

LYCANTHROPY IN THE GOLDEN DAWN TRADITION
OR
G.H. Frater Lon Chaney Tells All

"I saw a werewolf wearing a nemyss at Mark Mason's Hall -
"The place was full of 'em."

- Warren Zevon,
"Werewolves of (Victorian) London"

1. Folklore and Magical Practice
2. The Body Of Transformation
3. The Naming Of The Animals
4. Past and Present Evolutions
5. Classifications:

Fire corresponds to mammals.

Water corresponds to fish (teleosts - true bony fish).

Air corresponds to birds.

Earth corresponds to pretty much everything else.

Aries animals are strong and often aggressive, and may be noted for jumping or climbing. They are often solitary.

Taurus animals are heavily built, often round in shape and dark in color; like the other Earth signs, Virgo and Capricorn, they tend to live and feed in ways that are literally "down to earth."

Gemini animals are quick and agile, often make a good deal of noise, and rely on social interactions for survival.

Cancer animals are either hard to see or hard to sort out from the group. They are often silver or gray, and are commonly food sources for other animals. Some are associated with the Moon or the tides.

Leo animals, by contrast, are highly visible and often seem proud to human eyes. They may be yellow or golden in color, and tend to be associated with the Sun.

Virgo animals are small, shy, generally brown-colored, and often eat seeds.

Libra animals are graceful in movement, and are often brightly colored or decorated. They may have pairs of ornaments on their bodies.

Scorpio animals are hunters, quick, agile and merciless, or eaters of carrion. They may have a snakelike body shape.

Sagittarius animals are strong and swift, and often migrate over long distances.

Capricorn animals are long-lived or of ancient types, and may be slow-moving. They tend toward dark and drab colors.

Aquarius animals are eccentrics, adapted to unusual environments. They are often nocturnal.

Pisces animals are associated with water. (Among fish they share many of the characteristics of Cancer, but lack Cancer's lunar symbolism.)

The Zodiac of the Mammals

Aries: climbing or jumping ungulates (sheep, goats, antelope)

Taurus: horned grassland ungulates (cattle, bison)

Gemini: canids (dogs, wolves, foxes); raccoons and their kin

Cancer: the insectivore family (shrews, moles)

Leo: felids (cats, cougars, lions, tigers)

Virgo: rodents (mice, rats, beavers); rabbits and hares

Libra: antlered ungulates (deer, elk, moose)

Scorpio: mustelids (weasels, stoats, badgers, otters)

Sagittarius: odd-toed ungulates (horses and their kin)

Capricorn: large omnivores of several families (bears, pigs and their relatives); armadillos and other mammals of ancient types

Aquarius: bats; primates (monkeys, human beings)

Pisces: marine mammals (whales, dolphins, seals)

The Zodiac of the Birds

Aries: thrushes, starlings, robins

Taurus: grouse, quail, turkeys

Gemini: swallows, swifts, martens

Cancer: pigeons, doves; snipes, sandpipers

Leo: jays, mockingbirds, catbirds, crows

Virgo: sparrows, finches, juncos

Libra: warblers; hummingbirds

Scorpio: eagles, hawks, vultures; shrikes

Sagittarius: albatrosses, terns, gulls

Capricorn: herons, storks, cranes

Aquarius: owls, nighthawks

Pisces: ducks, loons, geese, grebes

The Zodiac of the Fish

Aries: marlins, mackerel, tuna, jack

Taurus: sole, flounder, halibut

Gemini: croakers, drums, whittings

Cancer: smelt, mullet, silversides

Leo: carp, catfish

Virgo: suckers, cod, hakes

Libra: most brightly colored tropical fish

Scorpio: pikes and pickerels, barracuda, eels

Sagittarius: salmon, trout

Capricorn: sturgeon, gars

Aquarius: flying fish, luminous deep-sea fish

Pisces: herring, anchovy

Planetary attributions:

Saturn animals are solitary and long-lived, and may live in isolated habitats such as mountain ranges.

Jupiter animals are usually the largest of their kind; they may be good-tempered, even playful, or have a strong quality of grandeur. They may be associated with water.

Mars animals are fierce and often dangerous. Among predators they are ruthlessly efficient hunters.

Sun animals are intelligent and flexible, and tend to be relatively large. They are often red, orange or gold in color, and tend to be associated with the Sun.

Venus animals usually have the most beautiful coats, feathers or skin of their kind, and may be noted for affectionateness.

Mercury animals are swift, elusive, and fond of theft.

Moon animals are generally the smallest of their kind, and may also live near human beings. They may be associated with the Moon.

The cat family (Leo of the mammal zodiac)

Saturn in Leo: cougar, snow leopard

Jupiter in Leo: tiger

Mars in Leo: jaguar

Sun in Leo: lion, leopard

Venus in Leo: lynx, panther

Mercury in Leo: cheetah, most small wild cats

Moon in Leo: domestic cat

The vibratory name for the bobcat, the most common North American wildcat, is thus constructed from Fire, Mercury and Leo; in Hebrew letters, this is ShBT, and might be pronounced "Shebet." Some other vibratory names which may be of some interest are as follows:

The wolf is Fire, Mars, Gemini, ShPZ, Shepaz;

The fox is Fire, Sun, Gemini, ShRZ, Shiraz;

The house mouse is Fire, Moon, Virgo, ShGI, Shigi;

The otter is Fire, Jupiter, Scorpio, ShKN, Shekan;

The brown bear is Fire, Sun, Capricorn, ShRAa, Sheraa;

The golden eagle is Air, Sun, Scorpio, ARN, Aeren;

The blue heron is Air, Saturn, Capricorn, ATHAa, Aethaa.

