

This file contains a complete series of Uncle Setnakt Sez –columns, written by Don Webb.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO UNCLE SETNAKT SEZ

In 1989 I joined the Temple of Set having decided that ten years of solitary occult practice had taken me about as far it could. I did not think that an organization would be of great help, but I was impressed with the Setians I had met, particularly Dr. Stephen Edred Flowers. I was certainly not impressed with the "Satanic" aesthetic that colored all of the Left Hand Path in the West - after all many of my friends were and are performance artists - who know how to shock an audience, make them think and not look like a reject from a Heavy Metal band. However I did not join to observe from some safe remove, hoping to steal a crumb of wisdom from the Setian table. I decided that early on I needed to participate in the antinomian aspect of cultural change, and learn first hand what happens to your inner strength if you test against the world.

The late eighties and early nineties were times of what is now called the "Zine Revolution." Cheap desktop publishing let anybody with a few hundred bucks to spare the ability to create a newsletter and hurl into the world. A friend of mine, Mike Gunderloy, put together a huge magazine called *Factsheet Five* that reviewed the thousands of small magazines. This pre-WWW time people on small budgets had the ability to fling their words far and wide, and everyone that wanted to change the world took advantage of this process.

I saw the zine world as a great way to perform **real magie**, a chance to change opinions about Setian practice. The popular press in one of the most ridiculous witch hunts of the later Twentieth Century had decided that Satan and his cohorts were up to all manner of crime from harming kids to taking over the world money supply. The fact that serious investigators in the US, UK and Canada were able to show that "Satanic" crime was myth mattered little. And of course people that labeled themselves Satanists made the whole thing worse by spending most of their time simply denying. "NO we don't that. No we don't do this." So it looked to me like a good time to tell people what we did do.

Now I could have written my essays in a style more like a professor of contemporary religion (after all my home library bulges with Eliade), which would have interested one or two people - OR I could dream a Satanic personality that dispensed advice like an unwelcome but voluble drunk in the neighborhood pub. I chose the later path. I figured he would sound more like what people would expect a Satanist to sound like. I wrote a series of little essays called "Uncle Setnakt Sez."

The name "Setnakt" is a nominal sentence in the Egyptian language. It means "Set is Mighty." It was the name of the founder of the XXth dynasty, one of two dynasties that worshipped Set in the New Kingdom of Egypt. The choice was fairly arbitrary, but as I found more about this Pharaoh and more about the Egyptian idea of "might" - I came to see this name as revealing an important part of my personality, both to myself and to the world. It has become my magical name.

My little essays were written for half a dozen small Satanic zines in the US, UK, New Zealand and so forth. I had no over-riding plan, and considered them to be a diversion from the more serious writing I did for the Temple of Set. I simply wrote about what was on my mind when the deadline came around. I did choose writing for the deadlines of the magazines because that made me periodically examine my Initiation and condense it - which is a good example of the self-chosen test as a Gift from the self to the Self.

I wrote the essays in the form of nine short paragraphs. The number "Nine" has a mysterious reputation, based on the properties that it shows in base ten arithmetic. I made use of this "spooky"

factor in my columns to make people play deeply with them. While they looked for secret codes, I simply put what I had to say out there in simple terms.

I did not think much would come of the essays. They were short and for the most part poorly distributed. Certainly if I wrote them today, I would choose a very different voice and explain my ideas more clearly. But like any magical writing they took on a life of their own. They were photocopied, put up on websites for the most part WITHOUT my permission, some were even quoted reform in books on current occult phenomena.

A surprising number of people that have joined the Temple of Set have read these pieces.

Now I don't have a complete set of the essays. I never even got some of the magazines they were printed in. However like any magical Utterance they did have an effect on the Objective Universe. Since other people seemed to have drawn some useful inspiration from them, I decided to release them to this site. I decided to edit them as little as possible, but I do strongly urge anyone interested in my current thoughts to buy my book **Uncle Setnakt's Essential Guide to the Left Hand Path**. It can be ordered from Azure Green or ask your local bookstore.

There are some assumptions that I held when I wrote these essays, that I do **NOT** have now. I assumed that the two branches of the Western Left Hand Path would form a common cause under the name of "Satanism." I disagree with my youthful self, as I have come to see a great dynamism in Setian philosophy that shows it has the potential to take a place in the philosophical world as strong and sure as it has taken in the occult world. (It is a long way from this right now, so Nietzsche need not be looking over his shoulder just yet.) Whereas Satanism - generally identified with the adolescent philosophy of Anton La Vey (which was after all THE philosophy of the USA for the seventies and eighties) has begun a decline into the very things it stood against. I believed that it was very important to get members by appealing to the sense of rebellion that a reader of a zine would have. Nowadays I believe that although that sense of "me against the world" James Dean-ism is part of the Initiatory process, I feel that it is the EASY part. I think that our society, in order to market books, records and clothing to young adults has crated a greater sense of posing that would make it harder for a potential Black Magician to don a business suit than getting his nose pierced. This compartmentalizing and sanctifying of rebellion ended the Satanic revolution that Howard Stanton Levey started as an individual path - although I am sure that it will produce some Good (i.e. consciousness enhancing) attitudes in the social and political realms. Lastly in those days I thought it was good to under-report the amount of work it takes to tread the Left Hand Path; after all these essays were written for males in their early twenties, a group not known for their anxious desire to work. Young adults have to take up self-change - the fact their nervous systems stopped growing after High School leaves them with a hunger for it. Thus all new moments are of interest to such people. The true Initiate may come in through the door of sociology, but can only remain if she sees living examples that the self-change work pays off.

Now I will be forwarding these files to the owner of this site a little at a time. That is because they were written in an old word processing program called Sprint, and I have to clean them up to something he can use, which is time-consuming and I do have other irons in the fire. I will for the most part try to keep the files in order. They cover five years 1989-1994 when I became a Master of the Temple. They often disagree with each other, which of course should be the case if they do represent the thoughts of a human going through the sort of self-directed self-change we in the Temple of Set call XEPER.

A FEW HINTS FOR NEW SATANISTS

Brimstone Quarterly told us to become evil and rule the world. Most of you thought that was a good idea. Those who didn't are presumably not reading this. Here are a few hints for new Satanists (and perhaps you more experienced pitchfork handlers might try them as well).

1. "If you make people **think** they are thinking, they will love you; but if you really make them think, they will hate you." The majority of the world (through no fault of their own) have lost their sense of self. They have replaced self with petty illusions. For people you wish to control, be sure that you do not damage these illusions. For example, if you wish to control your anti-abortionist boss: Get your boss to help you reason out a pro-life argument. Of course the boss will only be regurgitating an argument he heard on Trinity Broadcast Network, but no matter -- you have given him the illusion of thinking. You're now important for his illusion preservation. It is important that you do not fall under this sort of control. Watch out for "disciples." If someone comes to you for philosophical discussions and is argumentative, always wanting to go the wrong way and always reading material you've said is too advanced for her -- you've got a good student that may some day be your peer. If on the other hand someone comes to you that always praises your intellect, is willing to sit at your feet, etc., you have one of two things: a slave looking for a master, or a master looking for a slave. Step away from the situation and determine which is the case. Both can be put to use, and remember that's what they're there for.

2. Make robots work for you. We often overlook simple operant conditioning. Consider this line of patter, "Is there anyone out there who wants to go to Heaven?" "YES" Is there anyone out there who can say, 'Praise the Lord!?' "Praise the Lord!" "Is there anyone out there who will give his biggest bill to Jesus?" "YES" With a little operant conditioning, the evangelist has got most of his audience to promise away their money (and who will go back on a promise to God?). This technique of short, simple responses coupled with immediate positive feedback can work well in the board-room, bedroom, or trading rare baseball cards. In addition to getting other robots to work for you, you can get your own robot to contribute. Many Satanists forget that mindless repetitive actions, like needlepoint or mowing the lawn, are helpful in freeing up higher centers of thought. Any creative person can tell you that you've got to distance yourself from your problems. Whether you view these Aha! flashes as preconscious brain shuffling or the direct touch of the Lord of Darkness -- you must set up for them. Allowing your robot to work for you helps keep your mind fluid and flowing.

3. Let others give you their keys. Become aware of others' speech mannerisms. Listen to their whole speech, not just the meaty bits. You will begin to hear phrases like, "before I forget." Notice that the phrase that follows is usually something they want to forget but are afraid to. An excellent book on speech mannerisms is *Mannerisms of Speech and Gestures in Everyday Life* -- by Sandor S. Feldman (1955). I ain't the first Satanist to recommend this fearsome tome. Yes, Virginia, there is Inter-Library Loan. Satanists should learn to spot those mannerisms in their own speech. Examine why you say things and you'll discover it's a much more useful magical discipline than Crowley slashing himself on the thumb when he said I and a Hell of a lot less painful.

4. Erase your personal history. Alright, I stole it from Carlos Castaneda. (Read Richard De Mille's *The Don Juan Papers* to see where Castaneda stole stuff.) All of "don Juan's" reasons are good. Without personal history we are free from the encumbering thoughts of others. These thoughts affect both our actions in the mundane world and in the magical world. They create moulds for us to fill, deny us personal freedom (even if it's only the mould of being an "outrageous Satanist"). In the magical world their precise thoughts make us heavy when we should be soaring. This is why it is difficult to work magic on someone who knows us intimately. This is also why it is easier to work magic at 4:00 AM. Everybody's asleep and reality is more plastic. As an experiment don't fill the next person with your personal history. Be mysterious. Dart about in that small fog you've created around yourself.

5. They will know you by your label. Remember that "Satanist" is a shadow label. Regardless of what you are, others will be immediately moved by the Satanic label. A shadow label means you surround yourself with everything that society believes it isn't. Dionysian ecstasy to child abuse. The less empowered the average citizen is, the darker the shadow label. If you choose to use the powerful label "Satanist," people will immediately desire you, hate you, and fear you. All three emotions. All strongly. Use your labels well. You don't owe anything to these people. There is nothing wrong with remaining underground if it is done for a strategy rather than for mere cowardice.

6. Read your *Bible*. No, I mean the Christian one. It never hurts to be able to quote scripture. For those of you with necrophilic fetishes, there's plenty of arousing material. What about the scene of David cutting off the foreskins from two hundred dead Philistines so he might marry Saul's daughter? For the rest of us, we should remember that this book inspired the great pro-Satanic masterpiece *Paradise Lost*. The Bible was one of the first effective pieces of propaganda in the Western world. As thought-control book, it ranks with *Mein Kampf*. If you do not own a copy, they can be easily obtained in a nearby motel.

7. Believe nothing. Or at least as little as you can. If you wish to rule the world, you can feed as many irrational beliefs to others as you choose. If they breakthrough the dynamism of the irrational, then you may enlighten them, but if you've done your work correctly and limited their learning horizon, they won't break through. Once you have enlightened them, they will quantum leap to perfect freedom. The cycle of "Discipline -- Enlightenment --Liberation" worked for Hassan i Sabbah, Grandfather of Assassins (who said, "Nothing is True, Everything is Permitted."). It worked for the elite of Nazi Germany. It works today in every Zen monastery. It is important for you not to be caught up in belief systems. Question everything. Including Satanism.

8. Never forget the power of the cold reading. Once you have established yourself as a psychic, people will go out of their ways to make your predictions come true. You may use any method you like -- Tarot cards, tea leaves, or pure mentalism. You don't even have to be hokey -- you can just pass yourself off as "sensitive." If you've never seen a cold reading done, go with a friend to a palmist. Watch as she reads your friend's micro-gestures. "You are going somewhere, no, you are undergoing a change in your job." We deal with that kind of information in day-to-day conversation. Simply put it to psychic use. Of course, if you can gain any data that your subject doesn't know that you know, so much the better. After the initial reading (and remember you don't have to set this up as an occult show -- you can be a giver of sage advice, an intuitive kind of gal) the subject will volunteer all sorts of things to you. Practice the sage nod, the interspersing of pregnant comments. If you need models for any of this, any book with psychoanalysis sessions or the don Juan - Carlos Casteneda dialogues will suffice. They're glad to relinquish control of their lives to someone who seems wiser. Of course you must be sure you're not doing the same thing. Analyze your relationship with your therapist or card-reader!

9. Magic is the court of last resort. If you're running off to hex your neighbors because their stereo's too loud, don't expect the Prince of Darkness to aid you. Magician only become manifest through the strongest of emotions. Remember that most Ritual -- especially group work -- is to illustrate the workings of the will. Reserve your real magic for lust, compassion, destruction, and exploring the dark currents of Allternity.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

CONCERNING THE TASK OF BECOMING EVIL AND RULING THE WORLD

May all the readers of Brimstone enjoy a gladsome Yule! May those that live by the watchword of Indulgence find joy in the succulent meats, candies, and cookies as well as the revelry of New Year's Eve! May those that live by the watchword of Xeper exalt in these things and in the dark Work of Yuletide! Hail Year XXV! Now concerning the task of becoming Evil and ruling the world:

1. Control daydreams. Encourage people to live in their daydreams. Tell them they may become great writers, painters, hunters, etc. Fantasy is the most intoxicating drug. If you become their pusher, they need you. As a Black Magician, you must tone down (or eliminate) your own daydreaming. Set extraordinary goals for yourself. As you achieve real goals and put aside intoxicating fantasy, you will become aware of new things. Just as the drug addict is unaware of the physical world around him, the daydreamer is unaware of the spiritual realities surrounding him. In White Light religions, you're supposed to pray first and then hope big G will send you things. In the Left Hand Path, you must achieve your goals on your own. As you achieve them -- as you become yourself -- only then can you feel the presence of other intelligences that have separated themselves from the universe.

2. Create your own goals. Some people join the Left Hand Path to learn Lesser Black Magic to gather all the status tokens of the American dream. Others pour themselves into Greater Black Magic to become some muddy-thinking occultists. These people try and try, but all they're practicing is White Magic -- the art of transforming yourself into one of the herd. Consider the true Black Magician. She's always wanted to be that vampire she saw in a movie when she was five. She uses strategy and reason in her LBM. She gets enough money to drive around in her Black Massarati. She learns the cosmetic arts to shape herself to her true form. She moves in a sea of elegance and desire. The great American dream? No. A nut at the crystal counter? No. She has become herself. If she worked with an initiatory society, she didn't become involved in its politics. She didn't try to conform to nonexistent rules. She becomes herself and then she's ready for GBM. She invokes the vampire within her. If she accomplishes this carefully chosen goal, then the Lord of Darkness may dwell within her. The lady vampire in the movie? No, it wasn't an outside goal she fixated on. It was a touch from her future self. We are Gods after all. Don't look for omens --you only recognize them long afterwards.

3. Personalize your magic. White Magic insists on repetitions. You say this, do that, and breathe this way. In Black Magic, we move toward our own godhood. This is a harder path. We actively use our own memories and moods in the ritual chamber. This is not to be confused with introspection or simple moments of religious ecstasy. We refine and use our moods deliberately. They are just as concrete as swords, bells, incense, etc. and much more powerful. But like tools, we pick up our moods and use them and put them away. Since Black Magic requires a tremendous self awareness it is not for psychotics or weak-willed individuals. We do not deny that unaware individuals may achieve great sorcery, but they will never achieve godhood. When you find those moments that you truly are you have a glimpse of godhood. Awareness first, then Magic.

4. Satanism has common aspects with feminism. Both insist on politics of the personal. Both grew from the philosophical cauldron of the sixties. They broke from the institutionalized dialectic of America. Party one says these are the issues, and here's how we solve them. Party two says yeap that those are the issues, and here's how we solve them. Satanism and feminism said no. The important issues are things that society doesn't talk about. Freedom begins with my body. Freedom begins here with my mind. Feminist work centered on body and sexual freedom. Satanism centered on the freedom of desire and thought. The word Indulgence brought about a reversal of morality. We could seek out all those things denied us by Christ and Freud. We no longer hid our fetishes -- we flaunted them. We could even admit to greed (note how deeply the word of Indulgence has penetrated our society --evangelists now preach the love of money, no doubt to the puzzlement of the pale Nazarene). But we escaped from the trap of being a simple antithesis to Judeo-Christianity;

in X we received the word of Xeper. We now go beyond external systems of good and evil. Just as our feminist sisters are beginning to achieve freedom of their bodies, we are achieving freedom of our whole being.

5. Satanism has common aspects with Situationism. The criticism of the French New Left has begun to ask, What is the self in a commodified economy? What are we in a society which attempts to buy, sell, and (above all) package everything? A world in which quantity has replaced quality and advertising has replaced thought is antithetical to coming-into-being. The Situationist approach has been that of duality -- the inner life of the individual must become her own work of art, the outer work becomes an endless act of criticism -- decoding and deconstructing everything for its hidden texts. Whereas the Satanist must become aware of hidden texts, the ceaseless mental masturbation of deconstructionism is merely another trap. The Satanist does pursue the inner work of making his life a work of art. But the Satanist does not waste time criticizing/deconstructing society; instead she imposes an order on the economy of signs. She takes what she will for her own life and co-opts society's packages for the purpose of control. Anton La Vey once remarked that the truly Satanic society could be symbolized by a shiny Duesenberg parked at the curb surrounded by twenty admirers. The car has more life than its fans. Anton didn't go far enough -- only if the car is owned by a Satanist who is co-opting its fame for his own use is it a truly Satanic society. Both Satanism and Situationism are grounded in semiotics, but Satanism alone goes beyond the criticism of society to the imposition of our own order upon it.

6. Satanism shares some aspects with Nazism. Both contain the notion of an elite which energize and direct the masses. Both are frank about the power of Darkness and the stimulation of dark images. Both draw power from the distant past and the far future. Both are committed to the ideal of speeding mass evolution by speeding individual evolution. Where the Nazis went wrong was turning their dynamism against the life forces of others. Satanists consider life force as a precious resource. (By the way, if you hear of any group sacrificing animals or humans, they are not Satanists. If you live by -- or aspire to live by-- Satanic ideals, make sure you contact the correct authorities.) Satanism and Nazism release tremendous forces within their elite (and in the masses). Consider impoverished post-WWI Germany, which rose from its ashes under the dynamism of Nazism. Consider how the German rocket movement lives on. There's a pure example of life-force worship. The desire to push ourselves further and further into the great Dark. Both Satanism and Nazis push at the individual; however, Satanism has replaced the destructive hatred of Nazism with the pure black light of challenge.

