

# The Occult Digest

*A Periodical of Reprint and Research.*

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CLASSIFIED ADS

POETRY

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## WHAT ARE THE CHRISTIAN DEVILS

by Borny Helmos Reddy

The word "devil" has been bandied about, both within and without the church for ages, yet many there be who do not have a clear conception of the real meaning of the term. In the mind of the layman fallen angels, familiar spirits, demons, devils and Satan are far too often considered as referring to one and the same thing, thanks to the teachings they have received from the church.

For over a thousand years the clergy have fired their heaviest artillery in the general direction of where they supposed their devil to be, but so far have somehow managed to miss him completely. Well does the clergy know that just one center shot and all would be out of a job, then there would be no further use of the church or its clergy.

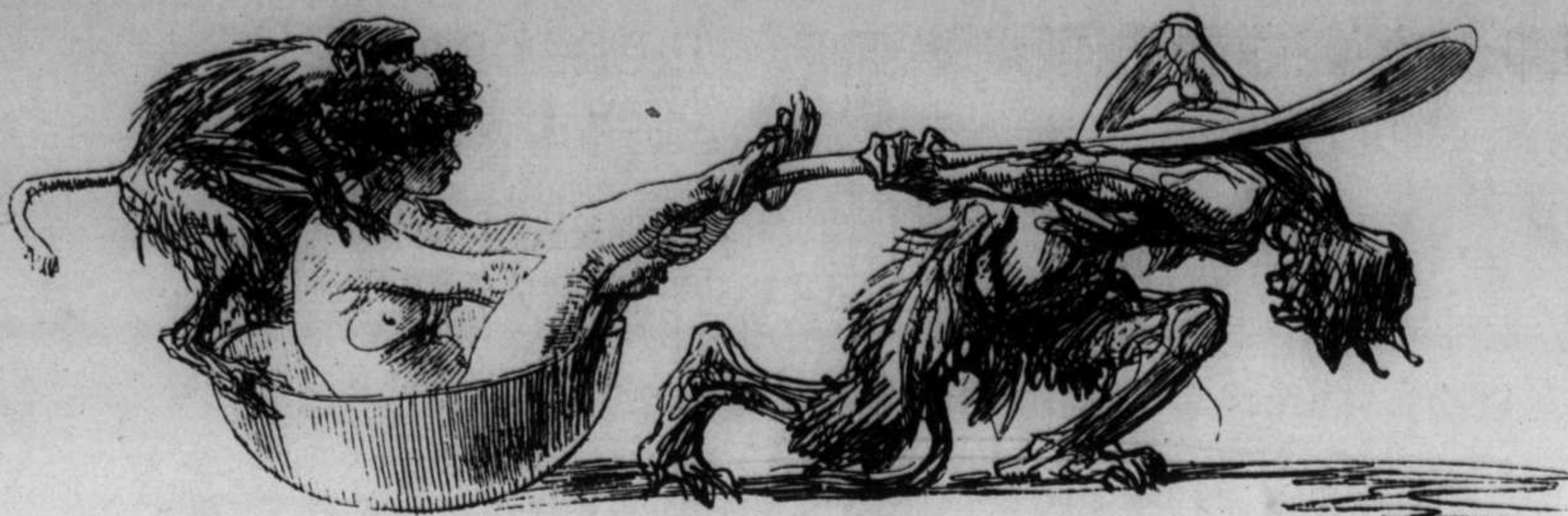
This idealistic "heaven on earth" will arise as soon as the people realize that Jesus, the Master, is here, NOW, waiting for any or all who really desire to contact him, and who look for him in the right place - within and not without. The teaching of the church that "Jesus is coming" instead of being here, leaves a comfortable niche for this mythical devil. Our problem is to discover who or what this devil really is.

"The devil is the patron saint of our Theological Christianity, and it is too late at this day for us to expect the Christian clergy to undo and amend their work. They have too much at stake." And again we find, "...the priesthood, who are practically aware of the existence of that magical and spiritual phenomena, and believe in them while dreading their consequences, try to attribute the whole to the agency of the devil. Is not the worship of saints and angels now, in all respects, the same that the worship of demons was in former times? The name only is different; the thing is identically the same... Almost the whole of Paganism is converted and applied to popery." -- ISIS UNVEILED

The serpent has been recognized for ages as the symbol for wisdom, hence its appearance in the allegory of the Garden of Eden. Through the advancing years the devil has been a mighty valuable adjunct to the church as a bogeyman with which to bring home the financial bacon. It is well known that in the past the organized church has always fought every advance in art or science. For the church to say that anything was "the works of the devil" was, in the past, sufficient to cause the people to flee from anything new. There is hardly anything now in use by civilized man that has not, at one time or another, been anathematized by the church. Galileo and his telescope, the art of printing, Harvey and the circulation of blood in the human body, geometry, geology, the use of table knives and forks, the fanning mill for separating grain from the chaff, the use of ether as an aid to childbirth, antislavery movement, the steamboat, the mining of coal, the drilling of oil wells, and a host of other things, have progressed against the determined opposition of the church.

When oil was first discovered and the drilling of oil wells began, some preachers bitterly opposed the work and declared that God had made the earth and put the coal there in, in order to burn the earth at the proper time. They also declared that the oil had been placed therein as kindling, but that the devil had set man to remove the oil so that God's plan might be defeated. Very much more might be adduced to demonstrate the reactionary attitude of the church and clergy, for such evidence may be found on every hand. Today all this seems silly in the extreme, but nevertheless, the church solemnly promulgated such statements as valid arguments and fought every advance with all the means within her power.

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The celebrated authority, Max Muller says, "The Aryan nations had no devil. Pluto, though of sombre character, was a very respectable personage. Loke, the Scandinavian, though a mischievous person, was not a fiend. The Satan of the Old Testament, the Diabolus or Devil of the Gospels and Spostollic epistles, were but the antagonistic principle in matter, necessarily incident to it, but not wicked in the moral sense of the term."

Plutarch testifies in his Isis and Osiris that the Egyptians far from worshipping the Devil, despised more than they dreaded Typhon. Thus even at that remote age, we see the ancients already too enlightened to believe in a personal devil. Again we quote: "It became the turn of Christianity to inherit the degrading superstition about devils invested with pestilential and murderous powers. The Gnostics were the earliest Christians with anything like a regular theological system, and it is only too evident that it was Jesus who was made to fit their theology as their Christos. In their eyes, the Serpent was the logos-Christos, the incarnation of Divine Wisdom. Of all the various religions of antiquity there never was one which believed more in a personal devil than the liberal Christians of the Nineteenth century."

With the above as a background let us see if we can find anything about the devil in the Orthodox Bible. When one investigates the meaning in the original of the words rendered into devil, one finds the following information readily obtainable from any analytical Concordance, usually available in any Public Library:

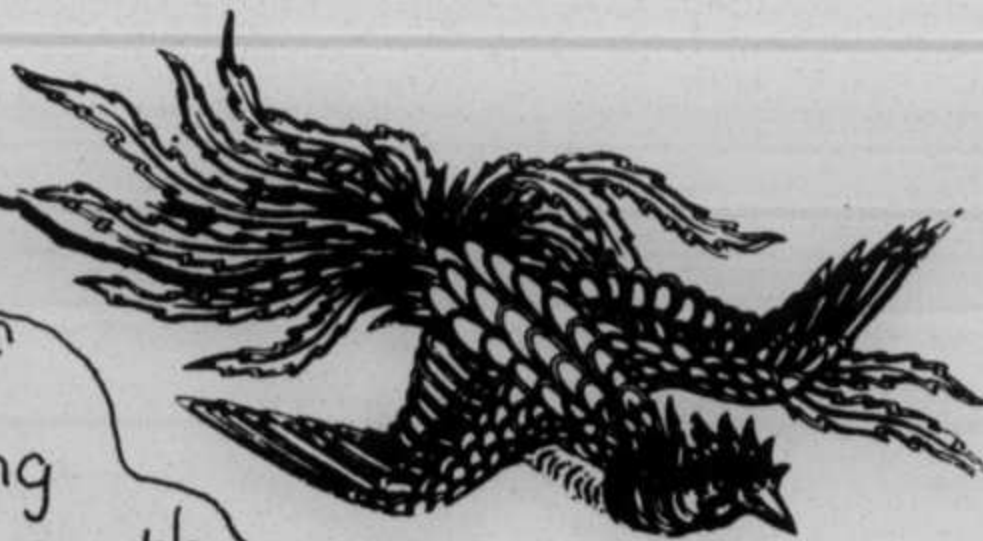
1. SAIR (Hebrew) meaning hairy one, goat, kid, but rendered into devil in Lev. 17:17; 2 Chron. 11:15.
2. SHED (Hebrew) meaning spoiler, destroyer, but rendered into devil in Deut. 32:17; Psa. 106:37.
3. DAIMONION (Greek) meaning daimon, demon, shade but rendered 58 times into devil (see Concordance).
4. DAIMON (Greek) meaning a deified spirit, but rendered into devil and devils in Matt. 8:31; Mark 5:12; Luke 8:29; Rev. 16:14, 18:2.
5. DEVIL 35 times (see Concordance).
6. DAIMONIZOMAI (Greek) meaning to be demonized, or to be possessed of a demon. Rendered into devil in Matt. 9:32. 23:22. Mark 5:15, 16, 18 into vexed with a devil in Matt. 15:22; hath a devil in John 10:21; devilish in Jas. 3:15; possessed of the devils in Matt. 8:33. Luke 8:36; possessed with devils in Matt. 4:24, 8:16, 28, 33. Mark 1:32.

In all, a total of 117 times yet, as will be noticed, from the meaning of the words in the original, in no single case does the original possess the sinister significance attributed to it by the teachings of the church.

In Lev. 17:17 as noted before, devil is really hairy one; ordinarily a goat, but rendered into satyr in Isa. 13:21. 34:14; and satyr merely means a woodland deity in Greek Mythology. Verily, the working of the minds of the orthodox translators is beyond understanding. In the final analysis, when devil is used in the New Testament the real meaning is demon, as is shown elsewhere, and demon is merely the spirit of a departed human being.

CALENDER  
OF  
EVENTS

Due to Lack of  
event's I'm going  
south for the month.



