful and tremendous as it is, it has drawbacks if not outright dangers! Forests and fields abound with snakes. Believe me, city dwellers, six long feet of rattlesnake is not a pleasant thing to come upon at 11:56 PM! The rattlesnake at least gives notice of being present. Copperheads, coral snakes, and moccasins do not. I have found it wise to go forth with gun and flashlight, for though dragons and serpents be akin, the serpent will attack the human form before coming to know what walks by it. Yig is not to be thought of as gentle in the wilds.

But one learns to deal with the children of Yig, along with skunks, deer, inquisitive cows, and myriads of other animals that turn up to see what's going on. It's worth it, however, when the ritual begins and there's the sudden feeling of a change in the atmosphere announcing the presence of Something Else.

We know the value of our familiars in chamber. Seeing the behavior of my own dogs and cats with the combination of ritual and outdoors, I appreciate the truth of the familiar's worth. They are dog and cat no more, but representatives of Anubis, SeXmet, and Bast. They understand and contribute to the workings, rather than doing simple dog and cat things.

We may speak pro and con regarding the outdoor workings. As you may note, I enjoy them. Admittedly a ritual chamber with all the tools is an impressive thing that can add considerably to a ceremony. However the important thing is not the chamber, but the Setian and how he or she can best utilize the surroundings and the tools. Some are most effective in an indoor chamber; others perhaps, like myself, have access to a secluded spot and can work equally great magic under the open sky. In short, like the concept of Set, it's a personal consideration.