The rainbow trout is Water, Venus, Sagittarius, MDS, Medes.

6. Preparing For The Ritual

- a. Selecting the animal form
- b. Learning the ways of the animal

7. Potential Risks

- a. Trouble with the neighbors
- b. Repercussion
- c. Long term effects

The Ceremony Of Transformation

This ceremony is intended to be done on the night of the full moon. Arrange to have a private room in which you can be sure you will be undisturbed all night, if necessary. Part One of the ceremony creates the body of transformation and transfers consciousness into it; Part Two returns consciousness to the ordinary body and dispels the transformation body.

Part One:

First, perform the Lesser Banishing Rituals of the Hexagram and Pentagram; purify with water and consecrate with fire; circumambulate three times, and then salute the East with the threefold prayer. (Regardie's Ritual of Opening by Watchtower is another suitable opening.)

Second, perform the Greater Invoking Ritual of the Hexagram of the Moon. The ritual should begin and end at the west of the altar, facing east.

Third, move around the altar until you are facing the Moon. Raise your hands, and vibrate the Name ShDI AL ChI ("shah-dye ell chye") nine times, visualizing the full Moon before you. Then say: "Mighty God of Life, strong beyond strength, ruler of the animal creation, I invoke thee. May thy wisdom and thy power be with me in this work of the magic of light. May thy powerful archangel Gabriel guide me in the Pathway, and the mighty angels of the Order of Kerubim watch over my footsteps therein; and may the light of the Sphere Levanah, shining now upon the world, assist me in this work of transformation." Pause, and then lower your arms.

Fourth, move around the altar until you face the direction of the element ruling the form you have chosen. With the lotus wand, trace an invoking pentagram of that element over the altar, and draw the letter of that element in the center. Point to the center with the wand, and vibrate the Name of God assigned to that element.

Fifth, move around the altar until you face the direction of the planet ruling the form. In the same way, trace an invoking hexagram of that planet over the altar, and draw the letter of the planet in the center. Point to the center with the wand, and vibrate the Name of God assigned to the planet.

Sixth, move around the altar until you face the direction of the sign ruling the form. Trace an invoking pentagram of the element ruling that sign over the altar, and draw the letter of the sign in the center. Point to the center and vibrate the Name of God assigned to the element.

Seventh, go to the east of the altar and face west. Take the lotus wand in your left hand and hold it high above your head; with your right hand, point to an area halfway between the altar and the western edge of the space. This is where the transformation body will take shape. Say: "And the Elohim said, Let us create Adam in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over the beasts of the field." (For a bird form, finish this "...over the birds of the air"; for a fish form,

"...over the fishes of the sea.") Then vibrate the vibratory name of the animal form, and at the same time begin to visualize the form. Vibrate the name eight more times, and with each vibration make the visualization clearer and more solid, directing the whole force of your will into giving the form concrete reality.

Eighth, holding this visualization, say: "In the name of the Lord of the Universe, arise before me, Form of (vibratory name of animal), into which I have elected to transform myself. So that all who look upon me may see the thing that they see not, and comprehend not the thing that they behold. In the Name of (Name ruling element), and in the Name of (Name ruling planet), and in the Name of (Name ruling sign), be obedient unto my will, Form of (vibratory name of animal), so that I may pass into the shape of a (ordinary name of animal) and go forth to accomplish the works of light."

Ninth, put down the lotus wand, and then go around the altar and approach the form, holding the visualization at full intensity. When you reach it, step into it, and at this point strive to inhabit its body and yours at the same time, seeing the space through both sets of eyes, feeling its muscles and movements as well as your own. Once you can do this, move slowly around the altar to the chair in the east. Pace yourself so that both bodies make this movement at the same speed, and maintain a physical overlap between the bodies. When you reach the east, sit your human body down in the chair, and strive to be aware of the animal body alone. (A slight awareness of the human form may remain, but this isn't a serious handicap.) Once your awareness is centered in the animal form, the ceremony is complete.

Part Two:

First, return to the chair where your human body is sitting, and place your animal form in front of it, physically overlapping with it. Then become aware of both bodies at the same time, seeing through both sets of eyes and feeling both sets of movements. Move your human body, slowly, and make sure it will be able to stand and move without fainting before going on.

Second, stand your human body up, and in both bodies move around the altar to the west, until you are standing in the place where the animal form took shape. Pace yourself so that both bodies move at the same speed, and remain aware of both the whole time.

Third, shift your awareness entirely to your human body, so that you no longer perceive the animal form from inside. Once this is done, go back around the altar to the east, and face west. Take the magic sword in your right hand, and hold it high above your head. Say: "And the Elohim created Adam in their own image; in the image of the Elohim created they them." Point the sword at the form, and say: "In the name of the Lord of the Universe, be now dispersed, Form of (vibratory name of animal). I return the powers to their sources." Visualize the form fading out. Then, still facing the form, trace the banishing pentagram of the element ruling the sign that governs the form, and trace

the letter of the sign inside it; point the sword at the center of the pentagram, and vibrate the Name of God assigned to the element.

Fourth, in the same way, use the sword to banish the energies of the planet and the element governing the form. By the end of this process the form should have vanished completely. If it has not done so, repeat the banishings up to three times. Then go around to the west of the altar and perform the Greater Banishing Ritual of the Hexagram of the Moon.

Fifth, purify with water and consecrate with fire; circumambulate in reverse three times; license all spirits present to depart, and then perform the Lesser Banishing Rituals of the Hexagram and the Pentagram. This concludes the ritual.