## A W A R N I N G

by Antonio Paez

Demon possession or the physical form of a human being inhabited by a supernatural force other than the soul is an extremely rare phenomenon. The novel, "The Exorcist", by William Peter Blatty, narrates an account of a child, the daughter of a famous actress, being possessed by such an entity. Mr. Blatty researched the subject for nearly twenty years drawing upon ecclesiastical archives and personal accounts of members of the priesthood as primary and supplementary source material.

It is not the intent of this essay to dispute any of Mr. Blatty's written work. Indeed, the "Exorcist", performs in its own way a public service by reminding the would-be and student occultist or magician that encounters with the 'left hand path' can be a trial by ordeal to any seeker of the Eternal. Aleister Crowley's encounters with lesser dark forces at his home in Boleskin and the subsequent contact with the demon, Choronzon, should be studied, keeping the above interpretation in mind. Demon activity is far more complex than the verbal descriptions evolved by ecclesiastical sources or highly imaginative writers.

As a result of several bizarre and occultly tinged murders in recent times, on the west coast and elsewhere, one can expect a dearth of dreary articles, documentaries and sermons, which will claim to warn the weak-willed and the power-happy on the perils of worshipping at the shrine of Moloch, Beezlebug, and other forms of crystallized human emotion. In the many cycles of the universe, the balance scales of individual karma will teach the unwary far more truth than mere sermonizing on the physical plane. Each soul must win the opportunity for divinity by its own efforts; this includes the amateurish band of sorcerer's apprentices who call themselves the legions of Satan as well as those whose vision of the Eternal depends upon a book!

The balance of this essay will attempt to describe a personal encounter with a demon force. Frankly, it was not, as might be generally accepted, a romantic or heroic struggle. The entire chain of events stretched over an eighteen month period, claimed about sixty lives, and disrupted the lives of many good people who were unaware of the circumstances.

It began, innocently enough, as an opportunity to perform an act of service for a fellow human being. I had lived in a hotel, in one of this city's better depressed areas for some six years. I had acquired a reputation for acts of service: writing letters for the illiterate and lazy, running errands, listening to the frustrated bare their souls, and all that jazz.

A casual acquaintance, named Jim, had been bed-ridden with a heart ailment for quite some time. Then, as now, we were all at the low end of the economic scale. Admittance to a private hospital was out of the question. Although Jim was a veteran, bed space in a government institution was not available. I had previously assisted a heart attack victim in the hotel and since I was working at a hospital in surgery, Jim's wife Edna, seemed to feel that by some occult process of osmosis, I had acquired enough skill to assist her husband.

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Jim was in distress. His skin was sallow. His breathing came in spurts, and periodically, he would choke and snort in a rapid bellows-like manner. Medical textbooks call it Cheney-Stokeley breathing, after the men who had written a paper on the subject. There was little indication of a regular pulse, only a quivering or oscillatory movement. On reading the aura, one could say that Jim was rapidly departing from this stage of life. His aura extended to about an inch above the physical form. In a healthy person, it would extend six inches or more. His right arm and leg seemed suspended at an awkward angle. He had had a stroke and these limbs were paralyzed. His personal physician, in the course of a house call, confirmed the stroke.

The only practical aid that could be rendered was a light form of massage along the nerves emanating from the spine to the heart, along the sixth sacral vertebrae. The physician had prescribed medications of nitroglycerin ampules and a potassium based solution. Jim would not take either of them. My function became that of glorified bed-pan carrier.

I have indicated that Jim was a casual acquaintance: that is an understatement. We lived in the same building and appeared to be on good terms; in truth, he hated my guts. I could never understand the reason for this reaction and never bothered to return the compliment. However, my feeble efforts to ease his distress did involve a certain amount of reluctance. My years of observing Jim, under many circumstances, had convinced me that murder, for no reason at all, was the tamest of his capabilities. Nursing him was like trying to make friends with an affection-starved rattlesnake.

I do not wish to convey the ideal that I was alone in the effort to ease Jim's distress. Jeff, a mutual friend to Jim and myself, and who lived in the hotel, volunteered his services. Prior to Jim's illness, Jeff had mentioned to me that Jim had been performing some sort of occult rituals and had developed some sort of abilities. I did not scoff at the notion, but then, I assumed that the pendulum-like swings of Jim's emotional patterns would act as a deterrent to any kind of development. One could say that I was acting like a know-it-all, but in truth, I was preoccupied with problems of making a living, etc. Jeff had reported to me that he had observed Jim's son, David, playing in the hotel lobby, and apparently enjoying himself, and suddenly keel over in a dead sleep. I had observed the same thing several times and attached little importance to the event, though its frequency had been steeped up quite a bit prior to Jim's illness.

By Tuesday, which was about the third week in November of '68, Jeff and I agreed that we should try and assist Jim from this plane to the next. I was working the graveyard shift, Jeff was working days. It was a providential arrangement. If I was assisting Jim, or if Jeff was, we would try to set up a meditation at a pre-determined hour. Inevitably, these meditative sessions were goofed up by Jim, who would throw a tantrum, rage at his wife, or complain about the raw deal he was getting out of life. Anything to break the peace.

Wednesday morning, we placed an orange light bulb of one hundred watts over Jim's head. The effect was startling for it enabled one to observe white prana particles in Jim's body. The light was attached to the headboard. Jim's physical form was oiled with a peanut based substance. Sandlewood incense was burned. There was nothing to do but wait for the Destroyer to perform his work upon Jim's physical form.

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In passing one's hand over Jim's emaciated form, one could actually feel the life-force leaving the vehicle. There was no heat emanating from the lower limbs. The skin had that powdery-like substance that is to be found on the nearly or newly dead. At the navel area, one could feel heat. Jim responded to the light quite well, for he would pass his hand over it and at times, actually touch it. I expected to see him withdraw his hand rapidly due to the heat -- he didn't. I oiled his body at least five times at this stage.

About 12:30 on Thursday afternoon, I observed what can only be described as an explosion of psychic energy from the crown of Jim's head. The particles played around his head for a few moments and then went into the orange light. Jim was quite still. My heartbeat seemed to be the only sound in the room. I was not awed by the presence of Death; I was awed by what had been observed. I silently read prayers for the dead.

Some twenty minutes later, Jim's wife burst into the room and inquired in a loud raucous voice, "Was he hungry?" In a voice that sounded as though it had been processed through an electronic filter to remove the "highs", he garbled out, "Very hungry." He beckoned for her to sit on the bed, which she did. He then quite laboriously crawled over to her and placed his forehead upon her exposed shoulder and began that bellows-type of breathing. Observing this from approximately six feet away, those white particles of prana could be seen leaving her body and entering his, through the forehead and into the lower parts of the body. What was I seeing? I left their apartment, confused, bewildered, and silent.

Later that day, when I had gained some measure of composure, I meditated. I perceived an entity in the act of unrolling a scroll. He faced me and read from it. I did not hear what was read, though I could see his lips moving. He rolled the scroll and handed me a torch. That incident left me more baffled than ever. Till this day, I still don't know what it means.

What had I seen in Jim's apartment? That question haunted me for weeks and months. Jeff, myself and his girlfriend held many discussion sessions. We found it difficult to arrive at any conclusions as the incident with Jim was beyond the realm of any of our experiences.

By Sunday, four days after Jim's presumed death, there were no signs of the paralytic stroke. Edna called me and inquired whether she should submit to Jim's demands for marital intimacy. I advised her against it.

Jeff and I began an intensive search through every book that had been written on the occult we could find. We uncovered a great deal of information but nothing relevant to the situation. We had to play it by ear.

We found one book of rituals, we tried some of them, they were ineffective. I interviewed psychic readers, spiritualists, gypsy fortune tellers -- none could shed any light on the matter.

We discussed our suspicions with a few people who had some gleanings of the occult and who lived in the hotel. We agreed to confine our conclusions of the situation to a very small group. One woman absolutely refused to accept the possibility of an occult force in our midst until her grandson was shot about a year later while home on leave from the Navy. Only then did she recall that her grandson had spent considerable time around Jim, helping him with odd jobs around the hotel.

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Jim was eventually admitted to a hospital. While there, he perfected the technique of extracting monadic substances from the bodies of his fellow patients. Many who were well on the road to recovery from their ailments would suddenly take a turn for the worse and die. The slightest touch from him or vice-versa would result in strengthening his deteriorating form. Jim had no mercy, and I am told that the hospital's morgue count went up rapidly.

In April of the following year, I had the opportunity to make the entity occupying Jim's form visible. He was scheduled to go into the hospital for the second time, was confined to the bed and extremely weak. Edna called me on the phone and said that he needed some form of massage therapy. In the race through occult books, Jeff and I ran across a passage that indicated that it was difficult for an evil force to function in the presence of blue light. I went to Jim's apartment armed with an extremely powerful blue light bulb.

The entity had once been a man, for it had the shape of one. It was so dense and opaque that no light could penetrate it. In this technique, the feature of the present incarnation becomes highly fluid and then gathers into the previous incarnations. There was no swirling of the aura in this instance. Large, cyst-like nodules could be seen on the face of our visitor. Jim squirmed and twisted to get away from the light; however, he was physically too weak. I did not touch him, but unknowingly, I had set the stage for an occult war. I had seen too much and had to be destroyed.

The ensuing months became continuous nightmares of death, deception and confusion. Former friends of Jim's, casual acquaintances, came to swift and violent deaths. I tried to remain in the background as much as possible. Jim's occult powers seemed unlimited. Jeff and I meditated, prayed and hoped for some form of relief. The consequence of an entity of unknown origin loose in a modern society with an ignorant and sensation-seeking populace was too gruesome to contemplate.

The building in which we lived was a four-story affair, on occasions we had many fires. Every weekend, we could look forward to someone getting drunk and leaving a pan of food on a lit stove while the occupant passed out on the floor or on the bed. One Saturday, Jeff and I heard the alarm. He proceeded to search for the fire in a northerly direction on one floor, I searched in the opposite direction. I passed Jim and ran down to the floor below and Jeff met me on the ground floor. He told me he had passed Jim on the third floor. On comparing notes, we had both passed him on different floors in opposite directions!