7. Learn how to use the external nervous system. We have an opportunity as Black Magicians which generations of our kind would've given up their familiars for. An electronic net of TV, fax machines, personal computers, telephones, radios cover the world as never before. This presents the Black Magician with a one-to-one and a one-to-many chance to exercise his magic. The personal computer (plus a modem and telephone) enables us to work one-on-one beyond spatial and temporal limits. New Age buffoons are trying to get information from their "channels"-- we can exchange information instantly. If I'm designing a ritual involving a strobe light and I want to know what Hz to set the light at, I can dial up a neurophysiologist/Black Magician colleague. He'll tell me 6.66 Hz will induce a state between alpha and theta rhythms. The personal computer allows networking -- the elect can exchange its knowledge under the noses of the profane. Perhaps more than any other piece of technology, the personal computer is an external manifestation of the word of Xeper. In addition to one-to-one networking, one-to-many communications provides an opportunity for large-scale LBM. The Satanic potentials of TV and film are only beginning to be explored. We can illuminate or control. We could even create new archetypes. I am sure as the words of Indulgence and Xeper reach more individuals, we'll see many more Satanists following the lead of my nephew, the Daimon Egan. Human society is providing a nervous system -- it's up to us to provide a brain.

8. Learn to be gentle with yourself. The word of Indulgence teaches us the importance of ourselves. It reflects both delight and reason. We must fill our lives with our own comforts. Not as hermitages,

but as places of strength. As we progress we will encounter more and more resistance from the profane world. If we fail to make our lives places of beauty, we will wither under the pressure of profane life. Since we are the one-eyed men in the kingdom of the blind, we must take time to fill our lives with paintings and parks. It is not enough to become awake in a world of zombies, we must take responsibility for our enjoyment in such a world.

9. Learn to make the gesture of support. We are not under the commands of the Right Hand Path to love everyone. Black Magicians are by nature individualists. However, if we are to become aware of our own natures, we must learn to recognize the Satanic in others. Whenever we see the sparks of the Black Flame stirring in another breast, we must make a gesture of support. We can give a book, or have a talk, or best yet challenge by example. We don't proselytize or interfere in the fates of those struggling to awareness, but we've got to let them know that awareness is out there. That it is possible to be a separate intelligence. As we grow in power and knowledge we may even fan the Black Flame in others through lasting works of art and communication. Black Magicians are -- for the most part -- a solitary lot. That we find friendship (and even love) along a path which emphasizes individuality over all is truly a mystery. But we are the keepers of mystery and the administrators of the Dark Estate.

Uncle Setnacht hopes you have a pleasant day.

IT'S TIME WE TOOK SERIOUSLY THE TASK OF BECOMING EVIL TO RULE THE WORLD

It's the Silver Anniversary of Satanism. We see Indulgence -- albeit unconscious -- in all levels of our society, and we are beginning to see Xeper manifest in the world. So it's time we took seriously the task of becoming evil to rule the World.

1. Develop a strong memory. This will aid in a variety of Lesser and Greater Black Magic endeavors. In Lesser Black Magic (LBM) we know that leadership comes from position (you're the foreman and everyone listens to you), charisma (you've got a forceful personality or looks), or knowledge (you're the one everyone consults). Developing memory, which is largely a matter of practice, will open that third position. Become group historian. You'll be surprised at the control you have by simply remembering what was said, done, or what you read. As historian others will seek you to be sure you know their side of things, which provides a tremendous opportunity for manipulation. Finally, when your memory/knowledge becomes accepted as an authority, you can manipulate the past for your own best interests. The Greater Black Magic (GBM) uses of memory are beyond the scope of this essay. The accomplished magicians out there know what I mean -- for the beginners, developing memory for GBM is like developing leg muscles for ballet.

2. Develop a thick skin. Don't get me wrong -- you can smite people on the other cheek all you want. Effective revenge requires intelligence and information about your target. Learn to let things bounce off. This way when your revenge comes, it comes from an unexpected source -- you strike at an undefended area. Likewise -- if you're a snake in the grass -- people will be careless around you. They won't watch what they say or reveal. Of course, putting off your revenge will give you time to reconsider. Perhaps the offender did his work out of stupidity rather than malice. Do not take revenge against the stupid. It is beneath you. Instead discover how to make the stupid one your tool. This not only saves energy (magical and otherwise) but increases your sphere of control in the world.

3. Develop instant sanctuaries. The Black Magician is in a state of constant stress. She is moving apart from the stream of the world. She has recognized and works with change as part of her being. To keep from wilting under the pressure, she needs retreats -- points of rest and preservation. The Satanist must live strategically -- if it is a helpful metaphor, consider the world as a battlefield. Sanctuaries can be a safe place at work, a song invested with special meaning, or a picture of the wife and kids. It can be anything that enables you to gather your forces and renew your focus. In the middle of a campaign you can shift your attention briefly to the sanctuary. Draw in a quiet cold breath (as though from the very womb of Hel) and return refreshed. Be content in your knowledge that your opponent lacks such places of power. Magicians wishing to explore the concepts of rest and preservation in a world of change are referred to Alvin Toffler's Future Shock and Eric Hoffer's The Ordeal of Change.

4. Recognize and align yourself with Aeonic currents. The word of the Aeon is Xeper -- come into being. As the new Aeon itself comes into being, historical and political forces will also come into being. Certain cultural artifacts appear with a predisposition to individualism (such as the skateboard and the personal computer). If you seek out these phenomena not only will your personal Xeper grow as you WORK (and work) with them -- the phenomena will in turn be empowered by your touch. And as the Aeon grows your connections with its external manifestations will move you into a position where you can influence the world more and more. Certain manifestations of Xeper which are visible: social therapy changing from total care to empowerment, the ending of collectivist/communitistic systems, the development of drugs and therapies to increase one's active/effective life by decades, the growing availability of expert knowledge through the computer net. Magicians interested in Aeonic history may wish to consult S. Edred Flowers' latest book, Fire and Ice. Even if you can't work with these things -- marvel at them, for Wonder stirs the GBM latent in everyone's soul.

5. Recognize and dismantle Aeonic hindrances. As a new Aeon comes in, the old has a dying rush of activity. Examples of this can be found in the extremism of Rumania's last dictator or the fundamentalist pornography of the Satanscare industry. Whether or not you are a public Satanist, it behooves you to know the facts and to dismantle(logically and gently) the propaganda of your friends, neighbors, and associates. As the remnants of the old Aeon-- this is to say, spiritual toxic waste -- are cleared away, your magic will have progressively less resistance to overcome, and your personal safety will be enhanced. My nephew, the Daimon Egan, recommends the particularly useful Satanism in America: How the Devil Got Much More Than His Due for dismantling such hindrances.

6. Recognize the possibility of immortality in seeming setbacks. Many people along the path confuse magic with magical thinking. These people are always expecting a trouble-free life: no flat tires, winning the big one, and decidedly fewer red lights. Whereas Xeper often reveals its presence through beneficial synchronicity, we are still constrained by the natural order. One of the great mysteries of Satanism is how the inward force evolves through the medium of internal and external necessity. Necessity presents a challenge, for example we were overlooked for a job promotion. The magical thinker would go buy a spell kit. He waves his wand and sprinkles gold lodestone sand and holds his mouth just right. He attributes his failure to "having done the ritual wrong." We work to change the promotion process. When we have changed the process, we not only have performed the magical act of getting the job we want, but also we have changed an aspect of the world to reflect our internal order. We have put part of ourselves in the minds of others -- a functional part of ourselves has been placed in the world because we used the level the natural order presented us. This type of immortality (living on in the thoughts of others) is actually open to everyone. I sometimes weep that the RHP has stolen this truth from so many.

7. Detach yourself from the natural order by ending boredom. Students of Gurdjieff won't be surprised when I say that we spend most of our lives asleep. Being asleep means we are moved on by the world machine. The most deadening form of sleep is boredom. We can spend large amounts of time in the most banal activities -- reading yesterday's newspapers, slack-jawed watching of Laverne and Shirley reruns. Use the word of Indulgence to end this zombiehood. Next time you find yourself sinking into a gray numbness, remember -- "I am here and I deserve better for I become as a god." Exquisite pleasures and legal perversions will bring life back to you. If you practice Indulgence to replace sleep, the red energy of life will pulse through you. Sleeping Beauty needs that kiss before she can wake up and be Queen.

8. Detach yourself from the natural order by ending guilt. The old Aeon's strongest tool was guilt. Guilt undercuts every individual thought/speech/action. Guilt is the promoter of group-think, because it tests everything against the group standards (perfect for the communistic/collectivist flavor of the last Aeon). Because we are under the programming of the old Aeon, we are prone to guilt, at best a time waster and at worst a roadblock to our Work. When you feel yourself falling into guilt, try using a magical motto to redirect your energy. I use, "If this action does not further my Xeper, my next action will overshadow this one. I pay no homage to gods outside mySelf." As you progress on the Left Hand Path (LHP) you will unfortunately find those who have brought guilt with them. Whereas these people may develop their magical powers apart from the natural order, they will never fully enter into Selfhood. If you have a great deal of trouble with guilt, large doses of Nietzsche, Redbeard, or La Vey may be in order.

9. Detach yourself from the natural order with time games. The calendar, the clock, and the computer have traditionally belonged to anti-individual entities. The Catholic Church, with its cycle of fasts and feasts and year of endless symbolism, stole time from the European people long ago. The Church of Satan began the reclaiming of time by declaring of one's birthday as the supreme holiday. It's no coincidence that the flex time and work-at-home concepts have come in with the New Aeon. Begin to arrange your own life as much as possible by your schedules (and vary those lest you come up a different box of dead time). As you do things by your own time -- look upon the

mindless world bustling along to the tick-tock of the previous age. Feel yourself -- your individuality. And in that sharp joyous moment of self awareness you will have begun to feel Set. Enough R&D for now,

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

TURN EVIL AND RULE THE WORLD

Summer has come with its restless violent days - and as Mr. Hitler remarked, all unrest is creative -- and its warm dreamy nights -- who knows what nightmares we may fashion out of such raw material? In ancient Egypt Set arrived on the summer solstice to wrest the rulership of the World from his brother being Horus. And in the modern world the long Solstice of Mankind is just beginning . . . so turn evil and rule the world.

1. Learn from your enemies. If some individual or group threatens you, rejoice in your anger -- because you've found a teacher. What makes these people ruthless? What is the source of their power? What organizational skills do they possess? What resources have they tapped? Once you discover how they operate, not only can you choose how to strike back (or how to avoid conflict), but you've learned a lesson in LBM that works. It's perfectly fine to read books and speculate -- but seeing what really works is invaluable. Don't be confused when Lesser Black Magic is practiced by Madison Avenue or even the 700 Club. Manipulation is manipulation. If you allow anger to cloud your reason, you will fall into their clutches as surely as if you acted with mindless love to them.

2. Learn from historical models. Well-developed and time-tested religious rituals often have the key to human archetypes. Discovering what makes these rituals work and applying that to your own rituals on the road to godhood is very effective. It may surprise some Satanists that analyzing the catholic mass may give them more effective structures to build rituals on than a completely synthetic source such as the __Gospel of the Witches__. Christianity adopted the Eucharist cup from pagan sources to its abiding benefit. The Temple of Set has its Graal cup and the Church of Satan its Chalice of Ecstasy. You may take what is evolved in natural religion for your own use -- just as you take delight in your form, which has evolved upward from mindlessness.

3. Learn from psychological methods. The Satanist is not interested in the Freudian process of self discovery. The Satanist is interested in Self creation; however, those psychological schools that see behavior as something to be added to or taken away from can be very useful. Uncle Setnakt finds the work of Milton H. Erickson, John Grinder, and Richard Bandler essential. (You may wonder -- if these control techniques work, why do I reveal them? Simple. Only real Satanists will bother to track down these clues and I don't fear the genuine article.) An example of useful information: George Miller distilled a huge amount of human perceptual research in his paper "The Magic Number 7 +2." Miller discovered that human beings take information in "chunks" of about seven (everyone can remember a phone number), but if you push the number of items up to nine, people begin to make mistakes. Lots of information goes directly into the subconscious. So if you want to induce a trance in yourSelf -- say for communication with Set -- a nine-angled yantra coupled with a nine-note pollutionary will work excellently. If you want to get your message to others faster than conscious thought, use a nine-fold or greater structure. (Points two and three of this article come together in the significance of 9 in Egyptian and Germanic mythology.)

4. Ritual gives you the gold to reinvest in yourSelf. Never has society offered so many techniques for altering yourSelf. Most of these remove the undesirable behaviors, but they fail to replace what has been taken away. Ritual enables you to go to that realm where ideas and dreams are made. If you prune away something you don't like (the habit of boredom, for example), you can send a command to the depths of yourSelf to create new Satanic alternatives for you. In India, where the Left Hand Path (LHP) has been practiced for centuries under the name of Aghora, black magicians can withstand a total break from society. In fact, they go to live in cremation grounds -- even though some later become billionaires -- because the art of ritual has become perfected and they can fill themselves with a new Self completely. In Northern paganism, there is the Well of Venom and in the Temple of Set, the spiraling of Xeper. Those who attempt the LHP without fortification of ritual will wither away.

5. Ritual enables you to pick up where others left off. You are a genetic being -- millions of ancestors before you have practiced Magic as their divine right. You are a cultural being influenced

and molded by dozens of cultural artifacts created by unconscious magicians such as Lovecraft and Joyce, or conscious ones such as Stoker, Yeats, and Machen. With ritual you can attract (and strengthen) the Work of your dark kin. Equally you can put your own taste in that stream and live on in the Work of those who come later. Memory goes back further than the limits of the body. Using ritual for time travel will allow you to uncover the timeless in yourself, which is the beginning of Immortality. Beware that the seductive lure of time travel does not overcome you -- lest you develop the "Innsmouth look"!

6. Ritual lets you end things. When you correctly perform a ritual of lust, compassion, or destruction you will send out all these feelings, and allow you to continue in peace and harmony. The cathartic nature of ritual enables Satanists to live in peace and harmony. You can recognize Satanists by their laughter as well as by their Power. We send our obsessions into the objective universe to work. Followers of the RHP hold onto their obsessions until they fester. They wait for their leaders to cast out their obsessions into the objective universe to do something really useful -- say, stampede swine.

7. Limits are imposed by the body. After all, both Napoleon and Marilyn Monroe had piles. Although many Satanists train their bodies (maybe someone would like to send an article to BQ on Satanism and the martial arts?), bodies will eventually fail. It's very useful for Satanists, who have developed some ritual skill to experience drug-free disassociate states. Find out if your town has isolation tanks, mind machines, etc. If you have the room, construct an orgone box or other ritually-specific isolated space. Be sure that you are doing this safely: a suffocated Satanist is no Satanist. The symbolic womb/coffin also is useful in inducing fresh receptive states for merging with your elected Folk -- it has served in this stead in Freemasonry for centuries.

8. Limits come from the natural order. Throughout the centuries would-be magicians have wasted their time trying to achieve impossible states. (Impossibility is defined here as very low probability.) If there is no channel to provide the requested event (e.g., I need money, I need sex), there won't be any pay-off. Coins don't often rain from the air. If your Working stirs up pseudo-results (for example, you've done a money ritual and then find twenty-three coins in the park) you need to study the interrelationship between your Work and the objective universe. Just as turning away is failure -- driving down to the Jung Society and bragging on this great synchronicity is failure too. You must fine tune the Work and continue. Note that your magic can be more effective if you Understand how the world works -- the conception that magic is opposed to science is utterly false. Certain forms of science-worship may not accept magic. That's their business. Ignoring historical forces and scientific realities is the would-be magician's downfall.

9. Limits create the beauty of the LHP. In the RHP, love and servitude lead to the annihilation of the lover. You love the other until all barriers break down and yourselfhood is broken down. In the LHP we create the Beloved out of materials of the Self. We are indeed Dwellers in the Outer Darkness, burning with our own Self-made light. We walk forever alone, but when that spark of Recognition passes between us -- it is more real and darkly beautiful than a thousand RHP ceremonies. Become! I hope that I shall meet some of you as young gods and goddesses on the Path.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

HOW YOU CAN MOVE SOMEONE AGAINST HIS WILL AND HAVE HIM ENJOY IT

Autumn's here with the promise of Halloween brightly shining. Millions play with the dark side so let's pump our Greater Black Magic and make the objective world permanently more subject to our wills. In the meantime, let Uncle Setnacht tell you how you can move someone against his will and have him enjoy it!

