

Some Helpful Hints on Developing a Satanic Ritual Chamber in the Home
or

The Family That Preys Together Stays Together

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There are certain articles necessary for the performance of Satanic ceremonies, and these are generally described in the Satanic Bible; however, the effectiveness of any ritual can be enhanced ten-fold by the proper environment. This is true especially where group rituals are being conducted. One of the most inhibiting factors for most Satanists who would like to set up their own ceremonial chamber is the assumption that the decor and artifacts must be terribly costly and the room used must be rather large. This is definitely not the case. The main advantage of constructing a Satanic ritual chamber lies in the fact that the decor, artifacts, atmosphere, etc., are strange and awesome by themselves, and not dependent upon antiquarian value, lavishness of workmanship, degree of finish, etc., as are the surroundings of other religion's rituals.

A Catholic church depends upon a goodly amount of gilt (guilt), polished woods, and expensive tapestries, as does a Methodist church rely on oaken pews and pulpits and stained glass. Likewise a Jewish synagogue appeals through its intricately wrought scrolls and cabinets, and Eastern Orthodox trappings are ornate beyond belief.

This is all very "professional," but then, it MUST be, for other religions have submerged the dark side of nature and thereby removed most of the truly intriguing and awesome devices normally associated with the "sinister." Of course, there are always the gaping wounds on plaster Christs to add a little shock value, but the surrounding gilt-work and oatmeal colored walls quickly dissipate even the remotest vestiges of horror (which is simply another manifestation of the Wonder Theme).

A truly basic Satanic chamber, with it's dramatic colors, barbaric implements, intriguing symbology, and heavy, engulfing atmosphere, is a pretty hard act to follow for even the most expensively produced implements of other faiths.

ROOM SIZE

A most enchanted ritual chamber can be developed in the tiniest room, so the lack of a large enough room in which to operate is no excuse. The larger the room, the more "presence" is needed. If your area is no bigger than a closet, just limit the length of your sword! It is far better to have a small dagger with a tastefully decorated but miniscule chamber, than to own a grand sword with no magical place to swing it. If you practice group rituals, unless all of your people loll about on divans, it is surprising how many occupants can stand within a room as small as 8' x 10' and still give the participants plenty of room to operate. Odd or unusually structured rooms will often add considerably to the potential effect. Examples of such are: Peaked attics; dirt-floored foundation areas in hillside homes; lofts and cellars in commercial buildings, etc. It is interesting that many members have actually turned their living rooms into temples, critics be damned; and even a few who reside in single rooms have done likewise!

SOUND-PROOFING

There's no point in conducting a secret ceremony if everyone else can hear you, so consider this when you construct your chamber. If you can't do anything about sound-proofing and your chamber is within ear-shot of others, common sense tells you (or should) how to do the next best thing; lower your voice! It is not necessary to scream your invocations at the top of your lungs. It is the deliberation of your delivery that counts. A potent ritual may be conducted in the most hushed tones. Whatever outpourings of emotion are unable to be released vocally can easily emerge by other means, the nature of which I leave to the reader's own resources. The tolling of the bell at the beginning and end of the ceremony applies here. The size and volume of the bell need be only as loud as the relative atmosphere of the chamber requires.

COLOR

The Satanic chamber should preferably be black in color, as black is limitless in its perspective when properly lighted. Contrary to popular belief, black is LESS confining, and, therefore, more conducive to the expulsion of the will. Walls may be painted with either flat latex type paint, flat black enamel, or for a truly bizarre effect, high gloss enamel. If it is infeasible to paint the walls due to a crotchety landlord, etc., wall hangings of black velvet or less expensive material can be very effectively employed. Where there are windows, they should be covered with light-tight material or painted so as to exclude daylight, should the chamber be used other than nocturnally. Mirrors covering two opposing walls are ideal insofar as the multiplying of images contained therein. Experimentation in the placement of mirrors within the ritual chamber can produce some startling results, as I have discovered. Although black is THE basic wall coloring, I have seen some spectacular chambers done in scarlet with black draperies. Likewise, brilliant purple is very effective, and one of the most effective Satanic chambers I've seen was done in orange and silver. At the Central Grotto in San Francisco, we have a special mirrored chamber reflecting electric blue walls, ceiling, and carpet. Black is always best for most ceremonial purposes, however. Of course, if you are fortunate enough to have natural stone walls, it is foolish to paint over them.

LIGHTING

Although the Satanic Bible states that no light source may be used other than candles, this is primarily intended to discourage novices who would surely employ the wrong type of lighting, should they be given carte blanche. So long as candles are employed, tastefully dramatic artificial lighting may augment them. Black light can be effectively employed, as can a soft red or blue glow emanating from the area of the altar. Effects like flame projection lamps can also be used. The main thing to consider, as always, is to make yourself hyper-aware of your role as a Satanist.