For a while, there was in the hotel, a rage for pornographic movies. Since Jim owned projection equipment, he would arrange showings. The tensions generated by the images on the screen would arouse many members of the usually all-male audience. Many attended these showings and I would question some of them about their feelings after these sessions. Many complained of being weak or physically depleted. I once related this aspect of Jim's activities to a rather famous medium who had worked with Hans Holzer.

"That's absolutely impossible."

Fortunately, the trend for pornography in the hotel did not last too long.

A member of the inner circle who had been informed of the occult aspects of Jim's activities was robbed and raped.

Jeff was beaten up by a gang of young toughs in another part of the city.

A nurse with whom I worked, and was highly sensitive, received a telepathic impression from Jim. He informed her not to listen to me or the consequences

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for her would be disastrous. She had never seen the man, yet her description was highly accurate.

The hotel seemed to be encased in some sort of a force field in which impressions from higher sources could not penetrate. I continued to meditate daily, though with great effort. The building inside, seemed to have a dark, damp aura, even on sunny days.

I avoided contact with Jim as much as possible. The conflict went on, unannounced and barely detectable to an outside observer. Jim soon had an old friend, Chester, who had been a biochemist, as his constant companion. Chester had a severe drinking problem, was down on his luck and Jim kept him plied with liquor and drained of energy.

I shunned friends, acquaintances and relatives for fear of being overshadowed by Jim's occult abilities. For nearly a year, I avoided contact with my friends. Many became outraged at my strange and inexplicable behavior. I have not heard from them in many a day. The tension at the hotel became unbearable and Jeff finally moved. I was alone, misunderstood, the prospects for the future during those days in '68 seemed bleak indeed.

Toward the end of that year, Jim began to deteriorate even more rapidly and required extensive hospitalization. A medical surgical team recommended a heart transplant. A search was made for a potential donor. One candidate who was terminal with cancer of the brain seemed likely. Permission was obtained from the donor's relatives to obtain the heart. Through Chester's counseling, Jim became convinced that his new heart would give him a new lease on life. My own impression was that Jim would never come off the operating table. The great day finally arrived with the death of the donor. The surgery was scheduled for the middle of January, 1969.

Jim's heart was five and one half times larger than the average human heart. His lungs had shrunk to half their size and the tissues had the texture of a soft type of leather. The pulmonary artery had expanded to such an extraordinary degree that the new heart could not be sutured effectively. I had a talk with one of the technicians who participated in the transplant. He informed me that after Jim's body was opened, the surgeon almost went into a state of shock. No one was prepared to find a living body in such a degenerate state. Jim's remains held some life forces for four hours after the surgery. My prevision had been verified yet I did not, nor could I, feel victorious. I was aware that the demonic force which had propelled Jim's form had only abandoned its present host. I was also aware that the force could not be destroyed in the earthly sense of the term. I was further aware that it would be a question of time before that "adept of evil" would find another candidate kneeling at the altar of Moloch or Beezelebub. The war goes on.



STELLAR INFLUENCES

by Toni Meier

- AUG. 9 New Moon in  $\text{♌}$ .
- AUG. 10  $\text{☉} * \text{♋}$ . Good time to initiate long range plans or talk to people in authority. Good to work with older people.
- AUG. 13  $\text{♁} \Delta \text{♋}$ . Start projects to gain in any area. Success in dealing in business.
- AUG. 14  $\text{♃}$  goes direct  $2^{\circ} \text{♋} 30'$ .
- AUG. 15  $\text{♁}$  enters  $\text{♋}$ .
- AUG. 17  $\text{♃} \text{♁} \text{♃}$ . People will have strange ideas. You may be misunderstood, so speak plainly.
- AUG. 17  $\text{♃}$  goes direct  $10^{\circ} \text{♋} 28'$ .
- AUG. 21  $\text{☉} \Delta \text{♋}$ . Things go well in terms of fulfillment. Financial gain.
- AUG. 23  $\text{☉}$  goes into  $\text{♋}$ .
- AUG. 24  $\text{♀} \square \text{♁}$ . You may be moody and nervous. Be careful not to put too much importance on your own independence.
- AUG. 27  $\text{♀} * \text{♁}$ . You can innovate thought patterns and revamp habits today. Give it thought!
- SEPT. 2  $\text{♃} \text{♁} \text{♋}$ . Be careful of frivolity. You may overspend or make promises you can't keep.
- SEPT. 5  $\text{♀}$  goes into  $\text{♋}$ .
- SEPT. 7  $\text{♀} \square \text{♃}$ . You will hear tales today. Don't believe everything you hear.
- SEPT. 7  $\text{☉} \text{♁} \text{♁} \text{♁}$ . Strong inner tension. Will power rules. You can make snap decision. Hasty temper.

Ms. Toni Meier, Astrological Consultant for the Occult Digest. Contact this publication for information.



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## THE STRANGE WORLD OF BRAD STEIGER

## "The Ways of Witchcraft"

A witch is an old hag with a conical hat, warts on her nose, who rides a broomstick. She is accompanied by a warlock, who wears one pierced earring and who kidnaps children. Right? Wrong.

In the first place, "witch" is a neuter term, applying to both males and females. To indicate sex, one would have to say "male witch" or "female witch". Second, if one were to spy upon witches at a coven meeting, the classic picture of warts, unkempt hair, and arthritic joints would disappear forever.

Witches are milkmen, secretaries, schoolteachers, doctors and lawyers; and witchcraft, the Craft of the Wise, is a religion. Its adherents come together from nearly every walk of life to worship the Goddess, symbolized in the moon, and the Horned God, symbolized in the sun. Furthermore, the Horned God is no more a representative of the devil than is Krishna, the Hindu God. Both are deities of ancient religions that vastly predate Christianity, and neither is an emissary of evil.

Witches do not believe in Satan, nor do they sell their souls to any demonic entity. They do not practice Satantic rites, nor do they cast evil spells upon people. They do, however, attempt to heal the sick and to bring peace, love and prosperity to their clients.

A witch understands that the laws of psychism are neither positive nor negative in themselves. It is the application of those laws that lends them positive or negative results.

A witch will use these psychic laws to protect herself and those for whom she cares; and if the result is negative, it usually has something to do with the person against whom the "spell" is directed.

Witchcraft has its organization and special holidays, as does any religion. The equivalent of a congregation would be the coven, which is restricted to thirteen members for maximum effectiveness. Women rather than men usually assume positions of authority in witchcraft, so that the equivalent of a priest or minister would be the High Priestess. Regular weekly coven meetings are known as Esbats. At these meetings the business of the coven is attended to, and if any specific rituals are required, they will be performed at this time.

The famous witches' Sabbats are divided into two groups: the Lesser and the Greater. The Lesser Sabbats occur at the Winter and Summer Solstices, and the Spring and Fall Equinoxes. The four Great Sabbats are Candlemas, or Feast of the Flame, celebrated on February 2; Lilithmas, May Eve, or Walpurgis Night observed on April 30; Lammas, kept on August 1; and Halloween, commemorated on October 31. These are holy nights of true and joyous festivity, and all are welcome to attend.

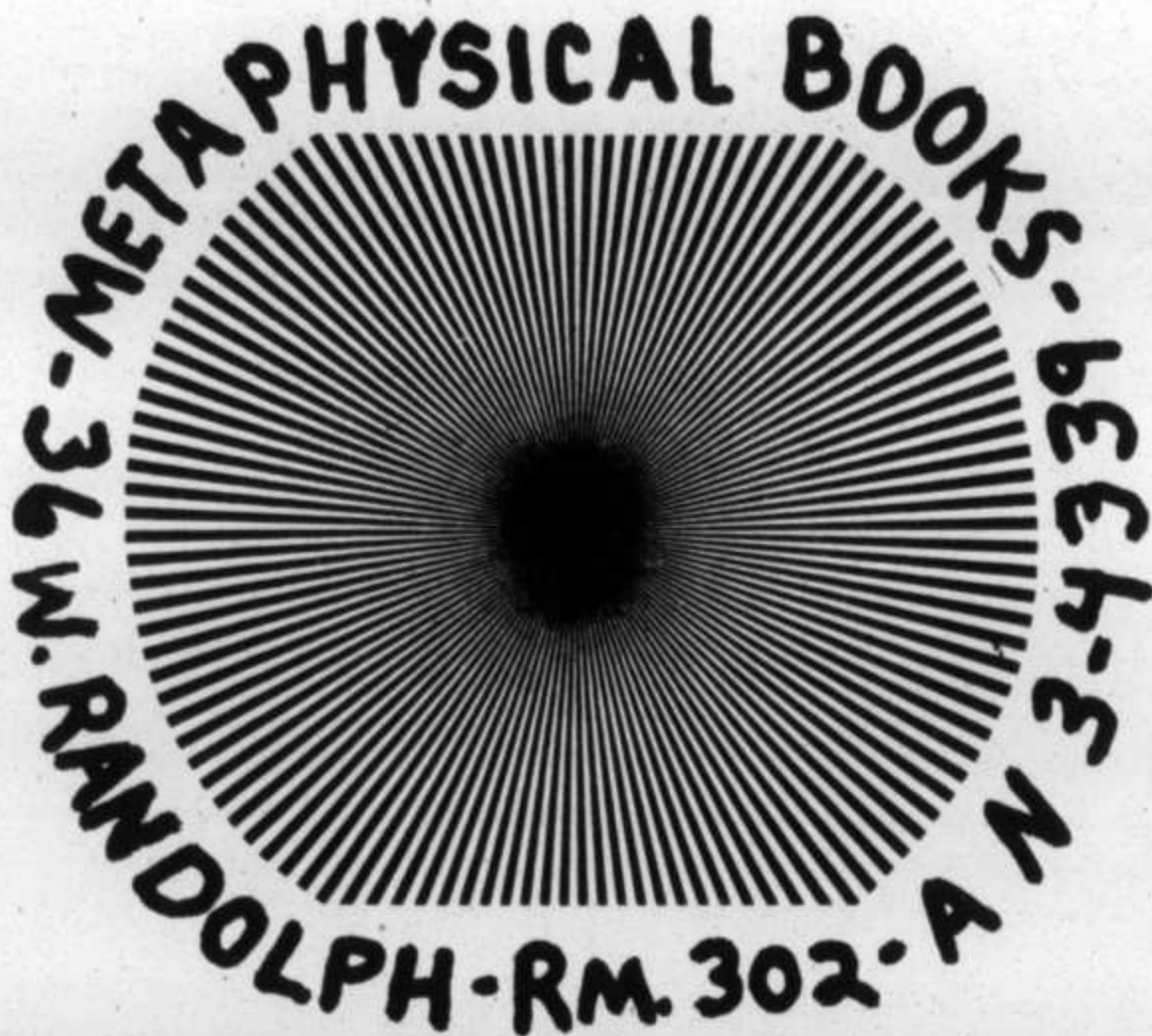
The witches have been maligned for centuries, tortured and burned at the stake, or hanged with their children swinging beside them. Now that the witches are finally being recognized as true religionists, who deserve the right to follow their faith accordingly, let's not saddle them with misconceptions regarding Satanism or children's fairy tales. Witchcraft is a religion that deserves the same respect given Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, or Hinduism.