1. Establish rapport. You can only manipulate your friends, enemies will never open up to you one on one. There are two quick ways to establish rapport: Satir modes and common ground. If you really want to know about Satir modes, read a book by Susan Elgin called The Gentle Art of Verbal Self Defense, but a quick understanding comes from listening to your target. Is she visual (does she say, "Do you see this? Does this scan?"); auditory ("Do you hear what I'm saying?"); or tactile ("I can't get a handle on this."). Once you've identified their mode, adopt it. Very quickly will your target let his guard down. Common ground merely means areas of thought you share with your target. Don't fake this unless you have to. You'll generally find some common thing to talk about. This will make the process more enjoyable for you and save you from the strain of lying. Remember, rapport is the first step for one-on-one LBM!
2. Listen to his or her plan. This is, of course, the plan you want them to discard. Listening carefully to his plan allows his ego to expand, his guard to drop, and you time to think. Once he's explained why he wants this plan-- usually of course in terms of his noble motives - ask the magic question, "Are there any other reasons why you want this?" If you ask this question in an offhand manner you'll almost always hit pay dirt. They'll tell you their real motive: it costs less, it's easier, and it lets me work with the cute girl from Accounting, whatever. This is the reason you'll have to incorporate (or completely destroy hope for) when you tell them what they are going to do.
3. Now restate his case -- that is, nine tenths of it. Having obtained his noble reasons (it's good for the firm's image -- it helps the poor) tell him how what he's going to do fulfills his reasons. Of course, what you're telling him is what you want him to do. Don't call this your plan, call it something new, but justify this new plan step by step with the reasons he gave you -- as a clincher, add the justification of the real reason. If the real reason (e.g. "It gives a job to my brother-in-law") is the one thing you have to avoid -- deal with it in Step 5 of this method.
4. End your restating with a disclaimer of your own need. This is essential no matter how much you may want to get your plan into operation. Show your target that you'll be well off no matter how he chooses. Let him draw the obvious conclusion -- you've told him this for his own good, because you care. Don't spell that out. (Of course, if he's seen you caring for others in the past, it helps. The Prince, as Machiavelli observes, must always cultivate public virtue.) An example of disclaimer of need would be "Hire whoever you think wisest but I'll need to know by Tuesday when I start work at Tandy."
5. Be sure to save his face. If your mark isn't sure or he's hemming and hawing when you next see him, act as though he's already on your side and needs an argument to justify himself to another. Point out that if we take this new plan how we'll avoid the embarrassment of the old. For example, "You can tell your wife that by not hiring your brother-in-law you didn't put your ass on the line for advocating nepotism." This way, the mark doesn't face embarrassment by saying he's been on your side all the time and you've used embarrassment -- possibly the most powerful form of social control -- without embarrassing anyone. Steps 4 and 5 lay the groundwork for installing a "You need me -- I don't need you" attitude, which is one of the cornerstones of successful manipulation.
6. As he puts your plan into effect, apply a double-stroke to his ego. Now all of these things require subtlety-- this step most of all. Based on the common groundwork in Step 1, salute the judgment of your target. Tell him how much you enjoyed that book or record or restaurant he recommended.

This is why you should find genuine common ground -- whatever he talked about he's likely to be in the know (or at least perceive himself as being in the know) about. Telling someone that they have good judgment is the only kind of flattery liable to pass their defenses. Then, after a suitable interval (maybe the next time you see him) tell him how smart he was to have undertaken the new plan. If you can do this secondhand -- telling someone who will in turn tell him -- so much the better. The new plan will become something that he will defend with his own ego.

7. Maintain your control through intermittent reinforcement. The mark's under your control now -- all you have to do is stroke his ego constantly and he's your slave, right? Wrong! Any behaviorist can tell you that constant reinforcement leads to boredom. If you're always pleasant-- always nicey nicey -- eventually you'll vanish from a commanding place in your target's world to a spot on the wallpaper. Once and awhile be really mean to him - bawl him out, make a point of not inviting him to your party. This will shake him up and bring the idea of his need for you to the fore. What has he done wrong? How can he make it up to you? If you've followed the above steps and then use this method sparingly, the mark will be yours as long as you want him. Remember, as soon as the mark has done something to atone for his misdeeds, smile at him and say something pleasant.

8. A positive attitude is not magic. Many so called "self-help" books stress the importance of a positive attitude in changing your environment. Some even suggest mantras like the little train that could. Uncle Setnakt sez be wary of the positive attitude (I know I can do it) and instead cultivate persistence (I will do it until it is done). The former will cause you to question yourself at every setback. It will make you waste time thinking that maybe your attitude just isn't positive enough -- or send you to buy more self-help books and subliminal tapes. The latter will take you to your goals and enable you to shrug off obstacles by acknowledging them and by passing them.

9. Choose your goals carefully because you live on in them. Obviously manipulation is a lot of work. Obviously its rewards can be very high -- in fact, civilization is built on the idea that many men can achieve what one cannot. So when you alter the world with these powerful levers, do not do so only for immediate personal enhancement, but also to cast your image and ideas into the world where they live on in the minds and sinews of those you have moved to your will. Lesser Black Magic is the tool for dealing with the world of man for now and forever. Don't hesitate to put it in practice.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

RITUAL TOASTS

The spring is upon us. Uncle Setnakt's yard is yellow with daffodils and fragrant with hyacinths. Uncle Setnakt is in a generous mood and has decided to give you a seven-step ritual (in honor of the seven heads of the first Beast), which must be performed exactly at midnight on the Wednesday/Thursday cusp or -- of course anytime you feel like it. I'll round out my column with a couple of remark about the rite (in honor of the two eyebrows -- ahem horns of the Second Beast). This rite may be done alone or by a group. If by a group, each participant must take part in each round of toasts -- NO PASSING!

1. Prepare your chamber. The preparation of a sacred space sets up all the moods and expectations you want for Self-exploration and Magic. If you reuse a chamber often, the mere entering of it can put you in a state of communication with yourSelf and -- perhaps -- the Unknown that lies beyond. For communication with the Prince of Darkness, the creator of isolate intelligence, the chamber should be dark, display His Pentagram (the Kaliyuga Productions Pentagram will do excellently if like Uncle Setnakt you can't paint your own), and those ritual tools you deem necessary. You'll also need a quantity of sweet liquid (Uncle Setnakt recommends water with a little honey-- this mixture may touch off some dim ancestral memories indeed considering that the roots of the words "mead" and "soma" both mean honeyed water). The chamber should be quiet and out of the way, so you can relax, calmly listen to yourSelf.
2. Prepare yourSelf. Read through this article and be sure you've found the internal and external facts you'll need. Dress for the occasion, whether it is ritual robes or just a tasteful black suit, you are going to honor the highest part of yourSelf! Your attitude and demeanor should be one of solemn joy! Don't approach this rite until you are both prideful and joyful. When you enter the chamber, remain in darkness and silence for a while, until your mind is working smoothly and the rite can flow out of you freely.
3. Begin in your standard manner. Ritual openings improve with time and use, you don't have to cut new channels to the Unknown every time you Work. For those of you operating outside of the Temple of Set, that is those of you who are trying to reinvent the wheel, I recommend the ringing of a bell nine times and an invocation to the Prince of Darkness. An invocation in which you join with Him to Work a change on the world -- to break the fetters which bind us to the natural order and increase the development of mankind's evolution and consciousness as well as your personal joy and power. An invocation is not a prayer -- it is the causing of that noble part of yourSelf to rise to the surface and seek out alliances with those of its own kind. None of this "Grant me this" or "please send me so-and-so."
4. Drink in a principle or god you'll need for step 6. This continues the principle of invocation. If you wish to effect a Work in the world that requires -- let's say the use of words -- you may wish to say something like, "I raisemy drinking horn to Wodenhaz, who through sacrifice of self to Self brought us the runes by which we may change the wyrdof the world through our writing." Drink deeply and BecomeWodenhaz. If you prefer not to use the stimulation ofmythology you might simply invoke a principal -- as in, "I drink to Communication through which I cast my Will uponother men and by which I establish a link with the other secret side of the Universe."
5. Drink to a human you wish to honor. This continues the principle of invocation as well as forging links between the living and the dead (if you've chosen a dead hero to honor) or between the Work you're doing and a living force in the objective universe. This reminds us that "Man is God" and keeps us from becoming hopeless cynics. The Hero chosen for this honor should be picked by the most personal of standards. It could be your father, or an Egyptian pharaoh of the XXth dynasty. If it's someone you don't know personally, research your guy (or gal). This will acquaint you with the possibilities in the human psyche as well as the combination of method and persistence needed to achieve greatness. Here's an example, "I drink to Howard Phillips Lovecraft, who remained true to

the weird vision he created, and brought it forth in his own work and others that it might work upon the collective unconsciousness of mankind forever."

6. Drink to your own accomplishment. Now you are beginning to weave yourSelf into this strand. This accomplishes three things. First it helps you become prideful of real accomplishments. In our society, we are taught not to take any pride in what we do -- the "Awshucks" attitude. This fetters us to a state of unworthiness as well as preventing us from expecting to achieve greatness. Pride is the breaker of that fetter. Second it makes us aware of the force of our Becoming, this is an important step in the LHP -- seeing yourSelf first as a tiny stream cutting your way through the world, but growing into a vast river that reshapes the land. We discover that our life has purpose and meaning and that Self doesn't flair up in random incidents, but is an unbroken continuum. Third to prepare for this toast you must examine your own life looking for objective achievements. This leads to Self knowledge, one of the principle roots of personal immortality. An example would be, "I drink to Setnakt, who cast the Runes into BRIMSTONE so that others may use them for the brilliance and glory of their desire and to His eternal glory."

7. Drink a Pledge to yourSelf of a deed to be done. Herein lies the magic of this rite, through the great exaltation/invocation which you have just done, you've reached a state of changing that which is coming into being in the world into that which should come into being. By stating the deed you intend to accomplish, you are bringing to bear the very forces you have invoked against the resistance of the world in the direction of your goal. This goal should be a real measurable goal that furthers yourBeing. This isn't praying to Somebody somewhere to send you something somehow -- this is you directing the forces that are within and beyond you to further your own Self. This is an extension and magnification of YOU! An example would be, "I Setnakt do raise this horn in troth to the Great God Setnakt swearing that I will have finished my novel before I next sit in this hall! I swear that this work will reveal the strength, beauty, and terror of my art!" After this fearsome pledge, you must meditate on past failures and triumphs slowly letting this meditation take you to an Understanding of the nature of isolate intelligence. When this is achieved, you may close in the standard manner. For those of you operating outside of the Temple of Set, I would recommend crying out, "Hail Set! Hail Loki!" and ringing the bell nine times.

8. To be effective this rite must be done many times. Sometimes you will have to come to the chamber with an Understanding that you've failed in your goal. This will teach about resistance, you may have to recast your oath or redouble your efforts. By meditating on this you will have learned about yourSelf and the Universe. Sometimes you will come to boast on accomplishments. You will begin to sense your Becoming -- to make real contact with your godhood. This will enable you to become mightier in your magic and achievement. If practiced regularly -- say once a month at chosen midnights -- not only will you throw off muddy subjectivity but you learn the path whereby that which is within your black heart may be brought forth into the world.

9. This rite has been done countless times. This is a very simplified form of a rite of Germanic warriors called the sumble. This combination of toasts and oaths is scattered throughout Northern European literature -- its last form being found in the myths of King Arthur and the Round Table. It has been revised in a darker form by a Warrior-Priest within a knightly Order of the Temple of Set. More than this I cannot say, but here lies a Great Secret for ritual construction. Take a ritual that has Worked and when you ReWork it according to the principles of your true Self -- it will Work again.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

DARKNESS

Uncle Setnakt would like to share with you a few exercises you can do with his favorite subject Darkness.

1. Close your eyes. Inside this Darkness, you can picture anything. Conjure up the notion of an extraterrestrial invader. One entirely of your own making. The fact you can visualize this here-to-fore nonexistent object shows that your awareness is not bound to nor constrained by the natural order. The knowledge that you stand separate from the universe is the beginning of the Left Hand Path.

2. Look at the stars. Find a grassy hill and look up at the stars on a warm, clear moonless night. Relax and let your mind soar toward the stars. That feeling of falling up into the Abyss of Stars is a predictable part of your non-natural self. The desire to project your psyche to its utmost limits is one of the forces that drives the Initiate along the Left Hand Path. It is why we choose role models like Set, the first historic example of the rebel against cosmic injustice.

3. Sit quietly in a darkened room. Find a place away from radio, TV, family, etc. Here alone and away from a constant stream of messages telling you what to think, just relax and see where your own thoughts go. Don't try to interfere. This may be the first time you've heard your own voice. When you've done this for a few minutes, light a candle and write down three things -- the thought that surprised you most, the desire that appeared most often in your thoughts, and the thought from somewhere else (advertising jingle, etc.) that intruded the most. The next day search out the source of the unusual thought -- this will make you aware of your world in a new way. Do something that moves you closer to the desire -- this brings your actions in line with your godhood. Do something that distances you from the unwanted mind control (even if it's just being aware of it and rejecting it) -- this brings you closer to controlling your own mind.

4. Make a list of associations. Write down all the things that Darkness implies. Start with personal things like, "Darkness is excitement -- Father Christmas brings me goodies in the dark. Darkness is the time of transformation -- many times has my mind made monsters out of the pile of laundry at the foot of my bed. Darkness is the time of sexual arousal -- etc." Then add historical meanings of Darkness, "Darkness plus the sound of the bullroarer creates the sacred space for Aboriginal initiation. Darkness is the time that Vampyres are said to roam. Etc." When you've made your list consider what the Prince of Darkness can mean as model for your own Initiation. Consider how these things stimulate your imagination and will.

5. Make of Night a personal symbol. It is in the nature of mankind to assign meaning to events in the meaningless natural order. They fashion constellations, omens, etc. and then bend themselves to their creations. The Black Magician can consciously assign a symbol to an operation and use that symbol for his/her own growth -- and discard it when necessary. Since night is the traditional time for Satanic/Black Magical activity, you may wish to invest it with meaning. Hold a ritual that places a certain meaning in the dark of night -- so that its coming will begin to Work your soul automatically. I choose, "Night is a time of rebirth." This way, the non-ego parts of myself begin to recharge the batteries of inspiration and magic every time the sky darkens. If I am doing some other kind of Work as part of my life work of Becoming, I can choose another meaning.

6. Seek out the Brothers of Darkness. Learning the art of magic goes a hell of a lot swifter if you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You'll accomplish your goals faster if you're drawing on the experience of others. It's a lot easier Working with people who think the way you do. Look around for a group whose approach to Darkness is the same or very similar to yours. If the group has been around for a few years, you have the additional benefit that some of their magic has already Worked itself into the fabric of the objective universe and you have a greater magical lever to use for your own Work. Uncle Setnakt is, of course, a proud member of the Temple of Set.

7. Contemplate Darkness as a place for growth. In the soulcraft of the ancient Germanic peoples is a concept very useful to the Left Hand Path. The __Sal__ is that part of the soul into which one evolves. It is a holder of potential a dark vessel that cannot be filled. By using this imagery life is not a simple discovery of the self, but an active creation that may be consciously drafted. As long as there is Darkness, one can grow -- there are no limits except those you consciously create. If you become aware of this Dark container within you, it can become more than a mere symbol, but an actual vessel for awareness to survive after death.

8. Contemplate Darkness as a symbol of mystery. In the Right Hand Path, white light is used as a symbol of Initiation. In the light everything is quickly revealed and the self extinguishes itself because of boredom. There are no mysteries, nothing to discover, and ultimately nothing to think about since there is a total unity between the perceiver and the preceived. In the Left Hand Path Darkness is the symbol of mystery. By accepting Darkness, you accept dynamism -- you don't know what lies within your Black Heart. And as you discover more and more; the desires from within cause you to act to bring your deepest Self into Being in the objective world. In short as you become the Self created god you must create creations. Ultimately you will begin to have a sense of the great twofold secret --one pole of which lies deep within yourSelf -- the other is hidden deeply within the objective universe.

9. Seek to unleash the Darkness in others. Look for and strengthen the manifestations of Darkness in those around you. This should be done very gently and with great forethought. After you have begun to master steps 7 and 8 above consider that Darkness also resides in the other human beings around you. If you can transmit some of that excitement and potential for awareness into others - not only will you have made the world a more darkly resplendent place to live, but you will have opened up the world around you for more exciting potentials for your own growth.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

TIMING

Uncle Setnakt would like to share a few tips about timing in Lesser and Greater Black Magic.

1. When you need to establish yourself as a control figure, Arrive early. It may seem boorish, but if you help the host do the set up, you can greet each newcomer with phrases like, "We have decided to" or "We were just talking about" -- this sets you up as being a member of the Inner Circle and also lets you set the agenda for the evening.

2. When you need to discover the true leaders of group, Arrive late. Simply ask a few people what you've missed. If anything has been said rather than the simple human venting of hot air, they'll point it out not only with their words, but also their tone and body language. This will also let you know what their feelings are about the current string of topics. People find it very hard to be neutral when someone whispers to them and acts sheepish about being late. This mode of interaction automatically puts them into conspiratorial mode. Be sure to reward your best sources by telling them how perceptive they are. Some people are self importance comes entirely from their ability to pass on secrets. Use them.

3. When you have an agenda to pass on to your business, Pick a time when your co-workers are sleepy. When I want to get something started at work -- rather than brainstorm on a topic, I schedule my meetings after lunch, in a slightly too warm conference room (if it has flickering fluorescent lighting this is a plus). People are full and sleepy . They want the meeting to be over, and if I talk smoothly, distinctly, and in three quarters time they absorb my suggestions as though I've hypnotized them. Which in fact I have. If you need to judge three quarters time, practice doing Dracula's lines from the Lugosi movie -- but lose the accent.

4. If you want to gain more Self knowledge, Occasionally radically alter your biological rhythms. Sleep, food and sex are the keys here. Take a nap in the afternoon (if you normally don't) and be sure and record the strange dreams that come in your dream diary. Fast until you feel deliciously faint, and see how your consciousness both is and is not a product of your body. Have sex much more in a single session than you do normally and study the powerful lucidity that exhaustion brings. Abstain from sex until you become a walking flame of desire. These exercises will tell you more about yourself than any number of Cabala textbooks. Important things here -- while recording these exercises in your magical diary, do not tell anyone else about them (they may notice the behavior -- particularly the sex), but keep them quiet. You will also begin to see the arbitrary nature of the world and this experiential insight will strengthen your Greater Black Magic and your Becoming.

5. If you want to train your will, Test your concentration against the clock. Like the athlete trains his body, the magician must train his psyche. Many beginners find that they cannot concentrate for more than seconds at a time. They perceive this as a failure rather than the natural outcome of societal training (docile sheeple aren't supposed to concentrate). A simple and powerful exercise is to put aside nine minutes a day to meditate on projecting your godhood from the realm of Being into the realm of Becoming. During this active meditation hold a long leather thong with a few beads on it. Everytime you find that your concentration has wandered, move ahead from one end to the other. Don't nag yourself, just return to the process. At the end of the exercise note in your magical diary how many beads you've had to move. In a short time you'll find that you're moving fewer beads and fewer beads.