MURALS

If you or one of your fellow members has artistic skill, by all means utilize it in the form of wall decoration. Some great things can be done with murals, especially on the wall surrounding or opposite the altar. Some suggestions are: Demonic landscapes, nightmare visions, eccentric and confusing angles, wraiths, gnarled and twisted trees,

storm and lightning swept skys, volcano-like peaks, broken ruins, flames, broken battlements against a night sky, the circular symbol of Baphomet superimposed in a full moon centered over a storm tossed or quietly rippling sea, Egyptian, Roman, Greek, Norse, etc. design motifs, nymphs and satyrs in a bacchanale, etc., etc. Let's see a stained glass window crammed with saints stand up to a wallful of the aforementioned for sheer drama!

ALTAR

The nude altar (when used) needs only a place to lie down, or in some instances, sit up. Therefore, it is not imperative that the wall of the chamber be designed around such a dais. Many of our most well executed chambers are arranged with a small shelf-like projection on the altar wall, just large enough to hold the necessary implements used during the ceremony. The Celebrant then performs the ritual standing BETWEEN the wall and the girl serving as the altar, who reclines on a long table or small couch. Where the altar platform is built against the wall, there should be space allocated for the implements either to the sides of the woman, or on a separate projection or small stand or table in front of the area on which she lies. An altar cloth of velvet or satin should cover these surfaces, embellished if desired with designs, tassels, braid, brocade, or whatever is felt to be in keeping with the theme.

GONG

Gongs are often hard to come by, as many members have discovered, especially ones that don't sound like a hub cap when struck. Furthermore, a concert gong with a rich tone can often run into several hundred dollars. Rather than do without the brazen sound so highly desired in ceremonies, substitute a good large crash cymbal. After all, the cymbal and gong are first cousins, and the cymbal originally was used for religious rites of antiquity. A fine Zildjian cymbal can be obtained for but a fraction of the cost of a gong of comparable quality, and suspended from a leather thong or mounted on a stand, will give forth sounds guaranteed to invigorate the senses.

OTHER MUSICAL EQUIPMENT..

Musical background is of great advantage in the building of the emotions. Although the most highly desirable means of accompanying group rituals is to have an electronic or pipe organ with a capable player, as is the case with the gong, this is often easier said than done. Tape recorders using either reels or cassettes are readily obtainable, though, in a wide range of quality and price. With tape, the type of music which is custom-suited to each individual's emotional needs may be attained. Due to the potential length of recording time on standard tapes and cassettes, enough music can be arranged for an extended ceremony. Some may prefer to concentrate on sounds which are conducive to the ritual, i.e., wind, thunder, etc., or abstract and bizzare sound variants and frequencies. A deep-toned drum such as a large tom-tom or kettledrum can add considerably to certain dramatic segments of the ritual. Avoid bongos like the plague, though, as the emphasis should be on solemnity and dignity, however tribal. Remember, this is a Satanic Temple, not a coffee house! The thin piping of a flute-like instrument can eloquently suggest the syrinx or panpipes, especially when accompanied by low drums and/or muffled rolls on the gong or cymbal. The zither or guitar, when PROPERLY played,

can achieve the effect of a harp, lyre or lute. The usual assumptions about angels and harps notwithstanding, the non-christian heritage of the harp outweighs the popular concept a hundred to one!

MISCELLANEOUS ARTIFACTS

Don't feel that you are limited to the devices listed in the Satanic Bible for your chamber. There are innumerable devices and artifacts which are not only compatible with Satanic ritual, but will enhance the effect of the chamber. To name a few: appropriate wall hangings (not posters), sconces, chandeliers, masks, studded doors, weaponry, vials, retorts, stuffed animals, skulls, mummified remains, coffins - - in general, all things you'd expect to see in an old Boris Karloff movie! Don't worry about being "phoney". The idea is to make you feel like what you are supposed to be, so let any harmless but well-established imagery work for you. Besides, there is much sound symbolism attached to many of the aforementioned devices. Some serve as momentos mori or reminders that death is always present, thereby prodding us into a greater appreciation of life and acting as a catharsis for any unconscious fascination for death, which if repressed, could lead to a greater proneness towards self-destruction. Coffins and skulls are employed in the traditional rituals of almost all fraternal orders and have their place of importance in advanced Satanic ceremonies. The skull, aside from being a momento mori, represents the enclosure for the mind of man, which is the supreme engineer of all religions, spiritual or otherwise. Therefore, this sacred vault is to be venerated. Skulls are not as hard to come by as one might think. The worst mistake is to seek them through occult sources of supply. Check out medical supply houses.

Don't labor under the delusion that a genuine human skull is always best though, as the person who owned it has a great deal to do with its magical effectiveness. If you obtain a genuine skull that was worn by a nitwit, it does not possess the magical potential as would one made of ceramic or plastic. The reason for this is because the real skull is left with the stigma of the fifteen watt brain which once occupied it, whereas the bogus skull is cast in the "pure" image of its intended purpose, but starts out fresh, as it were, absorbing only the strength of the emotional and mental force with which YOU surround it. A coffin makes an ideal dais on which the altar may lie. The paradox of the vital altar reposing on an established symbol of death is most effective. Halloween is a fine time to stock up on decorative masks. The role of the mask in magic is one which should be explored by anyone pursuing a magical career.

Let's turn every member's home into a Satanic tabernacle.