VIEWS & REVIEWS  
by Bruce Bryce

Ignorance cannot be assailed, thus sensationalist trash must be either pitied or wonderfully amusing. I prefer to consider "Satan's Assassins" by Brad Steiger and Warren Smith as the latter.

These perceptive authors claim their "documented facts" lead to a world-shaking theory of "Occultists" and/or "Hidden Evil Powers" controlling an assortment of political assassins, paranoid schizophrenic homosexuals, prostitutes, mass murderers and many more. Edgar Cayce, move over, please. I offer the theory that these scholars have a classic collection of detective monthlys and a need for cash.

The true value of this book is that it entitles the owner to boast he owns the largest collection of quotes of obscure German psychologists ever printed in English. I recommend this book to all paranoid schizophrenics.



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Out of the night forth flamed a star - mine own!  
Now seventy light years nearer as I urge  
Constant mine heart through the abyss unknown,  
Its glory my soul guide while spaces surge  
About me. Seventy light years! As I near  
That gate of light that men call death, its cold  
Pale gleam begins to pulse, a throbbing sphere,  
Systole and diastole of eager gold,  
New life immortal, warmth of passion bleed  
Till night's black velvet burn to crimson. Hark!  
It is Thy voice, Thy word, the secret seed  
Of rapture that admonishes the dark.  
Swift! By necessity most righteous drawn,  
Hermes, authentic augur of the dawn!

Aleister Crowley  
Netherwood, The Ridge, Hasting. 1946

DIONYSUS

I bring ye wine from above,  
 From the vats of the storied sun;  
 For everyone of ye love,  
 And life for every one.  
 Ye shall dance on hill and level;  
 Ye shall sing in hollow and height  
 In the festal mystical revel,  
 The rapturous Bacchanal rite!  
 The rocks and trees are yours,  
 And the waters under the hill,  
 By the night of which endures,  
 The holy heaven of will!  
 I kindle a flame like a torrent  
 To rush from star to star;  
 Your hair as a comet's horrent,  
 Ye shall see things as they are!  
 I lift the mask of matter;  
 I open the heart of man;  
 For I am the force to shatter  
 The cast that hideth -- Pan!  
 Your loves shall lap up slaughter,  
 And dabbled with roses of blood  
 Each desperate darling daughter  
 Shall swim in the fervid flood.  
 I bring ye laughter and tears,  
 The kisses that foam and bleed,  
 The joys of a million years,  
 The flowers that bear no seed.  
 My life is bitter and sterile,  
 Its flame is a wandering star.  
 Ye shall pass in pleasure and peril  
 Across the mystical bar  
 That is set for wrath and weeping  
 Against the children of earth;  
 But ye in singing and sleeping  
 Shall pass in measure and mirth!  
 I lift my wand and wave you  
 Through hill to hill of delight;  
 My rosey rivers lave you  
 In innermost lustral light.  
 I lead you, lord of the maze,  
 In the darkness free of the sun;  
 In spite of the spite that is day's  
 We are wed, we are wild, we are one.

Shigar Baltistan

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B O O K B E A T

THE OCCULT RENAISSANCE by Louis T. Culling  
A Llewellyn Publications Release - 1972

The Occult Renaissance, 1972-2008 by Mr. Culling is a short and sweet little book in which he reviews the evolution and devolution of occultism. He is quite familiar with both occultism and the people who have played active roles in it over the last fifty some odd years. Culling has produced several of the finest books anywhere on related occult subjects, including The Incredible I-Ching, A Manual of Sex Magick and The Complete Magick Curriculum of the Secret Order G. B. G. , and I read the Occult Renaissance with complete enthusiasm.

The general theme of this book is that the entire field of the occult had a tremendous upsurge of activity and interest beginning roughly in the year 1894 and lasting roughly to 1936. In that year, Culling feels the "doors to the mysteries" were closed and occultism has been in the "dark ages" through 1971. He feels that the Renaissance has begun again officially with the Spring Equinox of this year and will continue until the year 2008, at which time the cycle will again complete and close. He supplements these theories with year to year

examinations of occult activity and draws his conclusions from this mass of interesting writing. As a true Culling fan, I began telling people about the Renaissance and one day last month, I found myself in the company of several of the better astrologers in Chicago and pulled out my copy for their examination. Erika Herzy found his astrological correspondences interesting, but upon closer examination, felt that his precession was miscalculated. She went to work and has produced a short essay which is presented here.

The book shines a lot of light upon the occult past and is a definite addition to the Modern Occult Magic and Occult: A History volumes. Erika's work is an interesting after word to Renaissance and possibly Mr. Culling will give us further information and interpretation for the future issue of the Digest.

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P R E C E S S I O N   A N D   T H E   A S T R O L O G Y   O F   C Y C L E S  
by Erika Herzy

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Although I do not disagree with Louis Culling's interpretation of a 72-year occult cycle, his arbitrary choice of 1900 as the start of the last one and 1972 as the next is astrologically incorrect.

Cyril Fagan and Donald Bradley did much research into the sidereal zodiac, which unlike the more popular tropical zodiac, takes the precession of the equinoxes into account. Precession is that phenomenon of "slippage" which causes the tropical zodiac to shift backwards against the fixed stars. In the tropical system, Aldebaran for instance is presently at 9 Gemini, but in the sidereal zodiac, it is "fixed" at 15 Taurus always. Since it means "the eye of the Bull", one may suppose the middle of Taurus to be its home rather than Gemini.

Most sidereal astrologers in Europe and America use the Fagan-Bradley ayanamsa as reflected in the Stahl-Allen Synetic Vernal Point Ephemeris for ingresses and dating transits. This method put 6 degrees of Pisces (exactly 24 degrees of precession) conjunct the vernal point in 1947. Which means the

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new cycle of roughly 72 years started between April 21, 1947 and May 1, 1947. The cycle is not exactly 72 years for technical reasons. The two zodiacs were congruent (o Aries at the vernal point) in 221 A.D. In other words, 221 A.D. was the start of the Piscean age, and approximately 2379 A.D. will be the start of the Aquarian Age.

There are about 25,920 years in a Great Year of 360 zodiacal degrees, 2,160 years in an age of 30 degrees, 180 years in each sub-age of 2 and a half degrees, and then the 72-year cycle for 1 degree of precession. Each of the periods should have distinct characteristics and its "avatar" or person of importance who exemplifies or dominates the period. Christ himself was of the Arian Age, he is called "Lamb of God", and his mode of death (metal spikes piercing flesh, scourging, which used metal-tipped thongs) was certainly of the nature of Mars. His followers on the other hand instituted the church during the Piscean Age with its emphasis on "faith" and "fishes". One of the major planets discovered during the period was even given rulership over the sign by most astrologers.

We entered the Sagittarian sub-age of the Piscean age around 1839 during the feminine or nuturing last half of the 72-year cycle. During this time Neptune, supposed ruler of Pisces, was discovered and in terms of the occult world, the groundwork was laid for a new instigating or masculine cycle to start in 1875. From 1839 to 1875, interest in things spiritual and occult soared, especially in England. In Spring, 1875, precession into Pisces was exactly 23 degrees. That is to say, at that time, the vernal equinox was in 7 degrees of Pisces. This, then, should have instituted a new 72-year cycle of two distinct 36-year periods. Assuming astrological truth is part of cosmic truth (as above, so below), let us investigate the period 1875-1911 as the so-called masculine or innovative period.

Madame Blavatsky founded the Theosophical Society in 1875, the London Lodge beginning in January, 1883. Aleister Crowley was born October 12, 1875 and died in 1947, exactly 72 years or one degree of precession later! The Golden Dawn was founded in 1887, the first lodge officially opening in 1888. John Yarker finished his unification of some High Masonry rites in 1875, and chartered a group of German occultists in 1902 which apparently led to the O. T. O. Most Western occultists would agree that these influences and their offshoots are the major tides in modern occultism.

Crowley wrote most of the Equinox between 1909 and 1913, and it was in May, 1911 that the vernal point was exactly 23 and a half degrees into Pisces, marking the start of the feminine or nuturing (building for the next cycle) period. April, 1911 there was a court trial in London which publicly smirched Crowley's reputation. He lost many of his members and never again had as large or powerful a following in his own native land. But until his death, he wrote and taught others. Crowley died December 1, 1947, a fact which may lead us to conclude that, for better or for worse, he was the Western occult representative of the 72-year cycle covering the period 1875-1947.

Since the so-called Occult Renaissance can now be dated more accurately, the period from late April, 1947 to Feb. 10, 1983 is the masculine or innovating period, while 1983 to early 2019 is the feminine period. A new sub-age and 72-year period starts in 2019. That will be the start of the Capricorn sub-age of the Piscean Age.

Just as Neptune's mystical, vaguely Oriental mode conditioned 1875-1947 in modern occultism, so Pluto's power complex and back to the roots mode is conditioning the present 72-year cycle. The return to Paganism and witchcraft is certainly a "back to the foundations" movement as distinct from the mawkish "beautiful dreamer" philosophies set forth in Victorian England. Since the

cont. next p.