6. If you want to master your mind, Make clocks work for you. Most of the time our consciousness is purely reactive. We see something and think about it in the shallowest way possible. The Black Magician needs to train his mind to move him toward alertness and control. Paradoxically the use of an arbitrary symbol to remind us to awaken is one of the best ways to move toward an alert state. Just as we use an alarm clock to end physical sleep, we can use a regular clock to move us toward consciousness. Pick a time that you will think about a certain topic, such as, "Tomorrow at three

o'clock I will inventory my life to see how well I am using Indulgence as a watchword for my life." Learning how to program your thought paths in advance is excellent magical training. It makes you the master of your subjective universe as well as making you constantly aware of your efforts in the objective universe. This exercise will change you from an animal reactive state into a godlike controlling state -- as well as reminding you of your inner-directed priorities so you can change your actions in order to be more in line with what is truly important. As with all training, be gentle with yourself --persist but don't castigate yourself at early failures. You've got a lifetime of sleepwalking to overcome.

7. If you want to gain mastery over the world, Affirm your good timing. Affirmations are the simplest way to make an operant change in your consciousness. By telling yourself that something is good, pleasurable, etc. your magical self will begin to alter itself and the world to bring about this good thing. So the next time you arrive at a shop at exactly the right moment, or run into a friend on the street, or any piece of really good timing comes your way -- tell yourself, "I the Great God N. have given myself this pleasant gift through my mastery of time." Eventually the missed moment, the awkward scramble to get somewhere, becomes a thing of the past.

8. If you want to make lasting change in the minds of men, Learn to observe the times. Study the lives of Satanic masters like Zaharoff, Rasputin, Cagliostro, Rosenberg, von List, the brothers Grimm. How was the perfect historical timing the key to the changes that each of these folk have Worked upon human consciousness? Contrast them with other figures in history that had the right idea, but expressed it at the wrong time. Learn to be patient and vigilant --coiled like a snake ready to spring. Saying something too early just to prove you're clever may give you an instant gratification, but preparing your ground is the key to a good harvest. This tip is as true for influencing one individual as it is for turning the mass of humanity as a whole.

9. If you wish to have fulfillment in both this life and beyond, Make a life plan. There is a secret teaching among the Gurdjieffians that different types of Work must be done at different times. This reflects changes in the body and the changes wrought by the growing articulation of the psyche as a separate entity from the natural order(initiation). Although you should change your life plan as your vision changes, you should begin to study the lives of geniuses to see what sort of Work the different ages of amen are best suited for. When did the great writers write their great books, when did great religious leaders do their work, when did politicians do their best statecraft? Couple this study with the study of role models and you will learn when it is easier to effect certain changes in your self and in the world. Also if you can find a group of like-minded individuals -- you can observe how the process of maturation and individuation effects their magical/philosophical progress and skills. Lives of increased excellence and power are not accidents.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

PRACTICING DIVINITY

Uncle Setnakt would like you to consider how you are already practicing divinity in your own life. The Right-Hand Path says your life is ruled by a mechanical law, called karma or the will of god. We feel that your life is ruled by a mechanical law called the path of least resistance and that law can be overcome by conscious beings. This work helps you detect how you have already overcome this law and how much there still is to discover and integrate into your mind.

1. Analyze an intentional change you've made. Take something you did with awareness and desire (as opposed to some adaptation that circumstances forced you to make). Say for example a decision to move to a new home, because the new home offered you opportunities for privacy. See how you have prospered by obtaining your goals in a rational manner. Now analyze the same event looking for supra-rational benefits you have gained -- good things (and opportunities for growth) that have come into your life directly from your willed decision, but which in no way could be predicted as logically following. Analyze enough of your life and you will discover that when you have put things into motion with your will you have exceeded mechanical chance. Concentrate these feelings of power in your life -- link the incidents one to another in your mind.

2. Analyze a moment of pure creativity. Take something you've made for no utilitarian reason. Doodles drawn while on the phone are excellent. Why did you enjoy making this pattern? Why is there happiness at creation? The joy of creation makes little if any biological sense, but makes a great deal of sense if we discover our being through the art of creation. We're divine beings which create ourselves through our creativity. This is directly opposed to the, "No graven images." commandment. Become aware of how important it is to be a Creator.

3. Make note of those things that become self-sustaining. Note when any suggestion you've made has become policy seemingly against the odds. I'm not talking about something you brought about in a normal work-a-day fashion, but those ideas of your that came into being on their own. For example you casually suggest a change in the way your cleaners handle their merchandise tracking. Although they tell you that they can't do what you say; next time you return your policy is in place. Each of these incidents shows that you have powers beyond the mechanical processes of the world. Note each and come to see yourself as a creator of movement in the world.

4. Pray to yourself. Look through your life to find some prayers that were answered by the Right Hand Path god of your choice. Maybe one day you prayed for your car to start or for health to return or to get lucky on a date. As well as you possibly can remember the words and practices. Then when you are in the same situation repeat that prayer-- except entirely to yourself, making reference to no god but you. Continue this practice until you have results. Come to see yourself as the cause for all seeming miracles in your life. It is you, the self created god, not some divinely appointed destiny.

5. Encourage the worship of yourself by others. Now don't be a prig about it like IHVH -- don't insist on no gods but me -- etc. Certainly don't be a jealous god, you can help others in their self deification. Be sure you have nice birthday party, that others have the chance to praise you when you do well etc. Then when you've created a little friend and fan club, begin to practice the simple Lesser Black Magic of telling the story that people who do good things for you have good things happen to them (and the converse -- eventually these people's unconscious Greater Black Magic will make this a condition of the world). Continue this practice at least until you can discover that some good has come your way because some one you do not know(directly) has been told you're a worthy individual by someone else you do not know directly. This will show that your presence is equal in force to any of mankind's created gods-- that faith in you is strong enough to create a missionary movement. Of course this should be done secretly and subtly. If you outwardly proclaim your godhood crucifixion can result. Christianity may be understood alone self deified individual letting his practices get out of hand. Jesus is an example of Black Magician without ethics.

6. Practice your godhood among your followers. When one of your fans is in trouble, magically use the power of your Name to help him. Not out of pity or compassion but to Understand the nature of the name of a divine being. Once again keep this practice to yourself. Do this until you have results. This illustrates the power of the Word of Moses IHVH in which a fan club or political/cultural organization can create laws beyond the natural, an identity, and a bargaining position with the unknown by use of a Name. This not only produces an objective change in the world as an example of your own divinity, it will beg into illustrate the power of the word to open new potentials of power within you. This practice is highly recommended for someone who wishes to use words to explore himSelf/herSelf through such means as the Enochian Aethyrs. Be sure you have results here first.

7. Mythologize your birth in the manner of Christ, Buddha, Zoroaster etc. Learn to see your physical birth as the manifestation of the divine. You may wish to use a number of different masks in this. See yourself as a tribal hero returned, a god incarnated, or a visitor from another world. Play with these mythologies -- remembering to discard them once they've awakened in you the true knowledge that you are beyond the circumstances of flesh and history. Seek out the facts of your birth to feed your mythology with facts, create a mental list of all the historical things that had to happen in order for you to be born.; For example in Uncle Setnakt's case the Irish potato famine and the temporary existence of an ice bridge between Asia and North America 40,000 years ago had to happen for his birth. These stories will allow you to work upon yourSelf and the world from the same basis as the aforementioned magi, but it will keep you from losing yourSelf to any mythology not of your creation (or recreation).

8. Create other beings. One of the signs of godhood is the ability to create other beings. Look through traditional magic systems concerning such creations -- whether the Judaic Golem or the Tibetan tulpa -- create an entity to accomplish a certain task and then return itself to you and offer itself up as sacrifice to your godhead. Watch without otherwise interfering if this task is accomplished and when it is await the return of the create done. You'll discover that you can create self-willed entities and eventually you may wish to create and not absorb them. This will prove that you have all the powers of a god, and will give you pause when of whence camest I? Eventually you'll learn to direct your creations toward the cause of human freedom rather than any short term purposes. And even then you will birth a few monsters.

9. After you've become aware of your godhood announce it to all the worlds within and without. Perform a ritual after your fashion in which the message is, " I abrogate all rituals except those I create. There is no magic done in any galaxy save that it empowers me -- this is the law of the only true god! I am the measure of beauty, there is no beauty except through me. I am the Truth, I am the Way, and I am the Life. There are no gods before me, there is no power equal to my desire. I have always existed and by the power of my Name I am come to full awareness. All the universe is destroyed and re-created bearing the mark of what is newly of me. Naught exists save to teach me, to please me, and to give me a cutting edge to my own Becoming. The dead gods of mankind arise to do me homage and I blow them away like dust when their play called history has offered all it can to me."

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

SOCIETY

Uncle Setnakt wishes to send his congratulations to Mr. Bolton on his victory with the New Zealand Press Council. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about why we bother with dealing with society at all when it would be so much easier to remain an Underground movement and safe from the bricks and torches of the followers of the Prince of Peace.

1. Society gives us an opportunity to practice White Magic. White magic is when we appeal to a man made entity outside ourselves for a change in our condition. Rather than choosing an overworked and therefore nearly meaningless entity like Jehovah or "the Goddess," we choose a man-made creation to support with sacrifice -- money and/or time --and expect rewards from in a manner greater than our work has won. This means we support Civil Liberties groups etc. and call on them when needed. This fulfills the human need for a god to turn to when we need slack, and we get far better results with these gods than with Jehovah. If we Understand this as a magical process, we get far better results indeed.

2. Society gives us an opportunity to practice Lesser Black Magic. Lesser Black Magic is manipulation accomplished through guile and cunning (or through the application of little known physical laws). When we use Lesser Black Magic we create a sense of wonder, terror, sensuality, or sentiment in our targets. We present them with these emotional gifts in exchange for their loyalty and aide. We also remind ourselves that we have the same capacity to be bamboozled, and to constantly re-examine our values against the vast roar of cultural propaganda.

3. Society gives an opportunity to practice Greater Black Magic. Greater Black Magic is the application of a spiritual technology to change the objective and subjective universes in accordance with our Will. The only place to learn how truly effective our magic is by causing things to come into being in the human world. If we're counting on creating ourselves as divine beings, we need anon-subjective test of our powers. We need to know how well our magic really works. The best test is to alter the world of men and use that alteration to further our own Becoming. If we can bring about beneficial change in the world, we know that we can create forces in the objective universe to sustain us the way our bodies currently do.

4. Society gives an opportunity to practice conventional evil. If we are to have the inner independence necessary to break the fetters that hinder us on our path to godhood, we need to have the spiritually strengthening practice of being an outsider. We need to stand alone. One of the most effective ways of doing this is the practice of social evil. If you really want to know what it is to stand outside of your society, try breaking a simple taboo that hurts no one. Try not mowing your lawn. No body rushes forward to defend this as your civil right. Watch the ultimate fire of hate blossom in your neighbors' eyes --because you're not cutting up an organism. They'll give you letters, legal threats, and social ostracism. If you can withstand this pressure, you may be able to withstand the pressures welling up within that try to force back to sleep.

5. Society gives you a laboratory to search for the transcendental Good. It is all very well to say that your magic is bringing about your values in the world, but unless you examine your values in the details of life they are worthless. How far will you push yourself to accomplish your life mission? How quickly do you sell out against the forces of sleep? Unless you constantly seek new horizons to push and against you have lost yourself in the mire of subjectivity. You will have already died if you choose to merely live in your daydreams. The condition that most of mankind faces after death -- the dreamy semi-aware state that the Greeks called Hades will have already claimed you. But if you constantly strive to bring new impulses to the world, you may achieve divine status before you die. You may Become a creator, a god.

6. Society gives us the opportunity to find others who can sharpen our practice by support and challenge. If we want to truly transform ourselves in accordance with our will, we need the tools. These tools are not by and large in some book or whispered to us by demons in circles. These tools

come from watching how others succeed and fail in their magical quests. These tools come from articulating our own life philosophy and considering the articulations of others. The real magician is the one always eager to learn, because it saves him so much suffering and traveling down blind alleys. If we interact openly with society, we can attract others to challenge us and spur us on, as well giving ourselves the chance to further our thought by the necessity of having to articulate for those entering into our black order. Uncle Setnakt is very proud that the Temple of Set is engaged in just such expansion in Australasia now. Catch the black tide!

7. Society gives us a measuring stick of our individual progress. If we set up to interact with Society on a regular basis -- the way Uncle Setnakt does by writing his column -- we examine how we've changed each time. We use society as a reminder to check our progress on regular intervals. Can I speak with greater ease in public? Have my ideas become more coherent? Am I truly shaping my life and mind in the direction I want to be? With forethought our interaction with society becomes a series of way-stations of our Initiation.

8. Society gives us the opportunity to align ourselves with the Aeon. If we choose to interact with society as Initiators, we have to find the current of our Initiation within ourselves. We seek after the Mystery Hidden deeply within ourselves of our own individual and unique Becoming. When we discover that we discover that that same Mystery is Hidden deeply within the objective world. When we can interact with (or become aligned with) that Mystery we can achieve a status of more than purely human being, and exercise the true powers of Black Magic to create a path of individually determined freedom.

9. Society reminds of the great truth. When we interact with the semiconscious mass of mankind, we are reminded of the great truth of the Left hand Path. If you live for anything other than your own Becoming, you represent something other than yourself and ultimately you are a slave. How much better it is to live only for your own Becoming -- to take whatever truths you might find and place them as lighted spheres around the dark center of your being. Become like Yog-Sothoth, letting the dark Mystery of yourself be undefined and ever advancing -- let all your gods (whether created by you or thrust upon you) merely be ephemera which serve your freedom. They may seem eternal to the sleepers, but to the Seeker they will pass away until he alone remains then he shall recognize that he has become the perfect mind and shall remake the Cosmos in the eternal glory of his Satanic will.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

NINE QUESTIONS

The Temple of Set has through mass application of magic recently changed the great streams of Becoming (or Weird) in the worlds. In order to take advantage of the new possibilities this Work has opened for those seeking to create themselves, Uncle Setnakt would like to propose nine questions to help the seeker steer the process.

1. Are you remembering to test your divinity? If you cannot as an objective test of your power cause an external verifiable event to come into being, you need to redouble your efforts at self creation. Sleep time is over.

2. Are you consciously choosing your target? Since every action -- even thought -- can be a step to your Becoming a powerful, potent, and immortal force, are you sure that you have chosen this goal with the greatest concern -- or are you speeding blindly through change heading to some amorphous blob on the floor a la Wilbur Whateley?

3. Have you made an extensive and honest inventory? If you haven't honestly looked at what you have to Work with to build yourself into a god, anymore than you could hope to create an eternal monument out of random junk you just happen to find laying around. You must find what you love in yourSelf to exalt for all time and what you loathe to transform from seeming weakness into dark strength.

4. Have you learned the Secret of the happy strongman? Early in our magical careers, we start out by practicing sorcery to fix things. If I could only have that lover, that job, etc. We spend our energies like water and are still unhappy. If we spend our energies in self transformation -- the good things come to us. The more of a force we Become, the more we expand our boundaries and create dark beauty within. Change yourself so that good things come to you -- Become a ruling power of the cosmos.

5. Have you learned the Secret of Otherwise? When we feel we are doing really well, rather than focusing (with pleasure and wisdom) on the actual doing of a task -- we are almost always bringing into being the opposite of what we are trying to accomplish. Next time you're in the middle of doing anything and you're patting yourself on the back, take a step back and look for the sign that you're achieving the opposite. Learn to focus the task as the smooth and delicate artwork of the only god worthy of worship --yourself. Focus on each task, rather than its result and you will change yourself into the god that all the world makes offerings to. By the way the Secret of Otherwise also effects all large human movements -- so that when you encounter a large group supposedly working for love and justice -- you will always find hatred and injustice. Learn and beware!

6. Have you learned the Secret of the Group? It is not only possible to create yourself into an immortal force by your own Work, you must do all the Work yourself otherwise you'll wind up performing White Magic of obtaining mindless unity with some god. But you can synchronize your efforts with others to give group pushes to the very laws of the cosmos and the paradigms of mankind. Uncle Setnakt has found the Temple of Set to be quite helpful in this regard. Would you know still more?

7. Do you understand that nothing is gained save for new starting points? If you are Working to become truly free -- not only of the conventions of your society, the taboos of your mind, but of the very laws of the cosmos -- you must again and again examine the dilemma posed by this question. As you Become more powerful, you will be able to cause movements within and without with greater ease, speed, and force. This means that the process of self creation doesn't mean you have a lot of quiet way stations you can rest at. This means that you must strive to keep what you have and gain more constantly. If you choose sleep and rest along the path, your greater ability to create the reality you want will bring you a greater sleep than the one you awakened yourself from through the use of Satanism. Becoming more powerful always means you can fail more fully. Beware!

8. Have you considered that you can ask your goal to help you? If you can picture that ultimate form you would like to Become, a god form as they used to say in the Golden Dawn (Uncle Setnakt is showing his age), if you can crystallize it as a target to aim for -- why not cause this being at your command (remember you are the god, not this creature of your imagination) to aid you by pointing out opportunities through omens and other manifestations of a secret Hidden language that comes from your own psyche. Let it steer to you to almost Becoming this potent receptacle of your Being.

9. But if you had the chance to Become your final ultimate form this magical night, would you do so? Although it sounds pretty tempting -- and Uncle Setnakt normally says say yes to temptations -- I would refuse. Because whatever you believe your ultimate form would be, it is a creation entirely out of your own level of growth. If you asked an eighteen year old boy what his desired form would be -- you get a different answer than if you asked the same man in his thirty-sixth year. The way to Work with the targets -- the goals of our life -- is to create them consciously, but just as you are about to achieve them -- when you've taken all the steps but one to unify with that goal -- take a step to the left -- into the Unknown. Instead of seeking unity to something, which since you thought it up you already are --make that step into the Darkness wherein all secrets are Hidden. Grow and change. Become an evermore potent and powerful form surprising and delightful to yourself!

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

SOME CONCRETE APPLICATIONS OF RUNA

Uncle Setnakt wishes to address some concrete applications of Runa, the Sense of the Hidden, as way to steer Xeper. His remarks are particularly aimed at the Sentinels of Pylons, but he hopes that everyone may benefit. Uncle Setnakt has learned (and is still relearning) most of these lessons the hard way. Here are nine questions to ask yourself to check if your own Temple work may be Hiding your Xeper from you.