Sagittarian sub-age also has to do with more-or-less learning about occult methods all over again, the Capricornian sub-age starting in 2019 will undoubtedly usher in the wide-spread utilization of such knowledge. Sagittarius likes to do his thing in groups; Capricorn manipulates from behind the scenes, alone (or almost) and in secrecy. Magically speaking then, we are still in an innocent time -- High Magic for this age occurs during the sub-ages starting in 2019 and lasting until the start of the next age at least in 2379 A.D.



## SYMBOLOLOGY AND RELIGION

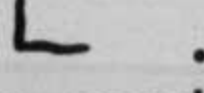
by CassandraB

In our daily lives, we run across many symbols, substitutions and objects with symbolic meaning. As we grow, we become familiar with various symbols that eventually cause us to identify ideas or philosophies with them. Any first grader, for instance, knows a red light on a traffic light means do not cross the street, because cars have the right of way. And similarly, the same first grader knows when the traffic light is green, he has the right of way. We learn our symbolism from experience. And lack of knowledge of the more complex ones often cause great confusion and often embarrassment to the "unknower". I will try to clear up the symbolism people run up against in many religious symbols, in particular, all the "stars" people come across.

As in many of the "star" formations we come across, I have found that a great deal of them relate to a particular religion's feelings about the cycles of nature. Stars are used to indicate seasonal worship, as I shall point out. It has been said that if you count the number of points in a given "star" associated with a given religion, you will find out how many "seasons" of worship they have.

Let's start with a famous star, the sun. In symbolism, it looks like this:

☉ It is a circle with a dot in the middle of it. It's origin has been traced back to as far as the prehistoric times. The ancient sun worshippers of prehistoric times wore this one-pointed star as a symbol of their constant worship of this life-giving star. Burial sights, where prehistoric bones have been identified, have rocks in them with the circle and dot pictured over primitive fields, as well as over snow-covered mountains. As the caveman, and later the Egyptians, and still later, the Romans, Grecians, Celts, etc., used this symbol, the constant importance of "the one-pointed star" in daily life became more and more apparent. As technology grew, more and more "scientific priests" found out the importance of the sun on crops (thus fertility) and seasons of hot and cold. It was this symbol used in priestly "prayers" to the sun for assurance of crop fertility and energy for the crops to grow high and strong. As plentiful crops and sufficient food to live on all year round was necessary, the sun was worshipped all year (naturally, since the sun rules the computation of a year) as a preserver of strength and energy. Thus, one "point" - one season all year.

Next comes the two-pointed star of the Masons. It looks like this:  . It is a right angle. It indicates duality. It indicates two modes of ideas coming together but briefly to make one solid form. It indicates two opposites (i.e., vertical as opposed to horizontal, male as opposed to female, living as opposed to dead, etc.).

cont. next p.

It shows a need in real life to accept opposites and form them into not opposites, but polarities that complete one another. The dual principle forming one solid form is very important to a Mason. Even not in application to the mystic order of the Masons, a stonemason must make solid structures out of loose rocks, and mortar. He must relate to solidity as opposed to fragmentation in order to be considered a responsible worker. However, the mystic order of the Masons recognizes that opposites must be solids at one point and incorporated this concept as a basic principle of their rites. Thus two points: two basic principals.

Next comes the three-pointed star; namely, the triangle. In this line, we find a great number of philosophies using it. In astrology, it relates to the three forces of stability, instability and flexibility. In other words, it related to the fixed, cardinal and mutable signs of all similar elemented signs (again more symbols) in the zodiac.

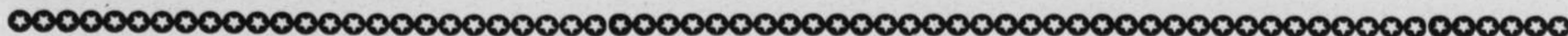
In fertility cults, this three-pointed star related to male principal, female principal and their offspring. In simple terms, it related to father, mother and child. In Christianity, it relates to the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They leave out the female principal and give their system of hierarchy a male, male and bird, in that the common representation of the Holy Spirit is that form of the dove. Perhaps the Christians are referring to the dove as a messenger between man, the high spirit (Father) to the man of earthbound qualities (Son) in the form of a free flying creature that links the two of them together upon divine instruction (Holy Ghost). In most religions, which use a triangle as a mystic symbol, the concept of fertility of either mind or body is present. Thus three points: one coming from or between two.

Next comes the four-pointed star: namely, the cross. It looks like this:

✚. It is the Star of Bethlehem, the star of opposites forming equals, the star of defensiveness or passiveness, the star of the four tropical seasons of the year. In the form of the star of Bethlehem, we all know its symbology. It is the light that came to be upon the birth of the son (sun god perhaps?). The star of enlightenment. It is the opposites (horizontal and vertical) that come together at the middle and form two equal parts from each other. If by chance, the cross section is made with more vertical line at the bottom than at the top (✚), it symbolizes the sheathed sword, the passive nature. If the vertical line is cross-sectioned on the bottom, leaving a large amount of vertical line above (✚), it is the unsheathed sword indicating defensiveness. In zodiacal terms, it is the start of the four seasons. The four cardinal points of the zodiac. Perhaps to the four cross sections of the path of the sun. And in narrow-minded thinking, it represents the four races. All in all, the four points are divisions in which a person must put in their own polarities. Thus four points: four polarities.

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THE OCCULT DIGEST IS ACCEPTING ART WORK FOR IT'S COVER PICTURES. SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE DIGEST WILL BE REWARDED TO EVERY WORK ACCEPTED. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE DONE IN BLACK INK, AND MUST SIZE UP TO FIT THE PRESENT FORMAT AS IS. ENTER.¶¶¶



Relax for a moment, concentrate, go back in time, all of a sudden you observe us for the first time, and you think, "What an odd lot we are." Most evident is our emotionalism. We love and we hate with the same intense  $\triangle$ . We have more  $\triangle$  than  $\nabla$   $\triangle$  or  $\nabla$  combined, for our will is pure  $\triangle$ .

With this will, we create and destroy, hate and love, we are vindictive and forgiving. We are an odd assortment of colors and nations that get together to pollute the water and air, as we assemble to fight pollution. We run the machines that tear down our wildlife and vegetation and we organize to save it. We are logical and illogical, intelligent and stupid. Emotions are both high and low, positive and negative. We murder and save lives. There isn't a day that goes by without a war of some kind, and at the opposite pole, trying to prevent war. Our opposites are infinite and I haven't the time or room to complete a full listing, nor is it necessary.

The point, you see, is that I am also a human being from earth, and have the same odd points as everyone else. Although I think my faults are fewer than others. (My outstanding point is my modesty.) But with all our shortcomings, I still love us; however, I also hate us.


Actually, there are a few masters of nature whose mother is knowledge and whose father is will and strength of the laws of nature with their unlimited power and truth.

One of the most important facts ever stated was given to man by the Thrice Greatest Hermes and is preserved for us in the Kybalion.

"The principles of truth are seven: that being mentalism, correspondence, vibration, polarity, rhythm, cause & effect, and the last gender. He who knows these, understandingly, possesses the magic key before whose touch all the doors to the temple fly open."

Understand Hermes' quote and then you will understand the principles. The object of this article is for you to see the laws which operate in our daily lives through the principles of nature. It's not to try to reform anyone. For we were created with free will and free will we have. So whatever you want to do, go right ahead; whatever you project, you receive; whatever currents of thought or deed we send out, so shall we receive in deed and thought.

It is better to do evil than nothing, for evil is a balance of nature. To do nothing is to be idle and to be idle is to be non-creative, which is the only deed against the cosmic forces, but all other actions are balanced.

In closing, I will say, learn all of your body's functions, for your  is your universe and to learn it is to be a god of the workings of nature, and manipulate it with your power of knowledge. This is all food to be digested, but never to be discharged from the mind stuff of the first principle.

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## RITUALS OF THE PENTAGRAM

## Part II - The Theosophy of the Flaming Star

Monograph #17-B  
Part II

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Man being a microcosm, his whole being has the same constitution as that of the universe. The elements present in external nature are the same as those within the Magickal being of man. The process of dealing with external powers is called invocation and that of dealing with internal powers is called evocation. For the rites of invocation we use the Upright Pentagram; for those of evocation we use the Averse Pentagram. In the former case, we deal with the Upper or Supernal Gods and Powers; in the latter, we deal with the Lower or Infernal Forces. The operator must be careful, however, not to attach any moral significance to these terms, for it is a matter of direction only. Good and Evil lie in both directions, no more so in one than in the other. Evil appears and frightens us only because we meet something which we are as yet unprepared to face. C. F. Russell once said, "Fear arises from knowledge of our own weakness and unpreparedness to cope with the circumstance. What you are in your soul is exactly what you have made yourself either in this or other lives."

As long as we continue to go about in our daily lives in the ordinary ways to which external circumstances have accustomed us, we can never hope to shine forth as a star. But the moment we begin to aspire and do begin to do something extraordinary, that is different from custom, we plant the seed which will in time flourish and bear fruit. Our "star" will remain dark and obscure as long as we allow external circumstances to govern us.

To begin making it bright in spots and intelligible, we must determine to take our destiny into our own hands. The method is simple and easy. Set apart a few minutes each day and during that time act, think and feel in a manner quite distinct from the ordinary. Take a short holiday period each day and banish from your mind all the thoughts and emotions, worries and problems which usually occupy your attention and concentrate exclusively on something quite disconnected from your routine life. It does not especially matter what it is that you choose to occupy yourself with during this period. In the mystery schools, the neophyte is usually given either a mantra or symbol to work with, but anything upon which your concentration can be directed will suffice. But whatever symbol you choose, let the study be done correctly -- do not for one second permit yourself to slide back into habitual ways of acting. Attention must not leave the object of meditation. When it does (and it will), immediately get back to it. As the pattern is adjusted, your slips will occur less and less. (For a more in-depth study, I suggest Crowley's Book 4, Part I.) Remember that during this period, you are attempting to surpass your ordinary self and put forth the best that you have within you, i. e., communicating with your higher self or Holy Guardian Angel. This practice will become like an oasis in the desert from which you can constantly draw forth spiritual nourishment and stimulation. And the rhythm will rest and recharge your being.