1. Have I joined a cult? When I get off work, do I spend all my time writing, calling, modeming other Initiates? Do I stay up too late every night posting stuff on occult BBS? Do I have trouble scheduling to see a non-occult movie? And have I stopped doing any Work for and of myself? If the answer to these questions is yes, then I have turned the holy halls of the Temple of Set into the Moonies. It's time to show myself and the Temple a little more respect -- either get members of my Pylon to do things, or let them go undone. Take a couple of weeks away from my perceived responsibilities until that little voice reminds me of my True responsibilities.
2. Do I make things too comfortable? As we Work with the same group of Initiates, it's very easy to forget why we're here. If you know Initiate X has a hard time writing rituals, you can forget your role as tester and get him to-do it. Or if there's something you find hard to do -- it's so easy to get someone to do it for you. Remember that the True source of comfort is the Black Flame and if you seek to make the Work too comfortable you can be denying access to that very Flame. Try to return yourself (and to create an environment for others) to standards of discipline that make us mindful of why we are here.
3. Do I remember to visit Hell? We always wind up doing the most Work in the fires of Hell. If we find mystical revelation the thing that makes us most uncomfortable -- it is inevitability the place where we do the most Work -- if cold logical reasoning is the toughest thing for us to -- it is in that realm that we have access to the True source. It is very important to review our so called temple work to see if we are not using the administrative stuff as buffers from the Truth. It can be all too easy to spend time cranking out letters than doing our own Work. it becomes more and more important to ask ourselves, "What has done the most Work for me, and am I hiding from it?"
4. Do I submit to the Unknown? Most of us now realize that our First degree period was a time of Chaos, when we were submitting to a school and using the previously unknown material to create our Xeper. It is only by building from the Unknown that we (like Set) become Ordered of and b yourselves. Yet we forget that the White Medallion is still contained in the Red, Black or Blue. We still have that need for the Unknown, and we often deny it to ourselves preferring control instead. Be sure that you don't do this-- don't pick out all the reading topics -- don't write all the rituals -- don't have all the meetings and Workings at your house. Let others pick the topics, chose the dress code, etc. at least half the time. Then plunge into those meetings as First Degree look for new things in what others say and do. You'll be surprised at the results.
5. Is my vision transcendental? The real key to magical leadership is not what a tyrant you can be. Anybody can kick somebody out of a meeting for breaking the dress code. The real key is the Vision that you have for whatever your group can be. It has to be broad, it has to allow for as much freedom as possible, and it has to be actively cast thorough the Angles. You must take your Vision from the realm of Perfection, articulate to yourself, cast it into Being, and then base your leadership actions on helping it unfold. Remember your helping it unfold -- not forcing it. In this way, your group Becomes of itself a living organism that can teach and comfort you as a friend -- rather than a group of people you have to corral.
6. Do I make use of sleep? We often forget that there is a period of sleep (or death) that has to come before we Understand. This is natural human impatience. But if we forget that before we Understand our actions fully in the Weird Licht of Xeper (the Black Flame), we have to die to those actions. So if a process is still going on, resign yourself to the fact that the ultimate understanding

will only come when it's done. If you decide you have perfect Understanding now, you are only forcing a mold (however good a one) on an ongoing process. If you don't have patience you lose possibilities.

7. Do I allow for the real process of Xeper? When figuring out a group activity cycle, say what is the Pylon going to do next year? It is very easy to forget that Xeper is not a natural process. We know that if we plant tomatoes in May we can harvest them in August and September. Instead of observing the outward signs of the Hidden process of Xeper in others, we very often fall into the trap of deciding that Ralph who joined last year will be an Adept before Marie who joined last month. Worse still we may even talk to people as though this was the case, which is a way of cheating them out of the perception of the True. We need to remind ourselves and others that the processes of Xeper happen in angular time -- that is to say in the Hidden time of the Psyche -- and not in curved time. This helps us and others look at the process in its true form, rather than as a question of seniority.

8. Do I allow for the re-creation of my own Initiation? We forget that there are certain things that charge up our magical batteries. Sure we may take vacations or engage in other forms of recreation (notice re-creation = recreation), but do we re-create our magical selves? Now this is different from Remanifestation, the process of making something already manifest in the Hidden realm manifest in the objective universe. This is the process of regaining the body knowledge of ourselves -- of renewing the focus of the psyche in clear and strong terms. The method of re-creation may be a completely hedonistic weekend for one Initiate, a painful almost shamanic ordeal for another, or a visit to grandmother's house for a third. If we don't periodically re-create ourselves we begin to feel like we're running on empty. (If we don't discover the mixture of pleasure/pain/memory that brings us to the knowledge of who we are -- we'll lack the instrument for Xeper, the process of making the principle of Isolate Intelligence aware of and manifest in fleshly existence.

9. Do I observe the cycles and invoke Set? After we've Worked with a group for a couple of years, we begin to observe how the constraints of circular time -- say for example how it's hard to do group Work during the holiday season when everybody is busy -- effect the times when the fruits of angular time are revealed -- say everybody sure looks good the ritual we do around mid-March. Now although the level of progress for everybody is different, we can begin to get a handle on the when of progress. Knowing this pick a couple of times to invoke Set. Just back to basics strong reaffirmation of our bond to Him. Pick a time for yourself to do this, so that you can re-establish/re-evaluate your Vision and once for the group to do likewise. Here is a Great Secret for reconciling the spinning of the World of Horrors on its axis and the dark angular changes we make within our own psyches. Less rulemaking, more magic making, and Victory can be yours.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

USES OF IDIOTS

Uncle Setnakt would like to talk about the uses of idiots. Our lives are full of them and they are one of our most important unnatural resources.

1. The petty tyrant can help you find what is Hidden within. We are all from time to time in the employ of some ludicrous arsehole who revels in his or her tyranny. We maybe in the position that we can't leave the job right then, or in a time when jobs are hard to come by. So we transform our subjective universes. Everyday we perform this transformation, "By pushing me to my limits you serve my Higher self by revealing things Hidden within me. I observe what you bring to the surface and will use it in my process. In reality you are not the boss, but my servant, and when I have learned enough you will be taken away." Keep this transformation up until the arsehole doesn't cause suffering in you, merely wakefulness. Then circumstances will remove him, and you will have gained wakefulness. Thus opens One of the Gates of Hel.

2. When traveling in his realm, remember to invoke the Name of the Idiot God. Anytime you have to deal with somebody that has to deal with the public, remark to that poor rube, "I bet you have to deal with a lot of idiots in this business." Let them tell you their favorite horror story, and then reassure them that they're a cut above the herd. Then you can get them to break the rules for you in a creative way. "Of course you know how to get me a room with a refrigerator."

3. Remember to feed the idiot messenger. If you taken inventory of your life, you'll discover these people. There's always the one or two folks who tell you important things. Perhaps they pointed out the Temple of Set to you. Yet they seem to be fools, their enthusiasm takes them hither and yon. Be sure you reward these idiots with some gesture of maintenance -- not as "karmic payback" but as a gesture of sacrifice to that part of your own godhood that brings you such things. By doing something for these people, you're making a sacrifice to your growing magnetic center. These fools won't realize you're doing something nice for them, and in fact you aren't merely sacrificing to your godhood for the blessing of having something Hidden pointed out to you. The hardest thing to withstand is the manifestations of others, and when you do this as a conscious sacrifice to yourself - - you will achieve a great deal of self-transformation.

4. Perfect idiots are worth questing for. There is great deal to be said for the individual who can always put you on the right track by negative indications. You love the movies they hate, hate the restaurants they love, etc. If you haven't found a perfect idiot, in a pinch you can always use a large crowd for the test. See what the herd is doing and do the opposite. This is a lazy way to enhance your movement of Becoming more like the principle of Isolate Intelligence, but it's always good to have quick and easy tests for a night on the town.

5. Drive away obnoxious idiots through idiocy. Seldom do we get an opportunity to consciously and actively practice evil in our lives. Idiots provide the most wonderful moments for this. Drive away a greedy idiot by being greedy, a dependent idiot by being dependent, etc. Always take their worst flaw and consciously do unto them even more strongly than what they have done unto you. As you drive them off with the mirror, observe two things--one, what it feels like to do act this way; and two, what energies are released by the conscious bad act. Be sure those energies are then circulated through your system --that your "negative" are just as much of an integrated energy flow as your "positive" ones and thus you can achieve the Secret of the Golden Flower as well. La Veyan Satanism in its highest form uses the idiot forces of the world this way to achieve personal immortality.

6. Remind people of the root of the word. The term idiot comes from a Greek expression of people who put their private interest above that of the polis. Whenever you get the chance just remind people that lack of real community involvement equals idiocy. Encourage them to get themselves out there cleaning up the streets and going door to door campaigning for civil liberties. It's your job to get them to do this. Each time you do, remind yourself that you are one of the real rulers of the

world, and to be Lord of this World, you have to be sure your subjects are taking care of it. It's not easy being king. Remember that it's not their job to decide what to do -- it's yours!

7. Remember to scatter some honey for them. Just as in the myth of rewinning the mead, Odhinn scattered some mead for the fools -- occasionally put some wisdom into the world. Real wisdom is precious, there is only a limited amount (hence those who seek after it are sometimes called Sarmouni, =Old Persian for "bees"). So it is unwise to try to put all your wisdom into the world -- save most of it for your elder (magical) son. But just as the perpetrator of the great secret may fail, be sure that you have put some food out for the idiots, who being idiots will not eat it, but will carry it down the long corridors of time. Thus truth may reassemble (Remanifest) itself even if the keepers fail. And where the great Secrets are you may be reborn into that enclosure. It is a mark of the Those Who Know that they care for their remote descendants.

8. Most of the methods of dealing with idiots in the here and now will also Work with those idiots you carry in your memory. This is fairly advanced Work, but with practice you can gain the wisdom you would've gained from that tyrant you worked for in High School. You can use your detective powers to find messengers long since lost and reward them etc. This may seem like an odd practice at first, until you remember that human beings are given only a certain number of experiences in a lifetime and that these must be economized. This is yet another example of the Balance Factor. Do not despise any part of your life because you were once ruled by idiots. Look upon those memories as keys to treasures that you have not yet found.

9. Although it takes great wisdom, discover how each of the above techniques can be applied to the idiot in the mirror. Every one of these things has a place in your relationship to yourself as well. Use yourself when you are at your most idiotic, and you will have more self to use when you are at your most wise.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

OBTAINING THE SPIRIT HELPER

Uncle Setnakt would like to talk about obtaining the spirit helper, which is called variously the ka, the ally or the __paredros__. After this useful acquisition, one need not practice ritual magic of any sort save as an Indulgence in the art form. A well crafted spirit helper will remain active in the world long after your physical body is wormfood.

1. The spirit helper arises out of perfect internal communication. The great Napoleon Hill points out in __Think and Grow Rich__ that when two people interact a third mind comes into being. We're all familiar with the fact that our relationships take on a life of themselves, but we don't realize that when we achieve communication between the different parts of _ourselves -- another being the spirit helper comes along.

2. The spirit helper must be summoned once it has come into being. The style of magic one uses to contact this replica of yourself will vary. It can be the formal summoning of the __paredros__ from the magical papyri, or Castaneda-style ally stalking, or a ceremony for gaining communication with the Holy Guardian Angel. After it has communicated itself to you, you will be able to call it at will.

3. Before one can deal with this self-created entity, one must have an objective view of the world. The spirit helper can be tested. The spirit helper can and will give information essential to you. Test its advice - this completely subjective being must be able to give you information that is objectively verifiable.

4. The spirit helper can convey messages to others in dreams. When one of your friends or family has a dream about you that (unlike the confusion most dreams exhibit) is clear in its presentation, and meaningful in that it carries a message from you (which perhaps has even been hidden from you until that moment) then you have a spirit helper.

5. The nature of the spirit helper must remain a Secret belonging to the operator alone. As my Setnakt's old teacher Pnouthis pointed out, if you create a magical entity that is self willed, it is wise not to reveal its name lest it be stolen from you. Never reveal too much about the nature of your operations as you wouldn't give away your PIN for your cash machine. If a physical object is used to contact this entity, be sure that it is not one to inspire the greed or otherwise focus the Attention of others.

6. The spirit helper is tremendously useful in preparing the landscape ahead. Let's say you know you're going on a journey in three month's time. By communicating a Need to the spirit helper -- say you're looking for a couple of books for your research -- the spirit helper can manipulate the synchronicities so that you find them. Again there is a danger in this that you become complacent, which is particularly bad since the spirit helper is relatively useless at immediate effects.

7. The spirit helper may easily be lost. If the communication (notice I keep saying communication not harmony) between the parts of yourself stop, the spirit helper vanishes -- just as when two people stop talking, the relationship dies. Before one obtains the spirit helper the necessity of life kept the magician in a certain state of Balance since the magic wouldn't Work any other way. But when the spirit helper comes along, the magician has several months of hitherto unobtainable prosperity, and then he or she may forget the need for internal communication. The magic stops, and the magician returns to sleep - perhaps with lots of weird tales of power.

8. The spirit helper can be willed to help another after your physical death. It can also be willed to help a group -- but this must never be done by the Black Magician. It must be remembered that any form of aid that takes away from the individualistic nature of the intelligence the magicians seek to evolve toward is a movement away from the Left-Hand path. Morton Smith in his __Jesus the Magician__ makes a strong case for Jesus' baptism ceremony as being the acquisition of a __paredros__ and the Pentecost as being the reception of that __paredros__ by his disciples. Well

we can see where that experiment went wrong. By revealing the Secret of the Holy Spirit I Setnakt, great of Sekhem and Mighty of Hekaw, do now disperse all traces of that magical Working from the world. Let the Sekhem depart from the bellies of those who invoke the dispersed one, and I will eat their Sekhem one by one.

9. This accomplishment -- this __objectifying__ of the self -- is not an end, only a new beginning. As with each new level of growth, the new state does not come with an instruction manual, there are new vulnerabilities, new ignorances. And always for those who have pledged themselves to creating the Unknown, each new step is only a place to try further and harder. Do not try to make it easier for those behind you by saying they don't need to do magic anymore just because you don't. Remember your past, and as you drop what you no longer need know that the existence of the path itself is a great mystery -- a Working beyond you and within you begun by the Highest of Life.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

NATURE OF RITUALS

Uncle Setnakt wishes to discuss the nature of rituals and the reasons for their publication.

The publication of ritual might seem an odd activity in light of the statement in *The Book of Coming Forth By Night* that the text of another is an affront to the Self. However there are reasons for the publishing of group rituals, related to the nature of magic itself. The publishing of solitary rituals may or may not have the following needs; that is up to the individual to decide. Uncle Setnakt will examine the nature of ritual, and focus on the reasons for its publication.

1. Ritual is a blending of thought and action. The two primary ways of imposing Order on the world are thinking and doing. Ritual provides a synthesis of these in which both speech and action are performative as well as framing. The latter result is more related to illustrative magic and the former to operative, but both have effects in both categories. As a way of imposing Order, it helps to publish the ritual so as to communicate that Order -- either to energized active psyches, who further it/modify it simply by reading it -- or to effect unaware psyches.

2. Our culture affords a certain primacy to texts, hence their creation and distribution is a form of self-deification. The written word became the culturally prestigious medium a few centuries before the beginning of the Common Era. Scriptures replaced the oral tradition, handwritten methodologies of magic -- Runes, Sator squares etc.-- began to be seen as the more effective form of communicating with other realities. By making your own texts and distributing them, you take that cultural authority and make it your own.

3. The written text requires a precision that spontaneous performance does not. By no means am I suggesting that you stick with the script when you do the magic -- in fact I doubt if I've ever been in a ritual that went according to script. But the act of writing down what you are going to do is a powerful key to certain areas of the psyche. It helps you find areas of Hidden knowledge within you, and if it Works for you, it will Work for others seeking that access to parts of themselves.

4. The writing and publishing of rituals provides a fourth reworking of the concept. Most group rituals are done three times with quite specific effects on the psyche. Once by the creator when he or she thinks up the ritual (after all we must always remember that magic place takes in the mind not in the physical world), secondly when the group performs it, thirdly in each individual separately when he or she considers what has been done. The publishing of the rite leads to a fourth trans-personal performance. Each of these is useful in establishing the magical link. Publishing ritual shares the mead of inspiration with your magical kin. When you put what you've done on paper and share it around, it not only conveys the obvious information, but it can spur others to new and creative ideas for what they can do. Every time you inspire another Black Magician you are taking part in the great Working of the Aeon -- passing on the Flame across the expanses of Earth and the avenues of Time.

5. The rites and ideas you publish over time provide a record of your Xeper, which can inspire others as well. Just as the individual rite can inspire others, the sheer effect of watching you grow and develop through time is an inspiration to others. The objective knowledge that the Xeper process exists in others is the door to Understanding. To Be part of that process is to find a Door to taking place in the great Working of the Aeon. This process of sharing your Greater Black Magical endeavors is not simply the feeding of vanity -- it is the exchanging of Essence. If you want this force to flow through you, you not only have to take in, but give forth as well.

6. The rites will not be performed as you write them. Even if the would-be magician does every single thing "correctly" - it will be a very different experience, because they will bring the contents of their own psyche into the mix. This heady contribution has more power than your words. Magicians, who after all have ego-problems anyway, over-value their own words and under-value the power of others. However, by providing a set of words for another - they will fire their magical

guns at the same target (so to speak), and each time a certain channel may be carved (temporally) in the structure of the minds of men and the machine of the world.

7. The act of putting things on paper helps you see imprecision in your thought or intent. Magic is a form of communication between realities. The change in your subjective world is communicated to the change in the objective world. If this change is muddy, or imprecise, or too limiting -- we can often Work magic that produces a different result than the one we tried for. It is a big help to the polishing and focusing of our own ideas, if we write the text -- let it set for a few days and then read it with a critical eye. Or as the folk saying goes, "Be careful what you wish for; you might just get it."

8. Writing a script -- at least for the performers --helps focus the Will and Intent of them as well. This is an important skill for all Adepts to develop. It is a help to the other Workers, and makes the Work more effective. Very often we engage in magic -- which is a type of communication between realities -- as though we were making a party call. You know, everyone at the party gets handed the phone and says something to the absent guest. Whereas when we privately talk with Set, the outpouring of self is best. Group situations require a focus. Otherwise, the participants approach the altar one by one and are either awed by or try to out-perform the last speaker. With a centralized purpose (chosen in a broad fashion that all may profit from it), group Work changes from a confused muttering to a vast and powerful engine of Transformation.

9. The writing/publishing of ritual helps you Understand the goals of Initiation. When you're doing individual Work -- you know what your goals are (or at least you think you do). But when you have to write a piece of Work that needs to appeal to a group of Workers of different levels of being and different needs, then you have to consider what are the goals of Initiation. What are the things we need and must practice to achieve Xeper? Then you are forced to examine and re-steer your own life. By this process of re-evaluating the goals of your life -- and the process of writing/publishing (not to mention the number one thing which is Performing including the setting-up getting people to your house, etc. which requires a certain CONTROL of your life) -- you can accelerate and steer your Xeper as never before. Share what you know and your Power will grow.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

SENSE OF WONDER

Uncle Setnakt would like to discuss the sense of Wonder, its sources and its importance for the Black Magician. The sense of Wonder (sadly) only comes to our Right Hand Path brothers by accident, but we have the power to Create it in ourselves and others, and to use it for the purpose of self-deification.

1. The sense of Wonder comes when the webwork of "reality" is loosed and we can see the Real. On September 8, 1993 I purchased Alfred Jarry: *The Man With The Axe*. I had been interested in Jarry's work, over the years, but only after reading Nigey Lennon's book did I realize what anarchSatanist Jarry was. Then finishing the book, by reading the Introduction, I noticed that it had been written on September 8, 1983, the 110th birth of Jarry's death, and I had picked it up by "accident" on the 120th anniversary. Followers of the Right Hand Path would have taken this as fate, but I took as communication from mySelf to confirm the sense of Wonder I experienced at Jarry's life and works.

2. The sense of Wonder is the gateway (or magical link) between the subjective and objective universes. As magicians, we have come to realize that magic does not overcome the natural order. Money does not drift down from the sky after a prosperity ritual, compassion rituals do not make open sores heal before our eyes. We are again Wondering if our magic "really" produced the result we see. It is through the sense of Wonder that the magician can sense the change he or she has wrought, and it is very important to Indulge in that sense so the rational mind can learn to perceive the communication from the Hidden side of the universe. The sense of Wonder completes the communication cycle, and is one of the ways to change your magic from a series of operations into a continuous great work, with feedback coming from the other Hidden side of the universe.

3. The sense of Wonder is the method by which the magicians of the past communicate their Work to us, and we in turn to them. The moment of unraveling the code of a runestone, or finding the Hidden meaning in an ancient poem-- and discovering that the reality produces that spine-shivering moment in you as it did in the magician that pierced the veil to make that discovery -- is a moment of intimate sharing that two practitioners of magic can have across the centuries. The truth you find might be inexpressible to your neighbor next door, but the finding of the truth not only rewards you with that piece of knowledge, but also instills in you an Illustrative knowledge of how magical curiosity aids and has aided true becoming. Decoding the magic of the past is indeed no mere intellectual exercise, but an actual Working, aiding both your becoming and that of the sender across the shores of time.

4. The sense of Wonder can communicate Initiatory truths that the rational mind is not ready to grasp. We often come across Mysteries that take a lifetime to unravel, but we do need some push from our Higher selves to note the experience. Again this is not a matter of Fate, but a matter of a conscious attitude linking up with the Form of opportunity. We may witness a scene from our dreams, or we may come across a series of synchronicities so significant that they cannot be ignored. When this happens do not expect that you will walk away enlightened, but do expect that you had better go take very good notes in your magical diary, and better still practice those memory skills (that Uncle Setnakt is always trying to get you to improve) so that the marked moment is available to you for later examination. (This also shows the need for a magician to develop an art -- if she or he can paint, write poetry, dance, they will have another medium to capture the moments of Wonder.)

5. The sense of Wonder should be carefully created in those around us. If we instill through careful planning and artistry the idea in our friends, co-workers, and family that there is something "Magic" about us, we reap three benefits. Firstly we are not held so closely in their minds, their unconscious magic does not exert a force to bind us to the world -- indeed it produces the opposite. Secondly it allows us to practice our craft without stealth when the need arises. Thirdly it frees us somewhat from social conventions -- which gives us freedom to do things for our own becoming.

6. The sense of Wonder is a key to testing your level of being. Since the sense of Wonder is to the sleeping workaday world what dreams are to sleep, the extent you can remember and use your Wonder is the first stage of awakening to life. If you can keep those experiences alive within you, you have begun to break free from the world machine and are on your way to becoming a truly Adept magician. If you have the strength of Will to control your subjective universe enough to create a moment of Wonder, then you have mastered the Black Flame of self awareness, and can send it forth across the expanse of the earth. In other words, a normal man cannot say, "I will be astounded." and then experience that state any more than he can tickle himself. A magician of a certain level of advancement can do this, and feel astonishment flood their being. Magic is the art or science of causing changes in the subjective universe, with proportionate changes in the objective universe. If you can't cause changes in your mind, you're not about to transform the Cosmos. Then at an even deeper level of development the sense of Wonder can be made physically manifest. This is the highest level of (purely) human Initiation. The magician can stand in front of the used bookstore or whatever, and Will him or herself to be astounded and walk in -- knowing that he or she will meet a long lost friend, or find a treasure whose beauty and Wonder open new parts of their dark souls. Note that this is the highest form of magic, not the willed bringing about of a known event -- for tyrants and dictators can do this -- but the Creation of the Unknown, the ability that sets the magician apart from his or her fellows.

7. The sense of Wonder enables you to deepen your contact with the realm of the Real. Since you have become aware of this these moments are an actual opening of the window to the Real -- learn to take the moment to send a message to the real. This is not the time for sorcery, such as a money rite. Such things that effect the natural order are best done in the natural order. This is a moment to (through the power of Will and thought) project your intention of Becoming a potent, powerful, immortal and independent essence. By expressing that intent of entering the world of the Real, when you have access to the world of the Real, you begin to associate your Essence with that realm, and prepare yourself for an active postmortem state of continuously bringing new impulses to the world.

8. The sense of Wonder is a key to time travel. One of the most powerful (and hence also dangerous) ways of breaking with the natural order -- so that you can come to appreciate your true self as an isolate self-improving force-- is using the sense of Wonder as time-travel magic. As the great magician and photographer William Mortensen noted, the great keys to subject participation in art are sex, nostalgia, and the sense of Wonder. Because of the unhealthy nature of our society, the first two are harder for a beginning magician to deal with. But if you want to experience the mental (and physical?) rejuvenating effects of time travel, I Setnakt, challenge you to perform the following evil ritual. Pick sometime in the past that evoked a tremendous sense of Wonder for you - - perhaps it was watching *The Mummy*. Now remember all the contributing factors, what you ate, what you wore, what your moods before and during were. Now take sometime when you're normally taking in information to bind your mind and soul to the current world -- saying watching the six o'clock news, or attending a weekly briefing at work. Substitute an actual physical enactment of the Wonder-producing event. Do it alone, so that you can as fully re-create that moment of awe (say that thrill when Imhotep's eyes open). Tell no one you did it, but watch for the moment someone comments on your "youthful" nature. Learning this skill will do more for your health and mind than any number of New Age relaxation techniques.

9. Uncle Setnakt's hat trick. To thoroughly show the power of the sense of Wonder, the actual experience of magic, Uncle Setnakt will do a Working before you. You will read these words, forget them (for it is the nature of the world to misdirect us). Yet within nine days, a powerful experience of the sense of Wonder will be yours. A few hours afterward you will remember these words, and a second wave of Wonder will pass through you. Now did you do that? Or was it the Ka of Setnakt passing close to you? When it happens, you will really have something to Wonder about.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

GREEK VIRTUES

Uncle Setnakt would like to discuss Greek virtues as part of his overreaching scheme to help people think clearly. The main Greek virtues were harmony, synthesis, and moderation. Uncle Setnakt will discuss the need for these in order to be a balanced and powerful Left Hand Path magician.

1. Harmony without is a key to longevity. Many people feel that if they come across an idea they dislike, they must immediately write to the source of the idea to tell them how wrong they are. Not only does such swift anger keep one from ever gaining new ideas, it shortens your lasting power in dealing with the individual. Indulgence is fine, and in fact one of the best bases for LHP Work, but you must ask yourself -- does this idea adversely effect me? If you spend all your time projecting your anger on the world, you'll lose many potential colleagues. Act in light of feelings now and of your dreams for the future.

2. Harmony within is a key to power. Not only do I Disagree with other Setians, I sometimes disagree with myself. But I find there are moments when all of my various parts are in agreement -- moments of harmony and resonance (or tremendous need). Learning what put you in those moments and steering your life to produce as many of those moments as possible is a great way to find out who you are -- to discover the name of the god you are becoming. Since you're a magician and philosopher, you can learn to use that name, that private address to the god who will answer your prayers.

3. Harmony across time is a key to the Hidden. If certain environments -- whether an Egyptian temple or a Nineteenth century Vermont farm house -- suddenly bring you into the state of an active peace, you've discovered something more than a useful retreat -- you've discovered something that works a Hidden part of your soul. Find out more about these things, and you'll find more about yourself. Fill your life with such objects and learn to work your magic not only in the here and now -- but from that point of before.

4. Synthesis offers a way to avoid the dangers of neophilia and neophobia. Neophilia is the constant love of the new. Any thing just out, fresh exciting must be best. Neophobia is the fear of the new. Synthesis, as a principle, involves taking what is pleasing and good from the new and mixing it with what has been tested and found worthy in the old. It requires thought and artistry. Sometimes it means rejecting the new because it won't fit, sometimes it means throwing out the old because it has been replaced. But above all it means getting to know and being ruled by the self rather than fashion or tradition.

5. Synthesis offers a glimpse of immortality. If the Self moves through time beyond the body, and more importantly if the Self continues to bring new impulses to the earth, synthesis is a required virtue. You've got to learn to express your point of view, your principles in whatever historical matrix is in front of you. So learning how to continually rebuild your world with what you have available is practice for immortality.

6. Synthesis offers a chance for commutation of things beyond words. We all reach those points in our initiation where words fail, because the experience in essence took place in an area beyond words. However we can often share that essence by putting together all the sources that clearly lead up to the experience and offering them, or by building the experience together. Oftentimes the greatest values in putting together a group Working comes from the planning of the blocking, the assembling of the chamber and the other preparation done to express the synthesis the author of the rite already has.

7. Moderation challenges us to think. Many people have learned to lead their lives without thinking by either adopting a set of rules, or by claiming there are no rules. By choosing an extreme position they never have to puzzle, anguish, and decide. The exercise of the Gift by taking an open look at everything -- never going too far into any one practice, makes one think. Not the heavy grueling

self-observation that inhibits growth as much as its opposite does, because that too violates the goal of moderation.

8. Moderation challenges us to be tolerant. If we are to avoid putting too strong a net of rules on ourselves, how much more so must we avoid putting one on others. Moderation shows us that we do not for the most part do the wrong things, we do them excessively. In learning moderation, we can also learn a healthy humility that keeps us from judging others when they fail to do things well and in their proper time. We leave them the challenge of finding their own golden means, rather than try and do the work for them by telling them what should be done.

9. Moderation challenges us to Xeper. If we inventor our lives to see areas where we have not shown moderation -- we'll find those things we've never done because we're afraid of them, those things we thought were too hard, or that we were too stupid to do. In order to show true moderation we'll often have to experience these things. We have to open to dark and light. And as we try new things, as we subject ourselves to ordeals or remember to reward ourselves with pleasure, more and more of our joys and sorrows are not driven by the things without, but by our growing desire to be ourselves. Thus we become less the animal which moves by its cravings, and takes its self from its environment, and more and more the god who knows who he or she is.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

SELF AS THE CONSTANT

Uncle Setnakt was reading an early issue of *Runes* the other day. In it Dr. Aquino commented "The successful magician must develop and ultimately master the ability to make himself the constant and everything else variable, subject to his Will." As LBJ used to say, "let us reason together," and come up with some methods to help us in that goal.

1. The Great Work is to change perception. We are hard-wired by our bodies. All of our senses serve primary survival concerns. Is it food? Is it mate? Is it dangerous? Survival means you quickly classify everything as good or bad, but if we wish to get beyond our animal selves, we need to question those quick assessments. We need occasionally to plunge into what we first thought was taboo. Not just the big easy taboos -- making fun of the church or politics, but personal taboos as well. Taboos can be anything from being completely serious in the chamber to sexuality to enduring something fearful to learning to say I'm sorry. We must break with everything once, even if we return to it to make it sacred (or taboo) again. Thus we perceive ourselves, not our animal natures.

2. We must learn the art of recovery. Far too often I've heard "I will always stay awake!" Of course you won't. It isn't in human nature. The wisest of the wise lose their coffee cups and reading glasses on the way to the computer. But we lose even more if we turn upon ourselves like vicious dogs because we dozed off. But if we learn to take delight in recovery of our awareness, then we've begun to put the emphasis in the right place.

3. The magician learns to identify with her immortal self, not her creations and possessions. Sure, the animal part of ourselves will hurt and howl when a plan falls through. You can look at any of the go-getters you know and watch them fall apart when their latest project hits the dirt. But Magicians knowing the secret of remanifestation look upon their own failures as that same shimmering chaos of an opportunity that any disruption of a system is. In the midst of failure, force yourself to wake up -- give up the suffering it is for the weak -- and begin looking around for an opportunity to work your magic on the smashed fragments. After all Khepera pushes a dung ball, not a diamond.

4. Magic lies in the movement towards Mastery. At any moment, the Magician can make the movement toward mastery. No matter what is going on, you can make it more perfect. No I don't mean in some anal retentive perfectionist way -- I mean in a way that has three characteristics -- joy, lightness of touch, and balance. If you ride a bike, or hang glide, or do martial arts, or dance -- you'll know what I mean. There is always that moment to go from the technically perfect to the ethereal. Feel and know that movement as a source of joy, and make that joy an habitual resting place for your psyche.

5. Attitude is the skeleton of your ka. Currently your awareness is perfectly focused on your body. It has a definite location in time and space, its emotions are regulated by glandular secretions, its thoughts largely driven by external stimuli. But since you are interested in exploring Life beyond death, you'll need to make a new focus. Learn to build up certain attitudes as the normal condition of your soul -- the place where you drift to. The formula of "balance, joy, lightness of touch, and movement toward mastery" is a good beginning, but since this is the LHP after you tried that out, you'll need to come up with your own. If you build a habitual mood of power, you'll build a way of being. These are the bones of your ka, and like a skeleton keep these attitudes flexible by plunging yourself into the Unknown, and the taboo. Our ancient Egyptian friends said that Set had bones of iron and Har-Wer had bones of lodestone. There is a secret there about Life in Death.

6. Avoid unfortunate utterances, they interfere with the change of perception. We forget that our perception is based on our words. Try an experiment. Say, "I'll notice blue things today!" Do it every day for a week, and you'll be amazed how many blue things there are. That is why it is important not to spend time telling yourself and everybody else what a screw-up you are. But more important still is the magical practice of silence about a skill you haven't mastered yet. If you say

every day, "I want to quit smoking" but don't do so -- you train yourself to know that your words are meaningless. But if you reserve your outward utterances for things you are about to do, then you'll train yourself to know that your words, your intents are powerful. Learn to say "I want to use my new computer" on that day you're really going to use it. Begin with small things, until you have developed a capacity for words of power.

7. Practice tipping the scales of change through preservation and reserves. Now "Preservation" is generally a dirty word for most people on the LHP. We exalt creativity and change over rest and preservation, but the other two if used to furtherance of Xeper, have their uses. When you are in the midst of learning a new habit -- let's say you're doing it about half the time -- try a symbolic act to preserve it. Affirm that is the way you're doing the new thing -- at least for now, and that the old way is an illusion falling away from you. This teaches the psyche to preserve what is newly of you, yet at the same time realize that even your newest most wondrous creation will be destroyed when it is time for you to move on. That's the use of preservation. For rest, learn to keep reserves. Don't place your whole heart in every project that comes along. Even as the project does well, say to yourself, "This is not me, I am beyond my creations, taking strength in victory, and strength in my defeats." Imagine putting away a little energy from your health, from your victories, from your joys. Just as the magicians of old could double their money with a mandrake root, imagine putting your savings aside in a magical place where they increase. When defeat comes, for all things that stand do fall --immediately draw upon these reserves that you are quickly able to change conditions around you and within you. Thus although you know great loss or pain, you will always know great strength, and are never easy prey for your enemies. This is the use of rest.

8. Learn the art of re-creation of symbolic systems. Now this may seem to be a trivial game, to be placed so late in Uncle Setnakt's article, but it is a serious form of Play. Take some symbolically laden object that you have to see every day. Say your company's logo or the American flag. Learn to see the symbols in your own terms. If we use the flag. "Red is for the blood that courses through my veins, Life the Link between the universe of Forms and the physical world, White is for the Light I generate to see in the darkness of mystery, Blue is for the purity of my spirit. The stars represent those souls as yet unawakened that my presence enlivens, and the bars represent the layers of law I lay down through each of my actions." Do this until it eclipses any other explanation you have heard. Then slowly with lightness of touch, convince others that at least some of your interpretations are the right ones. Thus you habituate yourself to being a source of meaning for the world, rather than a slave to mass thought.

9. Learn the art of explanation as a practice for Rebirth. Far too often we confine our self articulation in a magical vocabulary, or worse still refuse to speak at all. So we can only explain ourselves in terms of the Quaballah or the Runes, or say "I have no words for the experience." This doesn't leave much of a trace for us to read if we are born again on this world. Nor does it give us tools for use in any other. It is no good to know only how to express yourself in Tarot cards if you Come Into being someplace where Tarot cards are not. Learn to share what you know in the plainest most concise words you can muster. Learn logical good language and grammar, as well as art. When you can use these things to express personal initiation, then you can truly send forth the Black Flame across the expanses of space and time. And who knows but you yourself may be on the receiving end of such a Sending?