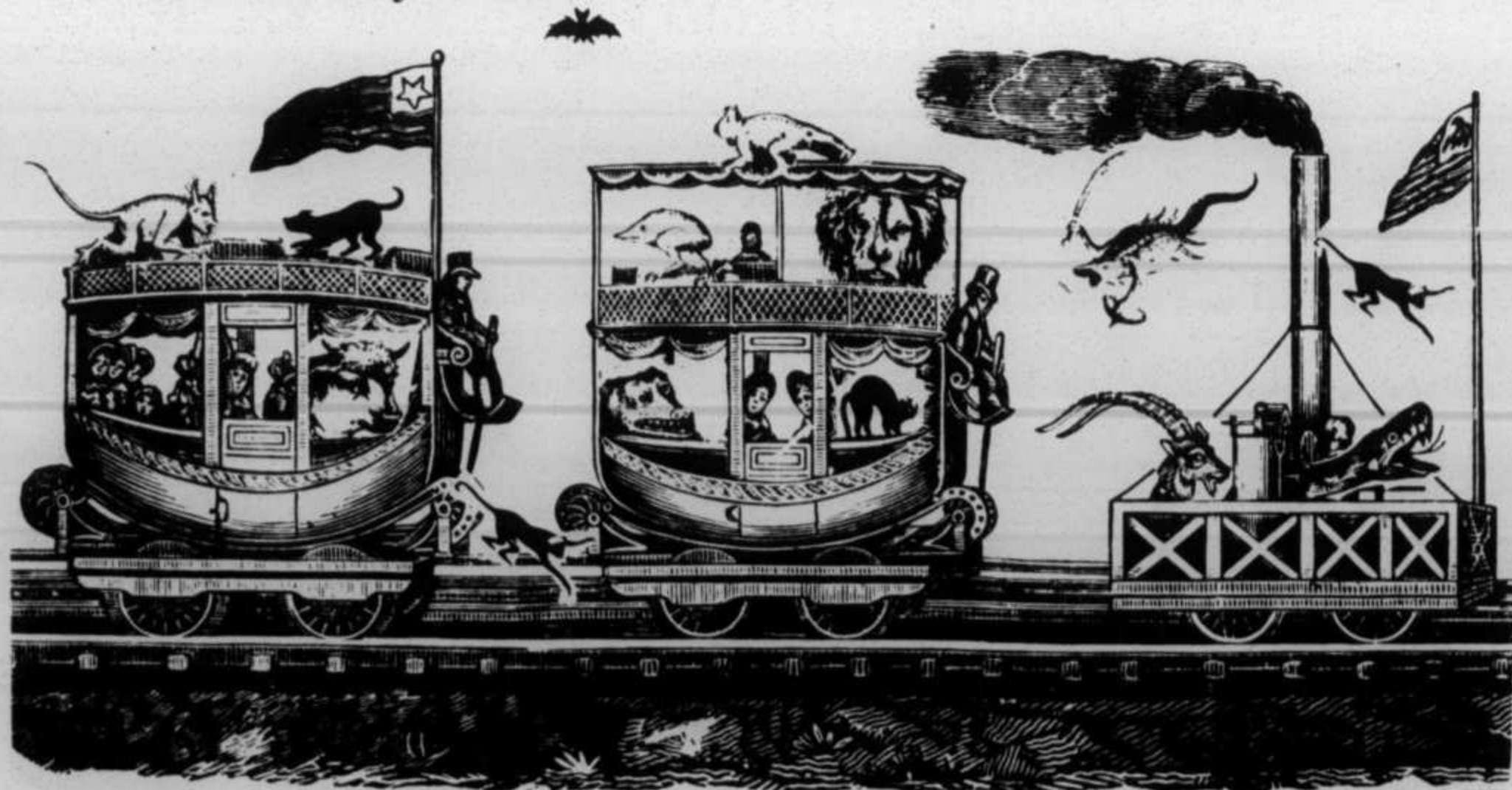
A short ceremony is one of the best ways of concentrating the attention on something quite different from daily affairs, and I offer this ritual to those of

cont. next p.

you who are familiar with the above meditative techniques and have had some success in "stilling the outer mind and allowing the inner Will to surface". The first five directions form what is known as the QABALISTIC CROSS and when followed by steps 6 to 10, form the RITUAL OF THE FLAMING STAR. The student should practice this ritual at home in a quiet area where he will at some point begin to feel and notice a change in his or her metabolism, usually a warm feeling circulating through the body and a light feeling in the head. Remember, intent is 90% of success in all Magickal operations. Shine on young star!

1. Stand erect in the east point of the room and touch the forehead with the right thumb placed between the index and medius and say - ATEH (which means "UNTO THEE").
2. Then touch the lower breast (solar plexus) and say MALKUTH (The Kingdom).
3. Touch the right shoulder, say VE GEBURAH (And The Power)
4. Touch the left shoulder, say VE GEDULAH (And The Glory)
5. Grasp the hands together on the breast, say LE OLAHM, AMEN (To The Ages, Amen).
6. Now turn to the north, using the thumb placed as described above and make the Averse Pentagram of Earth (see Vol. 2, #3). Then vibrate the following words, prolonging it or chanting it, ARO ELOHIM (Power Of Earth).
7. Now turn to the West, make the Averse Pentagram of Water, vibrate, MIM ELOHIM (Powers of Water)
8. Turn to the South, make the Averse Pentagram of Fire, vibrate, ASH ELOHIM (Powers of Fire)
9. Turn to the East, make the Averse Pentagram of Air, vibrate, RUACH ELOHIM (Powers of Air)
10. Turn again to the WEST. Extend the arms straight out from the shoulder and spread your legs so that your body represents the star. Now chant the following:

"On my right hand is the Bull, before me lies the Dragon,  
behind me stands the Man, and my left hand holds the Lion.  
For about me flames the Pentagram and in the column stands  
the six-rayed Star."



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### THE MYSTERY OF THE ELEVATED TRAIN

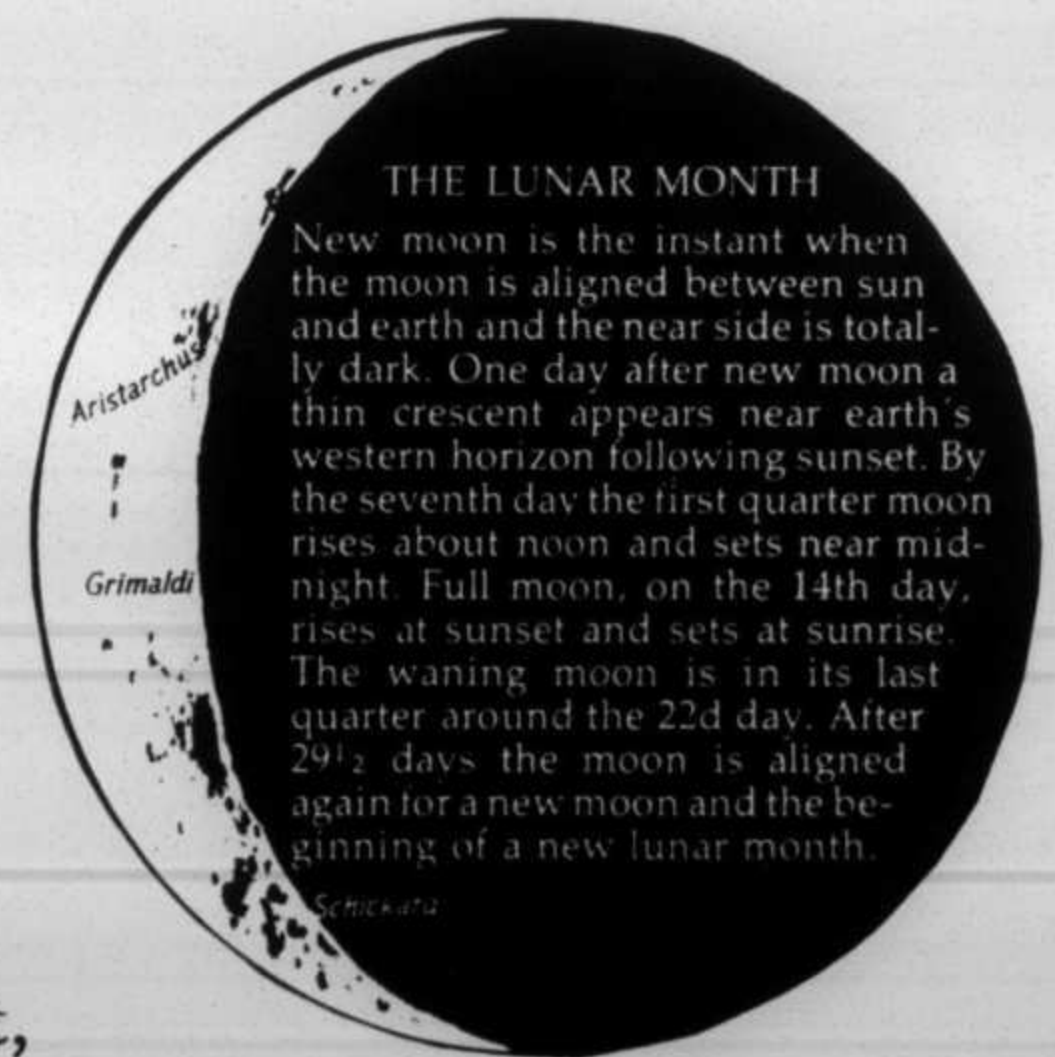
by Donald Montgomery

Remotely twisting on its way,  
The elevated like a winding serpent  
Sweeps across the sky.

Above the swarm it roars--  
Above the mass,  
Above the seething crowds.  
Like a giant monster playing with life and death.  
Swirling into the night, as if trying to dash the people  
to their death below.

"Any minute now, " it whispers,  
"I will round the next curve --  
And it will be the last one."

One grows dizzy with swirling helplessly into the night,  
Commanded, as it were, by a demon train;  
Whose only thought seems to be to terrify its victims.



#### THE LUNAR MONTH

New moon is the instant when the moon is aligned between sun and earth and the near side is totally dark. One day after new moon a thin crescent appears near earth's western horizon following sunset. By the seventh day the first quarter moon rises about noon and sets near midnight. Full moon, on the 14th day, rises at sunset and sets at sunrise. The waning moon is in its last quarter around the 22d day. After 29 1/2 days the moon is aligned again for a new moon and the beginning of a new lunar month.