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

THE PROPERTY OF RETURN

Uncle Setnakt noticed recently that the property of return is one of the fundamental properties of the magical life. In fact the way we deal with return is a key both to the unfolding of ourselves and the success of our activities. Let's examine the property and some of what to do with it.

1. Return is the Mysterious rearrival of something you've cast into the world. Here's an example of return from Uncle Setnakt's life. I discussed with a Mr. X one day an idea I had for a magazine. A few months later a Mr. Y approached me to work for a magazine that he had founded, using "Mr. X's" idea. Although Mr. Y didn't know the true source of the idea, my idea had returned to me.

2. Return has a dynamic self-ordering quality. Many magicians, particularly those under the guide of past Aeons, believe that return is the same thing as Fate. They think that all the twists and turns one of our sending goes through is either the direct hand of the gods, or some mechanized principle of karma. In reality, those things born of our Isolate Intelligence partake of its dynamic quality and have the power to effect events even when they are beyond our direct perception.

3. Return gives an opportunity for furtherance of your plans and goals. Any time our magic returns to us, our magic has created a ready-made space for further creation. It's as though our actions have created that spot Archimedes longed for -- a platform hovering twenty feet in the air, so that we might move the earth with the lever of our Will.

4. Return doesn't insure success, it is a sign for more Work. Many magicians interpret the sign of return as Fate is on their side. As Black magicians we know that there is no such things as fate, so we are left with the question of, Why do things return to us? The answer is that since these returns reflect our will, they're back because more or new things need to be done. They are the exact objective universe analog of the process of trying to remember a name in our subjective universe. For a while we can't remember it at all, then we are distracted and a mysterious process within produces the name. The work at the moment is applying the memory to the original purpose. The Secret of the True name is hidden here.

5. Return gives you an opportunity to observe an external mirror of your development. Just as watching our children grow up reveals something of the nature of our becoming to ourselves, discovering the paths and obstacles that the "Children" of our Will take can tell us what works best and worst for us. Was it subtle or loud? Were they helped more by men or women? Did it perpetuate itself more by reason or by emotion? If we see the pattern of our magic, we see the pattern of ourselves -- and discovering our own patterns, we can control and accelerate these patterns more.

6. Return allows you to continue to Work on this earth after your physical death. Within our physical life we discover how to live through the various patterns of our bodies and minds. We learn what meal to eat before the big golf game, what time of day sex is best, when we do the best work at the office. Each external pattern can be used to strengthen our life. Likewise setting up patterns of return in the world -- particularly those that intersect and strengthen each other -- is a way to preserve and strengthen our actions, even when we're not physically around. The average magician -- unaware that magic fails without an unbending central Purpose -- will set up patterns that will cancel each other out. On a mass scale humanity always does this, so it moves from consciousness to stupidity, progress to regress, and peace to war. So our patterns have to be stronger even than these.

7. Return reveals some of the Real of yourself. One of the most striking aspects of magical return is that it so often doesn't work. Let's take a completely socialized magician. Adept Biff tries money rituals every damn night, but they never seem to Work. He can't figure it out -- isn't money the great good? One night he tries a ritual to get some books on a philosophical topic he's interested in. Within the next few weeks books are literally falling off the shelves in front of him, he meets

scholars in the field on the bus, his friends come across an email List on his topic. If Adept Biff is awake, he'll notice that his real self doesn't care about money, but will really exert itself to find what is for him (and him alone) the appropriate nutrition.

8. Return changes you as much (at least) as the original sending did. Although as magicians we all intellectually know that to cause Change we must Change -- we often forget it in an Operative sense. Every Working, no matter on how mundane a topic, changes us. If the Work returns to us, one of the first things we must note is: just as the Work has changed all the people in its path, it likewise is changing us by its return. What separates us from all the folks carried along with Osiris on the back of the Bull of Ombos, is we know we can effect, amplify, and fine tune the Magic as it passes through us. This is one of the secrets to self creation.

9. Return begins to reveal some of the nature of the Gift of Set. If we can observe and deal with all the things above, we can begin to understand our relationship to our Workings. Now since we see all these things, consider that we ourselves are the results of a Working. The Working of Set, consists of a single sending -- the sending forth of the Black Flame. Contemplate then how all our Work and becoming are Returns to Set, and that in all we do as magicians we honor both Set and ourselves in our actions. The Black Magician's life is thus lived completely selfishly, but it is also lived as a long love poem sent back to the Giver of the Gift of Isolate Intelligence.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

TEACHERS

Uncle Setnakt has recently become aware of how true Nietzsche's Understanding of the world is. The stronger and happier you Become, the richer the world Becomes. I find this matter especially true in the matter of teachers. Like all individuals seeking knowledge and power, I am more interested in acquiring those people and experiences that can teach rather than showing off how bright I am. We begin our path to godhood as cosmic idiots, after all. It is the duty (to yourSelf) to seek out teachers, because they offer a productive middle path between rigorous self observation, which can often stop an unfolding process dead, and willful self ignorance, which doesn't allow you to place new processes in the service of the God that counts -- yourSelf. Teachers help you Remember things briefly; you may meet them at the Laundromat, or as fellow students in your aerobics class. Teachers may not be wiser than you, they need not be occultists (indeed if you do not know the Secret of use the forces of the world for your own Initiation this column is lost on you) -- but one thing is sure if you're practicing your magic well they will appear at the right times; although perhaps in the most unlikely places. Here are some types to seek out.

1. Teachers who are undergoing the experience of the First Thought can reveal a pure glimpse of that thought. The First Thought is the awareness of Coming Into Being. It was Set's First Thought, and when we observe that magical moment of responsibility occurring in others, we should open ourselves as much as we can to their experience. Since they're at the point of origin, we can learn something about that point that we did not notice when we passed through it with trembling and joy.

2. Teachers who can instruct you in the benefits of a sense of beauty can teach you the importance of self renewal. One of the lessons we forget again and again is how to surround ourselves with those objects of quiet beauty that restore our minds and bodies. If you are lucky to know someone who is a truly good housekeeper -- I don't mean an ultra-neat fusspot -- but someone who keeps a house that everybody that goes there has a winsome time, study what they do. Keeping an Oasis is a Duty we have to ourselves, and to those who we honor as kin. If you can begin by successfully enchanting your home according to your evolving personal sense of beauty, then you'll have a place to stand to begin your work on the world.

3. Teachers who are good at getting at the underlying cause of things can teach you how to use your senses. We receive no training in the use of the senses in the world, unless we are lucky enough to work at a craft. Now if you ever deal with someone who's a master baker that can tell you how much water to put in the dough by sniffing the air, or a master mechanic who by listening to a motor tells you unfailingly what the trouble is -- watch and learn how they use their bodies. Initiate and experiment. The five gateways of the senses are the best tools for breaking down the elements of a situation -- if they are used properly.

4. Teachers who know that being a specialist doesn't mean giving up being a generalist can teach you how to be effective in this world. This Secret is so powerful that I encourage you to pass it along to those non-Setians you wish to empower for your own GBM purposes. We live in an age wherein specialization is necessary. There is no one as powerful as the lawyer, the doctor, the engineer (in their fields). But when you discover someone who retains flexibility of mind, and a healthy respect for the practical ability to get things done in the world -- you have found a great role model. These rare folk can take the lessons they've learned on either pole of their being and transfer it. They can use the power gathered at one end to empower a project at the other. They also tend to keep their minds healthy and active for many, many years. Above all fear the path of only being an occultist, no matter how skilled you may be.

5. Teachers who can see the big picture but focus on minutiae can teach you how to do magic without ritual. As we all Know (on some level) the magic of being effective in the world is the simple magic of conscious Doing. One of the most instructive types of person to meet is that individual who accomplished feats of power without "magic" in the sense of ritual practice. These

people are smart and hard working, and above all seem "lucky." Learn their habits, notice how they can take their life goals and apply them to small matters like figuring out when to get their dry cleaning done. They have altered their subjective universe, and produced an ongoing Self Remembering change in the objective universe. Associate with happy strong people.

6. Teachers who know when to let the creative processes rest can teach you how to find the mysteries within. If you know someone, perhaps an artist or an engineer, who knows how to go off on a hunting trip, or bum around the beach, or even the magic of the long bubble bath -- to let their conscious minds go for awhile -- and then comes back with the greatest idea they've ever had, you have in them a great instructor. Learning when and how to slack off, to let things incubate, to let the wine ferment -- is a great skill. Magicians tend to be obsessive types (more so if their magical name contains an "S"). Learning not only the needed body skill and Duty of relaxation, but the ability to allow things to Dismanifest from your conscious mind (so they can Work in the Hidden realms) is paramount for bring new ideas out of the darkness within. If you can see somebody who does this, watch and learn. This techniques worth years of patience to acquire, and is linked with # above.

7. Teachers who have the courage to fail can teach you how to bring new things into the world. Everyone knows this as a truism. If you're going to find a new way to do things, you'll have some failures. This fear is one of the manifestations of Osiris, the neter of Stasis. Osiris, like the corpse he is, just lies there and never fails at anything. But it isn't enough to know this, we have to be reminded of it. If we can find those people who really take risks, fail, learn and try again -- we have a living role model of Set to inspire us. One of the Signs that we are truly the Temple of Set is not that we don't make mistakes, but that we have the strength to learn and overcome them. If you want to truly be a member of the Temple then you too have to (like Uncle Setnakt) continually be relearning this. I pause for a moment here to Wish with the whole of my Being that the Temple will always remain so.

8. Teachers who know the difference between nurturing and co-dependency can teach you how to create magical sons and daughters. We may all meet great men and women who, since they can't stand to see someone else suffer like they did, intervene and in the process keep the persons they intervened for from ever learning. They develop a company of fools that adore them. True teachers are interested only in proving the best elements for their students' assimilation. Teachers create spaces, and the spaces get better only if the students do. Look for these people, whether they run literary salons or bullshit sessions under the guise of penny ante poker. Discover their art of nurturing, but limiting themselves from keeping somebody from burning their fingers on the stove. There is always a deep Sadness in these people, but no disappointment. They have seen many failures, yet always are filled with joy and wonder at the success they are prevailed to watch. Again this skill is worth all the patience and application needed to acquire it. Through it, you will influence the course of human history.

9. Teachers who speak the words you had always known in your heart but could not say, can teach (in a hidden way) the art of godhood. Set is the Opener of the Mouths of the Gods. Before Set, the gods had no power. The Elect of humanity, a much larger group than just the Temple, are revealed not only by their commitment (or perhaps Need) to teach others, but by occasionally saying something far wiser than they seem to be. In this since they have begun to emulate the Gift giving of Set, they become informed of his principle. Now when we see this, we don't need to follow these people around to see if they'll stumble across another pearl of wisdom. But we do need to use the example of what has happened before us, to become mindful of the Gift. We see how the Gift does Open the Mouths of those who seek to use it, and learning what placed these people in such a place of power, we too can structure our own lives to be placed in similar position. This idea feeds into the first.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

LORE

Uncle Setnakt would like to talk to you about Lore -- its uses and power in the world. We all know on some level that a good story does change the world. We've all felt that pang when a story we've held to be true vanishes, and we've often begun our transformative Quests based on a piece of Lore. Creating the Unknown is the job of the Magician, and here's some tips on doing it for fun and profit.

1. The Truth makes a better basis for Lore. Let's say one of your long term goals is to increase the size and prestige of the Temple of Set. Well, preaching about it in your hometown is a good way of meeting the torch bearing villagers. But when in another city you can visit the local occult shop and talk about the Temple from an outsider's point of view. You meet someone and steer the conversation to "I've met a couple of Setians. They seemed wealthy, wise and well-connected. If I ever got serious about magic, I'd probably look into the TOS." Now this simple remark plants a seed, and it's a seed that anyone who has a casual interaction with the Temple will find to be true. And as more people who truly want to work for the wisdom, wealth and being well-connected join the temple -- the statement becomes more and more true.

2. A good story makes a good talisman. Let's say you're wanting to attract love to your life. You get some suitable looking thing, say a statue of Pan. You tell your nonSetian friends that this is a "traditional item for attracting love." This statement will destabilize things for you, because your friends will begin consciously or unconsciously helping you in your Quest. You do your GBM and call Love from the Unmanifest. When your friends see this, they'll believe in the statue, and you can give it to that friend who you want to succeed in his own Quest. And it will Work, after all he has seen it Work -- thus are magical items made.

3. A good story can heal hurts. Take a marriage where the wife has begun sleeping fifteen hours a day because she's so depressed, and the husband has lost all hope for happiness. You recommend the following action to them. Tell them to read "Sleeping Beauty" together, or if you can steer them to the best form of that story The Saga of the Volsunga. This will Work on the deepest parts of their psyche and powered by their Need cause them to enact the Mystery.

4. A good story is good crowd control. Too many geeks standing around your cubicle at work? Not after you tell them there's a cancer causing EMF anomaly produced by the wiring of the building there. Tell it to a know-it-all fool, and let him spread the news for you. Of course months after it's worked, you can use the rumor to ask for that new office you've had your eye on.

5. A good story can work on several levels. One of the best stories to tell people is that people who help you out seem to succeed in business. "Maybe I'm just lucky." Now don't over do this and make it sound like a chain letter. Firstly it attracts self-seeking types who do some spontaneous favor. Use them, after all it may be the only time in their lives they get to do something for another. Secondly your real friends may believe the tale, and the "Dumbo's feather" effect will help give them the confidence to succeed. Of course you can help out (secretly) those you want to succeed -- and this will boost the whole operation. Thirdly after the second effect has been in place awhile people will really be doing better around you, and since they're now in a network of successful people -- knowing you does make their lives more effective. What a pleasant gift your sorcery has made!

6. A good story can kill a nasty rumor. When someone in your life has decided to harm you with rumor mongering, and the simple truth hasn't stopped it, a good story will. Don't spread vile lies, or even vile truths about your enemy. Find out what makes them look the most silly, and spread that. The power of a gossip monger is his or her believability. If they are seen as silly, their power is destroyed. The one-liner slays what the philosopher cannot wound.

7. A good story can cause something to be born. Let's say you're wanting to create an open mike night at a local café. You tell people that you remember there was an announcement for one. You suggest they call the cafe for times. You mention what a great idea it is. This can not only convince

the cafe owners to try out an open mike night, it can generate the initial enthusiasm for the idea. And when you go to read your poetry there -- Know that this is a place of your magical making and therefore useful for sending the Signal into the world that what you want to happen happens.

8. A good story Links you to the past and the Yet-To-Be. You enjoyed the first time you heard " . . and when they got home dangling from the door handle was a hook. . ." Have fun passing these things along, but when you Indulge in this game -- pause for a moment and think about where you heard the story, and what stories are (i.e. basically low grade rituals), and how you are linking yourself to an immortal and unbroken tradition that began with the first storyteller around a Paleolithic campfire. With such moments of reflection magicians can feel the force of the Black Flame and renew their commitment to it. Know the person you pass the story along to will likewise continue the chain, perhaps till you hear a similar wild tale the next time your psyche has returned to the flesh for the purpose of revelation. Even telling the microwave poodle tale can be, for the Setian, a moment of immortality.

9. A good story can enchant your life. The person who can tell his or her tale with the opening line, "I am a Vampyre!" "I am a Knight!" remembers him- or herself -- what they are and what they Need to do. How sad, if at the end of your story, all you can say is "I was a wage-slave." Every Setian must try to Live to say, "I was such stuff as dreams are made of."

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

URBAN SORCERY TIPS

Uncle Setnakt would like to share some urban sorcery tips. Too often in our busy work-a-day world we forget the importance of binding events to our will. Now that great Word of Binding Indulgence is one of the best ways of binding our emotional states to the world of nature, and as the Magus of that world knew -- the easiest places to tie your is with destruction, lust, and compassion. Uncle Setnakt will share nine urban spells on these popular topics. Staff tested and sorcerer approved.

1. The Philippine headache curse. This is the real version of a Polynesian practice partially described by "Adam Smith" in his book on popular occult years ago. If you have a headache, visualize it as a pocket of liquid. What color is it? Does it fill a thimble, a shot glass, or a coffee cup. Now visualize the pain flowing into the vessel. Feels better doesn't it? But don't toss that pain away -- put in a box in your office, or a Tiki statue. Not only does this get rid of that pain. But when an officemate decides to be a permanent pain in your rear, just empty the pain on them. I've seen people with migraines within the hour, and I save big on my aspirin bill. (This is part of the ana'ana tradition of Kahuna, and the source of those cursed Tikis that Greg Brady and other sitcom types kept finding in the 60s).
2. The squiggle of doom curse. Many magical systems have ways of charging drawings and diagrams with power. The squiggle of doom is a personal approach. Next time you need a self-distracter -- say you're setting in the dentist's chair, or at an IRS audit -- just think of a simple doodle. Concentrate so your mind is distracted away from the smoke coming from your mouth. Now such sigils will work to keep your mind off unpleasant things, until they become unpleasant to think of due to association. When that happens you've loaded the sigil with the proper amount of anxiety. Just draw on the calendar of your rival. It won't look like something traditionally spooky like a pentagram, but it will do its job.
3. The "probably not" curse. This piece of LBM works on the nature of mental processing -- it effects the preconscious. If you're wanting to create a bad impression concerning someone, remember to stick up for them a good deal. When the copier breaks, say, "It probably wasn't Rob's fault the copier broke." Now for the mind to process it the brain has to process the idea of it WAS Rob's fault. Slowly people begin to think that there's something wrong with Rob -- and of course since the guy probably is an irritant -- this speeds the collection of his real faults by everybody around.
4. The Herman Miller Tantra lust spell. This evil and effective spell requires you to have a few moments alone in the office of your target. It is an evil and forbidden misuse of the serpent power. Sit in your targets chair, and begin thinking about him/her in rational business world term, then emotional terms, and then finally physical lovemaking terms. As you do this let the energy gather in your head, work its way down your spine thorough your heart and finally out of your body into the chair itself. Distract yourself with normal business activities, so that the invoked lust doesn't re-attach itself to you. This magical whoopee cushion is very effective. Be sure you've got the right chair though.
5. The suppression jingle lust spell. Got a target that's making you crazy with passion? The next time you notice that there's some song, or jingle, or other World of Horrors manifestation you just can't get rid of in your mind -- rewrite it into a love song/poem for the one you're after. Then in their presence, merely repeat internally as a mantra. You have to exercise iron control of the will however so that you don't suddenly answer one of their questions with the poem. This will give you control of the rational situation, and effect a Binding of your irrational (or spirited) elements on the target. Note be very careful with this one -- it is the basis of long term relationships, not one night stands.
6. The book lovers lust spell. This one never fails. Find out who the target's favorite author is (or a favorite topic like Japanese art or Italian cooking). Buy a new copy of such a book. Sleep with it

between your thighs for three nights. Then give it to the target. Now don't write anything in the book, and especially don't "occult" it up with Runes, Sigils, and other spooky things. Since reading for pleasure (like memory) is an Erotic act, that is to say it binds the irrational within with something in the world of Nature, the reading of the book will provide a mysterious matrix wherein your purpose and the target's can combine.

7. The Ring of Underdog compassion ritual. This is a positive use of mental obsession. If you watched the Underdog cartoon (1964 NBC-TV) you will recall he had an Energy Pill stored in his ring. Now as lovers of consciousness we don't carry/use drugs, but we can carry a vitamin pill. Keep the single pill in some object that suggests health and vitality. Whenever you're feeling especially vital (say after your first coffee break), touch the container and store some of the energy within. The pill become both a low-grade psychological talisman -- as long as you know its there you have a hidden resource, and can be used a way of gearing up life forces when stresses get too high. The presence of the talisman can also serve as a reminder to take care of your body, so that you may wax, live long and prosper. This is a very good magical practice to teach those whom you want to empower in your company.

8. The turnstile compassion ritual. This is designed for the urban sorcerer that uses public transportation, but it can be adapted by anyone. Next time you're own your work, notice something that your hand comes in contact with everyday -- say a turnstile or a banister. The enchantment is easy. Just Will the banister (or whatever) to absorb a little bit of the life force of each person who touches it, during the day. Then when you're on your way home at night, just spend a moment actually feeling the surface with your fingertips, and call the collected energy into yourself. Feel it enter and give you a boost, which you will expend that night in activities that further your Selfish goals.

9. The Kotodama ritual. Kotodama is Japanese for "power of words" or praise given to a human being to help him or her manifest their Kami (=divine) nature. An Egyptian equivalent would be Sha(t) Ren. The "t" is silent but shows gender (feminine). When you want to really heal and empower someone. Tell them in the most precise, most Real terms you can -- what their Function in the world is. This Works only for Real praise, not LBM buttering up. It quickly grows vitiated with overuse, so use it only when you see that really Needs a boost. Say it with intent to heal, but limit your praise to the emerging divine in them (i.e. don't go overboard). This is the most powerful of Black magic in the healing arts, because it not only binds the powers of your concern upon their physical forms -- it can actually bind the Aeon's force to them. It only works with honesty, and is one of the forces that keeps the World of Horror from running down.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT

Uncle Setnakt would like to discuss something that is seldom mentioned in Satanic circles: the importance of light. Darkness we've beginning to get a handle on, but it is not good enough to know only half of the picture.

1. Light is the bridge between the creators and their creations. Because of the radical subjectivity necessary to cause magic to Work, there is a tendency to forget that what you've cast upon the world isn't merely an extension of yourself. This shortcoming has destroyed many good magicians, Anton LaVey coming first to mind. Once you've made something real in the objective universe, you can't change it by merely thinking hard. It will offer you as much resistance as anything else in that universe -- unless you use the secret of watching it for feedback. If you carefully watch your creations, rather than dictate to them -- you can transform them as easily (or with as much difficulty) as you transform yourself.

2. Light is the Symbol of the Present. Darkness, as we all come to realize, is the Symbol of the future. Light lets us know what is happening now. The greater our affinity for light from certain sources the bigger the present we have to Work in. If the end of your light universe is the little cubicle you slave way in, you have a tiny present. Light, as Symbol of the present, is the great dispeller of dread -- very few things are as hard to face in the objective universe as they are in the imagination. Since Fear rules mankind, it makes light into the source of its gods for this reason. At best however light can be the guide to harmony with the outside world -- if it's light informed by darkness.

3. Light is the Symbol of the oblivion of the Self. Or to be more accurate, white light is the Symbol of oblivion. By mixing all of its frequencies together in equality, it comes to have no flavor. It can be separated by a prism, and then the wonders are visible. If all the aspects of the Gift, anger and love, wonder and boredom were expressed equally all individuality would be lost. White light should be a constant reminder of the danger of equality within and without.

4. Light is the determiner of values. In the objective universe the more something is to be set up as desirable, the more lighting it will have. Light is the basis of most security systems; some people find the act offset so guilt-inducing that they must perform in the dark. The Setian will tend to find great worth in things that society deems useless, and as a quick indicator avoiding the over-lit is a good heuristic.

5. Light is the Symbol of control. It directs attention, and to control humanity you only need to direct its attention. You can either show people where to go with a flashlight, or draw them to your store with a dazzling display. The wealthier you are, the more light you can afford to produce. For the magician however there is the danger of thinking that since you know how Light works, it doesn't Work on you. Believing oneself immune to psychological laws is the first step for falling for them hard.

6. Light is the source of blindness. Like all the gateways of the body, too much shuts the gates. Those who dwell too much in the light, lose both their capacity to see and understand either light or darkness. The symptom -- they live their lives in pursuit of the last image of the present they saw clearly. They become stuck in time and believe that whatever present they last saw has the ability to save mankind. Oftentimes these people are in what we call "white light religions" but those who present themselves merely as creatures of politics or old scientific paradigms are far more dangerous to people with a sensitivity to the future.

7. Light appeals to plants. The Renaissance humanists under the influence both of Plato and the Hermetica saw mankind as having three parts. A plant part that merely sucked up nutrients. An animal part that liked to prowl around, fight and fornicate. A divine part that seeks to emulate the divine by thought and deeds based on thought. The plant nature seeks sources of light to plop in

front of. It is no coincidence that the followers of the light have a tendency to look down upon fighting and fornication. They're happiest near a source of light -- that is to say, some voice that continually proclaims the "news" of the present to them. It is very, very important for plants to hear poll results. CNN is the ultimate plant network.

8. Light is the bringer of time. On some deep emotional level we hate light as the revealer of aging. We know that each day wanes by watching the sun's shadow (or the sun's surrogate shadow, the clock). We choose as image those creatures of the night, who age not. Yet if we learn to accept the horrible truth of daylight -- which is that the present is eating us up -- we can learn to do great things. Only in urgency are great lives lived. If we were left to the dreamy night, we might dream much, but do naught. So when you see a sign faded by the sun, remember that the time is now to manifest your night dreams and visions.

9. Light is the Sign of the Self-Created god. Our Word is Xeper, meaning "I have dawned!" It is the name of Re, the Symbol of ultimate reality, in his Self-creation. In order to see in that unknown region called the Unmanifest, which the profane call the future, we have to supply each our own light. No gods for us, no handy dandy flashlights to uncover the treasures of darkness. Only our own light. Read the above again -- not as a creature of darkness repulsed by light -- but as a creature of darkness who, living in the greatest depths, must therefore PRODUCE your own light. Between the two sets of meanings, and the meanings you hear near the beginning and end of your own Initiation, you will discover much -- including that meaning from the psyche is not fixed and easy to write down.

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

MAGIC

Uncle Setnakt wants to tell you a little about magic. Now you notice that he doesn't write "magick" because he both Understands and rejects Crowley's Right Hand Path bias on the topic. Crowley was trying for the God and Man and Nature are One. Uncle Setnakt says, "It looks two things because it is two things." With this desire to separate and refine, let's see what we can do to clarify the topic of Magic:

1. Magic is not for the cowardly.

You can't do something cowardly and then hope to clear it up with magic. You can't marry the wrong person and try to kill him or her with spells by night, you can't volunteer to take on a new project then try to get out of it with sorcery. The very mental fetters of cowardice that you let make your own life miserable will stop the magic in its track.

2. Magic is not for the compulsive.

If you run an ad to get people to join your group in your area, you don't also have to do a ritual to do the same thing. If you aren't magician enough to do the magic when you did your mundane work, you aren't going to let go of it after your ritual either. The compulsive mind won't let magic work; you might as well circle round your home checking to see if you "really" turned off your coffeepot.

3. Magic isn't for the contemptuous.

If you're a snivelly little jealous soul that wants to do voodoo against every person that succeeds -- you are not and never will be a magician. Magic does not work against success. What is Real, will Come Into Being. It may take a hell of a struggle for it to, but once it does, the Real is protected from the forces of delusion. The magician uses the success of others either as a source of power or of inspiration.

4. Magic isn't for the diseased.

When you are sick, you should use your magic for one thing -- to get better. People who think that there's no energy involved in magic and that they can keep an infinite number of balls in the air, will discover that magic -- which is the hardest thing for humans to do well -- will suck every bit of energy from them. The apparent exception to this rule is any magic project that is lifetime long, but seeing to lifetime-long projects can easily make them into healing rituals.

5. Magic isn't for the deluded.

Set's foe, the snake Apep, is said to be made of "Broken *Kas*." This means that this creature is composed of all the dreams that can't be realized ever. You can't change the past. You can't alter the Is-To-Be in ways that violate its laws. Magicians who try this, will actually have all of their attention and life force sucked away as they become more and more obsessed with changing the past. This begins when you agonize over something someone said to you weeks ago, and ends with you unable to leave your basement.

6. Magic isn't for the (mindlessly) destructive.

The major purpose of magic is to clear a Space for Initiation to occur. Now if you are very powerful, and can fill any void that occurs in your vicinity, random destructive rituals will work. Or if you can get many well-meaning fools to perform such rites (as Magus La Vey did with the Enochian Keys), you will prosper. But for most of us, that act of magical destruction merely creates a vacuum that enervates us. Keep your curses precise, and begin with the question, "What can I build in this space I am about to clear?"

7. Magic isn't for the lazy.

We all think this at some point. "I can do my little charm and win the lottery." No, magic doesn't make things easier for us. It takes a long time to learn this. Magic Works to destabilize the world, it "Hurts" the natural order. If magic seems to be making your life easier -- as opposed to giving you

more opportunities for Fun and Work -- WATCH OUT! it's not your magic that's working. Magic sometimes makes lives much easier for the magician's servant.

8. Magic isn't for the lustless.

Your wants must be great and burning. Otherwise you'll confuse the material manifestation of your magic with results. The magician enjoys what results come his way, gold, women, students, fame. Yes, we must have all those things. But his or her desire is so great that such manifestations don't lead to indolence. Indolence is the practice of death in life -- it ends the chance for even greater adventures than you've already had. It may provide a relative calm, but it hastens (at least subjectively) the coming of death.

9. Magic isn't for the luckless.

Most people abandon the process way too soon. The average time most people spend in occult pursuits is about four years, then they chuck it in. It may take longer than that to get results. But if you've never had anything magical in your life, if you have no memory of that great and sweeping wonder -- give it up. It is only those very special memories that remind how to find the Door. Without a single memory of magical occurrence, that Door will be a Wall for you. But for the serious seeker, tonight is a good time to make a mental list of all the times your magic has Worked. Those memories, and those alone, are Why you pursue the difficult life of a Magician. If you're doing it for title, or out of habit, or just because the lure of weird brought you here instead of SF fandom -- then magic won't Work for you. You'll be able to find the reason why not in the list above. (Of course we all fall into those categories from time to time.)

Uncle Setnakt hopes you have a pleasant day.

UNCLE SETNAKT EXPLAINS THE LIGHT

A great deal of suspicion comes from the valorizing of Darkness as a symbol for the Western Left Hand Path (not unlike the dislike of the use of Red or Green in certain Eastern branches of the philosophy). We are, after all, culturally conditioned to think of pure white light as the goal to which our souls should aspire. Darkness is after all scary; it is a place beyond the camp fire filled with all the phantoms of the ghost story.

I would like to look at Light and Darkness as symbols for the soul's evolution, and the results that each can give. Now unlike my opposite numbers on the Right Hand Path, I don't condemn the path that is not mine. I feel that is the duty of any teacher to examine the Paths, and speak openly and honestly about their goals. It is the duty of the student, firstly to listen, then to think critically, then to try sincerely, and then to share what he or she has learned with his or her friends.

White Light is composed of all frequencies of light shinning equally. It is a symbol of a self, which maintains its sense of wholeness by having no desires or leaning toward anything. Every pull that the world without or the world within could exert on such a Self has been negated through willful abstinence and purification. There is a great *potential* for individuation in Light, but this potential is withheld from the worlds. White Lighters are often full of energy, but it is energy that seldom goes anywhere. The white Light Self either knows no love, or maintains equilibrium by seeking to love all equally.

White is a great Symbol for the existing magical universe. All of the magical work done by man, and by the gods they have created, comes to a great neutrality. For every man that has worked for healing, another has worked for harm. For every woman that has blessed her people, another has cursed those same people. All frequencies shine more or less equally, so that the magical background of mankind remains static. There may be brief moments in history when the Light is disturbed and spectacular things happen. These can be good things -- such as the cultural revolution the Medici Academy wrought -- or bad things such as the atrocities of the Third Reich. But on the whole the mass of mankind remains connected with the shinning white Light of undifferentiated existence.

Religions which prize the Light, want their followers to reject both the pains and pleasures of existence. Anything that would lead them toward individuation is bad. Now some of these religions are routinely criticized by immature Left hand Path thinkers -- I have no quarrel with the reasonably powerless forms of the Right Hand Path such as Christianity. Heck, it gave us some great art and snazzy cathedrals. I do have quarrel with the Right Hand Path religious practices that now rule the world -- that exist either as advertising driven capitalism, or the forms of Marxism known as "political correctness." Each of these apparently nonreligious idea sets, is firmly based on white Light thinking.

For advertising, it is important to destroy individual ideas and wants by replacing them with mass ideas and wants. This is a simple extension of the mechanistic laws of the universe into the human psyche. It is easier to mass produce cars and computers -- so you must educate the consumers to love the same thing. All individual frequencies must be replaced with a common frequency that models life -- who you marry, how many kids you have, what you eat and what you read. Then it sells those things to you. Now it is true that this white Light may look multi-colored, but like the blue glow that the telly puts on the faces of Mr. and Mrs. Public every night, it blends into a single color. As it must in order for capitalism to survive. (Now I think that capitalism's survival is a good thing for the masses, I simply choose to think differently than they would have me think.)

In "politically correct" thinking there seems at first to be a healthy attitude toward diversity. Yet, if we look closely, we see that the diversity is shown in taking on the cultural styles and attitudes of disadvantaged groups. Now if this were done to collectively give new perceptions to mass culture, this would be a good thing. Mankind needs new ways of looking at the world. But we find that such

experiments are intended as ways to hastening a historical dialectic. The PC thinker doesn't want diversity, he or she wants the world to be a giant America -- a "melting-pot" that all things loose their flavor in. (Now I think that disadvantaged groups getting a shot at not being disadvantaged is a good thing for the masses, it may open new doors in mass culture -- but I simply choose to think differently.)

Darkness is a Symbol of what might yet be. It is what the profane call the future. It exists both within and beyond the Self. Within you, Darkness is experienced on those very rare occasions you have new insight. It wasn't there before, the light of your mind didn't focus on it. It came from the Darkness, where all Secrets are hidden. Outside of the Self, Darkness represents the unknown of the future. If you are walking down a street in the daylight, you see what is ahead of you, and can make rational plans. But if you are running through the moors at night, each step can bring surprises that make you both discover your real Self, and change that Self the moment decisions are made. Let us look at a moment of supreme Darkness that even non-magicians can understand. Let us say that you are going to ask someone to marry you, and you truly don't know what he or she will say. You ask the question, and Darkness descends. If he says "yes", you will know some things about yourself that you didn't know the moment before. Your life will be changed, in ways that you cannot in truth imagine. The future is determined by a single utterance. If she says "no," you will know some things about yourself that you never knew before. Your life will be changed, in ways that you cannot in truth imagine.

Such Darkness can only be brought into one's life -- a magician would say "invoked" -- by asking questions. Questions attack the Light, and in faiths which idolize the Light -- questions are frowned upon. Many such faiths actually provide answers to commonly asked questions in order to assure that everyone has exactly the same answer. When serious questions do arise in religions of the Light, they are answered by schism and holy war. Since the answering of the question has sundered the Light, the psychological basis of the religions must turn to hatred -- sometimes this is bewildering to an outside observer who can not see the difference between Sunni and Shiite or Protestant and Catholic.

In religions that prize the Darkness as Symbol, questions are encouraged. Now this does make such religions very appealing to young adults, who are in the process of shaping themselves. For most of them their flirtation with Darkness will be in trappings only, but these things do help them question. But as they grow into an established position in the world, they discover that the deeper questions of their life require both energy to ask and bravery to answer -- and they seek the Light they were brought up with. They like its restful quality. The great burden of the Darkness is the continued Strength to fight the good fight.

The religions of the Dark will always remain the way of the secret and the few. There will never be mass movements, people running to grab black banners of individualism. (There will also always be a pop culture that sells the "look and feel" of Darkness to eager young customers poised before really starting their lives -- each of these generations will think that Darkness is winning a place in the world -- and despise it when their children turn to it.) The religions of the Light will never fade away. It is only against their eternal proclamation of the status quo, that Questions can be asked. The artists, the revolutionaries, the thinkers and the dreamers all need the Light, so that they may ask the Question that brings the Darkness to the Earth. The Light exists to Feed the Dark!

Bio Note

Don Webb is the author of two occult books *Seven Faces of Darkness: Practical Typhonian Magic* and *Uncle Setnakt's Essential Guide to the Left Hand Path* and has lectured on Left Hand Path theology. He is interviewed in the upcoming video *Call Me the Prince of Darkness*.