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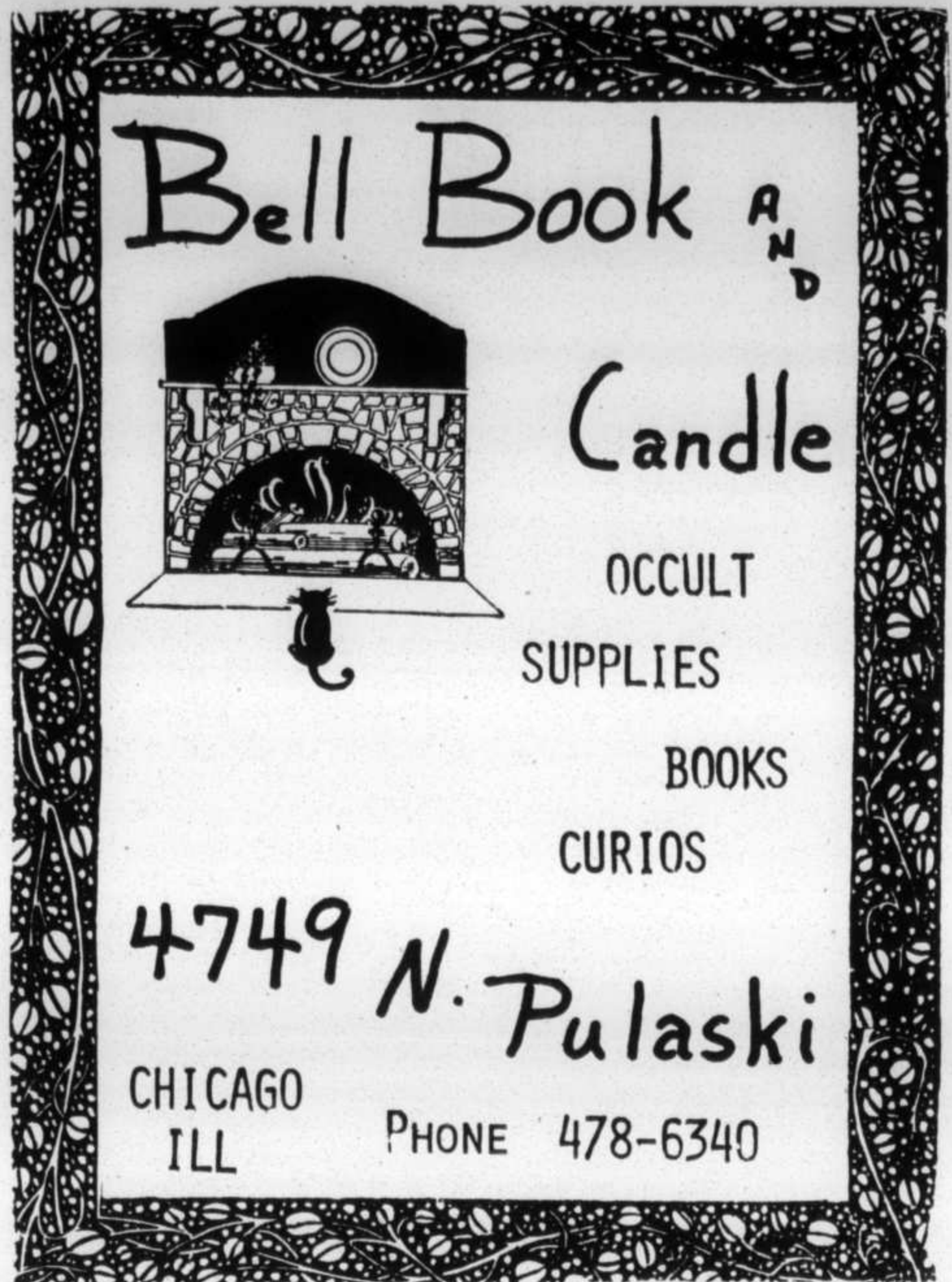
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BEWARE! The Illusionment  
The strain and self-abusement  
The terrible wrath of reality  
Is creeping in on me

The Digest mind is glowing  
On the Occult window showing  
Me the truth behind  
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With offers of a chance  
To turn religion and romance  
Into conceptions black and white  
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Yet you refuse! And go your way  
And I sit here one more day  
And I contemplate  
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O, the pity of the pen,  
It's so worthless without men  
Who can find the time  
To share with us their mind



Does it take a Papal order  
Written stylish with border  
To enforce the bond  
And get you to respond ?

Nay, I say. So go away  
For this work receives no pay.  
I can do no more  
Until you're at my door.



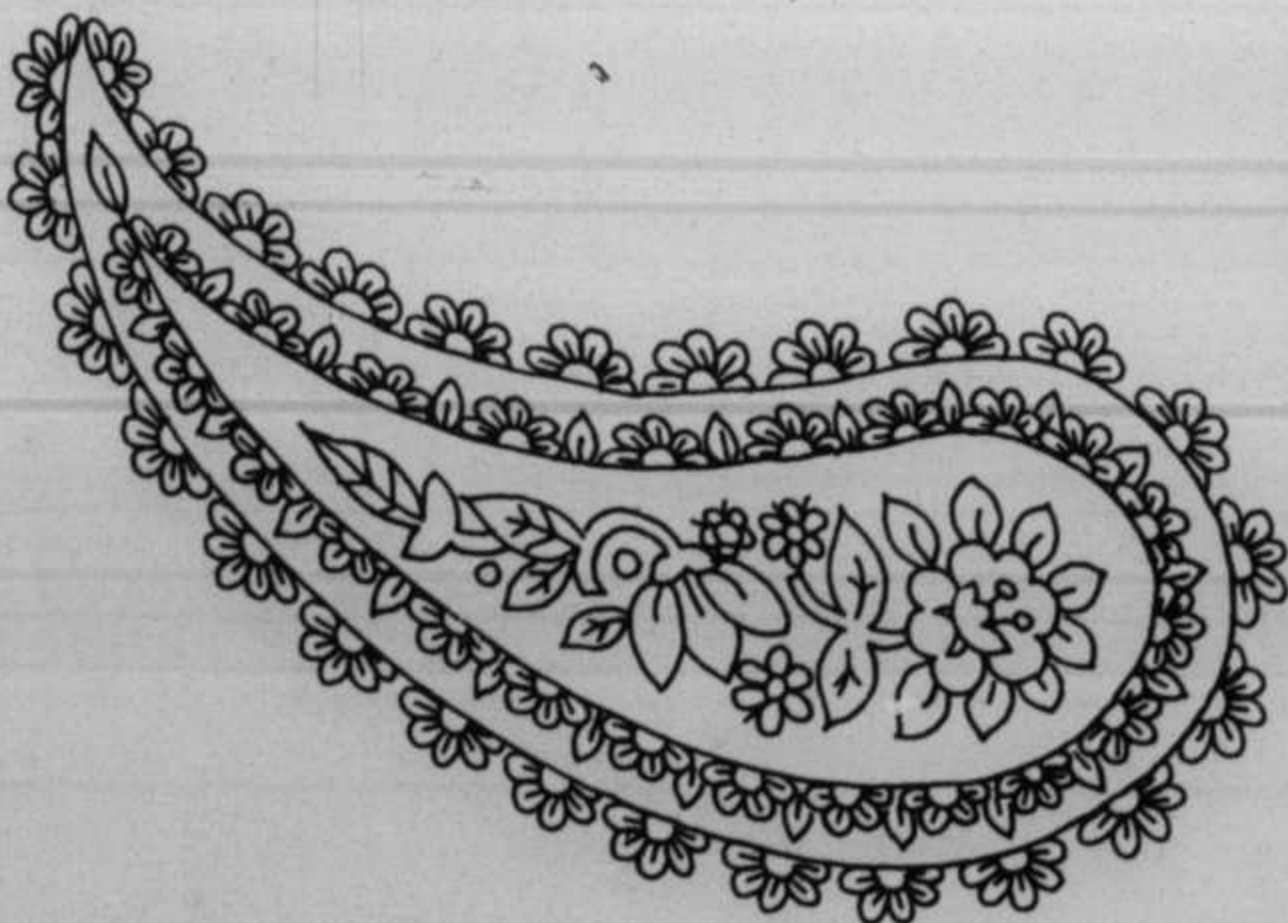

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By old standards I know ye by,  
My tools forged by the rivers run dry  
Ceremony and acts which I once knew  
In wisdom, tried, ancient, and true  
Faith eclipsed by knowledge, of love  
Symbols borne long by the stars above  
Now..I conjure--invoke--and plead...  
Free this my spirit for purpose and need  
To place in man the God sown seed  
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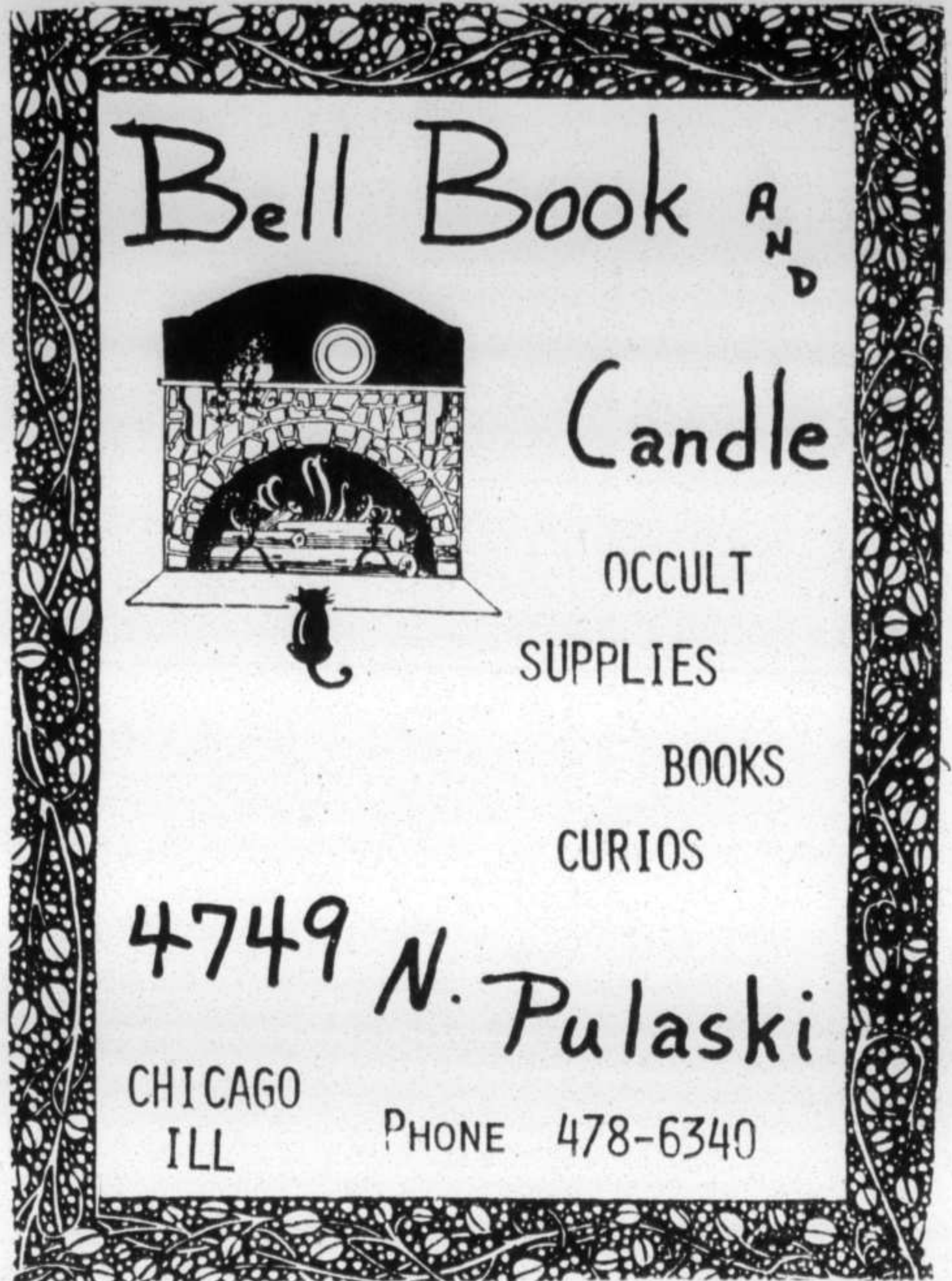
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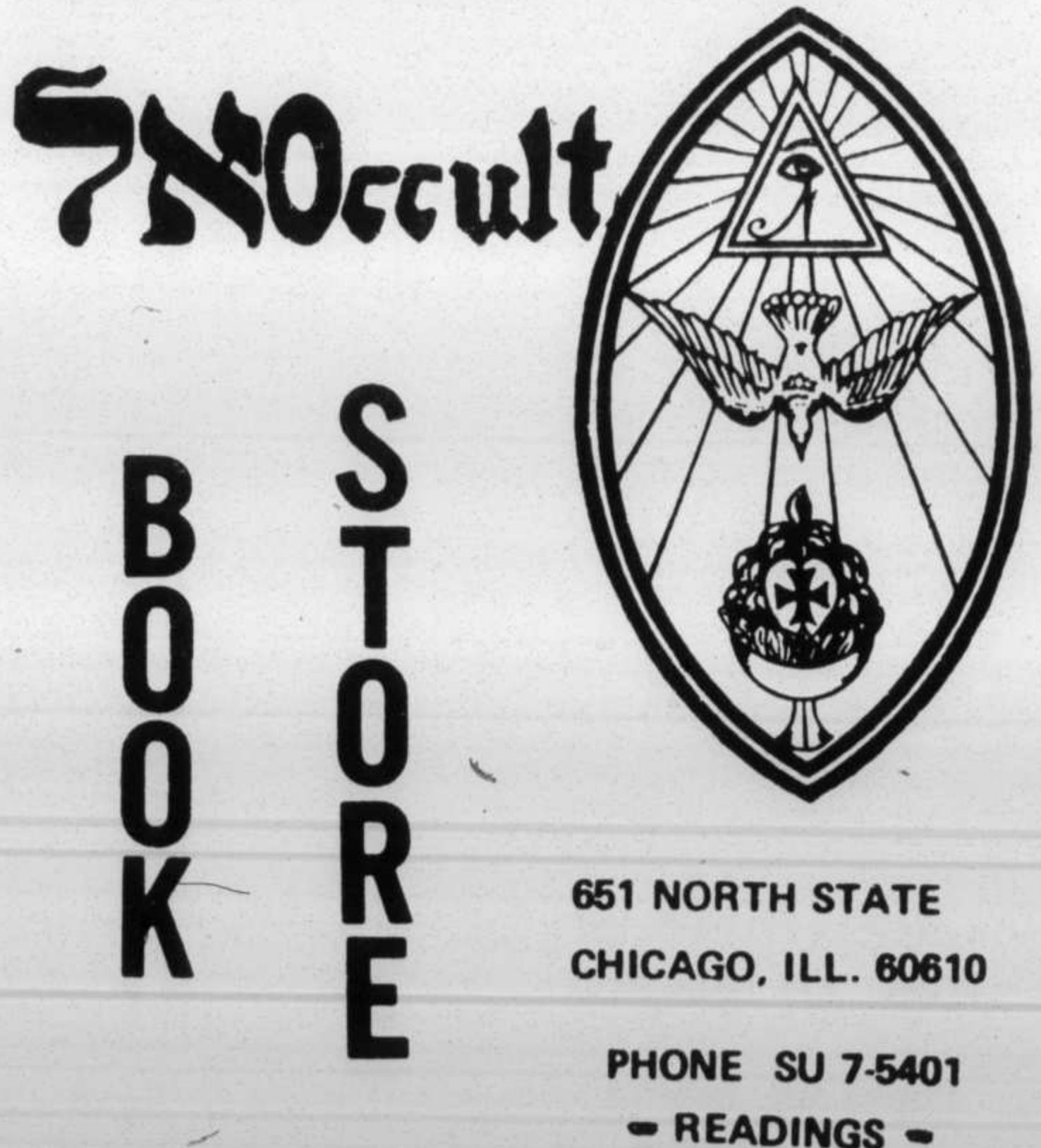
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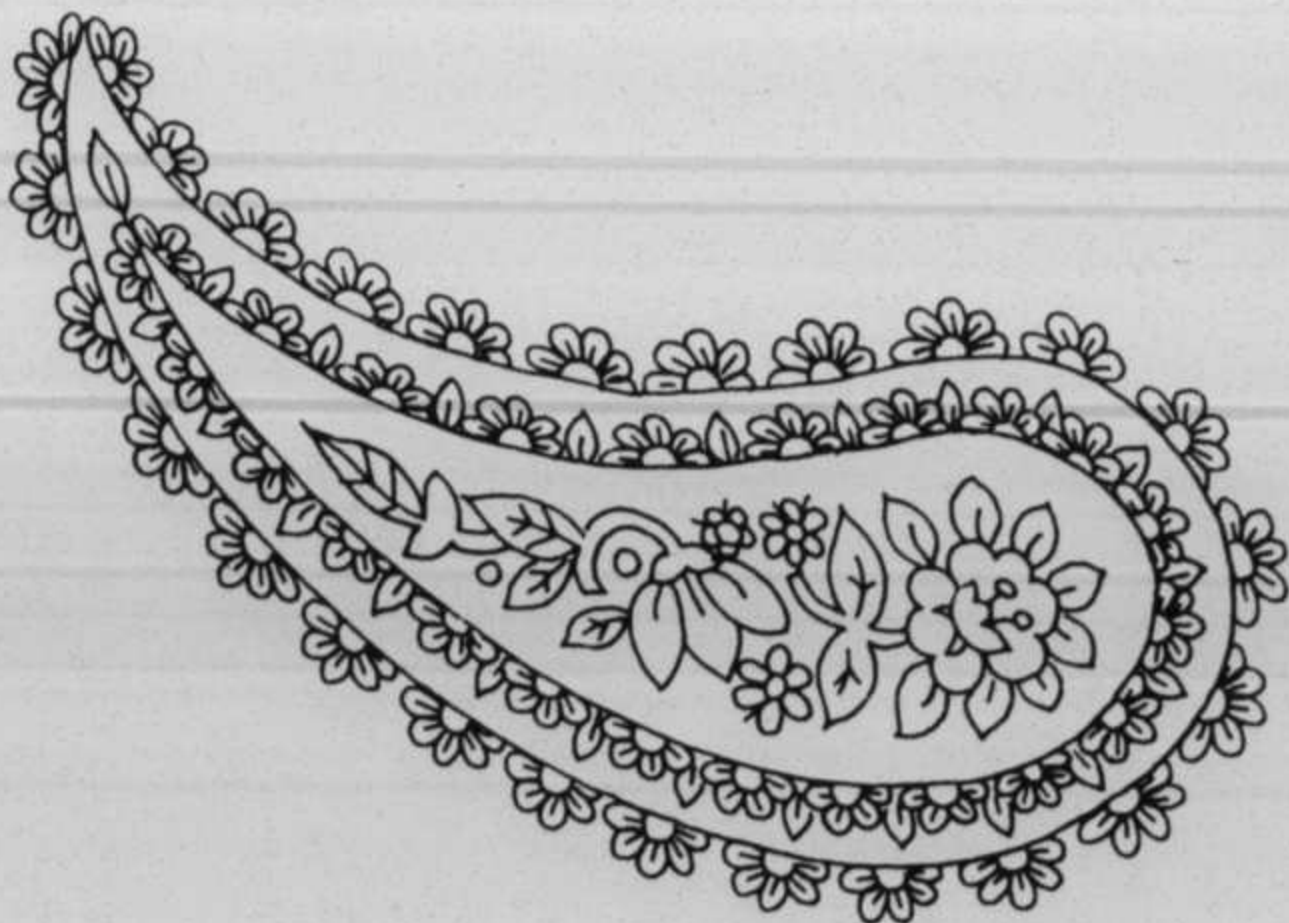

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I do not expect you to agree with me, but if  
I make you think I have done you a service.  
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