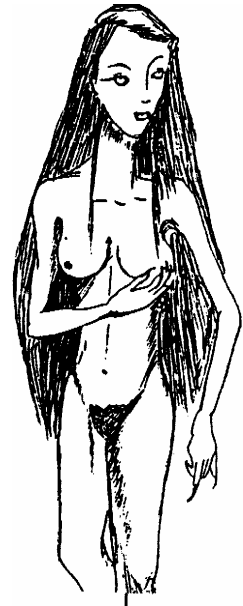




Senatorius Sacerdos Harpyiae

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Vampires Reach Out



Traditional Background

It is generally held that vampires belong to Eastern European folklore. Modern vampirism made its appearance with the Slavic and *Baltic* states of Eastern Europe. Where traditionally vampires were distastefully ghoul like, they were now generally clothed in human form, and sexually attractive.

The scholar John Heinrick Zopti wrote the following about vampires in 1733 "*Vampires issue forth from their graves in the night and attack people sleeping quietly in their beds, Sink out their blood from their bodies and destroy them*".

We find within Egyptian magic the principle that the *Kit* is to reanimate a dead body. Similarly the principle of vampirism is for the corpse to remain Undead.

One likely ancestor of the modern vampire, are the ancient female demons of the Greeks called *Lamiae* - the Greek word from vampire is *Vrykolakas*.

A story told by the Greek Philostratus concerning the magician Apollonius of Tyana relates how his student Menippus Lycius was about to marry a beautiful Phoenician vampire. Apollonius seeing his student's folly said "... *I say, she is one of the Vampires, that is to say one of those beings whom thou many refer to as Lamias*" To cut a story short, the vampire admitted that her habit was to feast upon young and beautiful bodies because their blood was so pure and strong. Apollonius then banished her to the Neverworld.

The origins of the word vampire are somewhat lost. Most scholars today accept that vampire originates from the word *vampyr* within the Magyar language of Hungary. There are other vampire variants found throughout

old Europe: The Serbian Vampir; the Russian Upir and the Polish Upier. There is also a link in the Slavonic language, with the word Uber which is Turkish for witch.

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VAMPIRES REACH OUT FROM THE TOMB

Leonard Steven with Pamela Clearwater.

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The first vampire: Ekimmu of Assyria

The oldest information we have of vampire like creatures probably comes from ancient Assyria. The Assyrian vampire, known as the Ekimmu was a type of dead person who often attacked and killed its victims.

The ancient Babylonians had the demon Lilitu which fits the modern definition of a blood drinking vampire. According to the myths, Lilitu would suck the blood out of her victims, which were mainly children.

Later the Hebrews and Christian mythologies 'borrowed' the legend, added sexual connotations to her demonic impulses - and thus was born Lilith. The demon Lilith is somewhat similar to the modern idea of vampires who when hunting their victims incorporate sex into their love feast.

Another tale recorded by Phlegon of Tralles. The account concerns a girl whose corpse comes back to life, desiring to be reunited with her lover. Somehow the appearance of her corpse results in the death of the lover. While not strictly a vampire in the modern sense, the story does contain the idea of the living dead.

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Wiccan folklore

Blood drinking vampires are also found within Wiccan folklore. The 'Bhaobhan Sidhe' are the Celtic human size vampires of Scotland. These beautiful girl Vampires lure unsuspecting males to their death. Being overtaken by trance the Bhaobhan Sidhe vampires would completely drain their victims blood.

The Lord of Vampires

In 1847 the book *Feast of Blood* was written concerning the character Sir Francis Varney. Shortly after, another book *Cannilla* was written 1870 concerning the life of a young lesbian vampire. Frequently we find that female vampirism incorporates the principle of homosexuality. The success of these two publications prompted author of *Count Dracula*, Brain Stoker to do some research into vampires. He has this to say about vampires. "The cheeks were fuller and the white skin seemed ruby red underneath; (lie mouth was redder than ever, for on his lips were gouts of blood".

Stoke's book *Dracula* is not a simple work of fiction, but rather the result of folklore, history and fiction mixed together. Dracula is based on the life of a Wallnchian prince, Viad Basarab. VIad was born in the town of Schassburg, Transylvania around the year of 1430 A.D. 'Vlad's father due to his cruelty was known as Prince Dracul of Wallachia. Dracul means a

devil. Hence Drakulaea, is son of Drakul, means 'Son of a Devil'. Dracula is English for Drakulaea. Dracula is Satan's spawn. Wallachia is now part of Southern Rumania and Dracula's castle lays hidden in the Carpathian mountains.

Like his father Vlad was an extremely rage and sadistic warrior within Wallachian history. During the 1450's to 1460's Prince Vlad was fighting against the Turks. It was the Turks who named Prince Vlad (Dracula) as Vlad Tepes, which in English means Vlad the Impaler.

The Rumanian tradition states that 'Vlad died at the hands of his own men being mistaken for a Turkish officer. Others say that a group of his personal enemies confronted and killed him. Accounts seem to suggest that 'Vlad died around the age of 45, and that his head was cut off and sent to the Sultan of Constantinople where it was openly displayed on a stake. The rest of his body was said to be gathered up by the monks from Snagov monastery, which is on an island on a lake near Bucharest. However interestingly enough, when the tomb was opened in 1931 only ox bones were found!

Occult Vampire lore

In Stoker's account, the death of Dracula is extremely suspect. It is likely that Dracula had in fact escaped death. The death of Dracula is recorded as such: "and almost in the drawing of a breath, the whole body crumbled into dust and passed from our sight."

It is well known among occultists, that vampires have the ability to transform themselves into bats. A less well known fact is that the more powerful of the species also have the ability to transform themselves into mist - I.e Energy Beings.

Given the fact that the sun was beginning to set, there was darkness enough to empower the Count. Thus, Dracula transformed himself into mist saving himself and escaping his believed death. In fact many of Lord Dracula's priestesses would confess today that he still liveth through personal visions and communication with them. The book 'The Dracula Tapes' by Fred Saberhagen also claims that Dracula escaped death.

The Vampire Queen

There is evidence to suggest that the later Hungarian Vampire Queen, Countess Ersze Bathory, was related to Lord Dracula. Ersze (Elizabeth) was born in 1560 and had for her Uncle Prince Steven of Transylvania. Dracula's second wife was the sister of King Mathias of Hungary. From this marriage Dracula had one son, Mihail or Mihnea the Bad.

Mihnea was born 1472/73 and it was through this marriage that Dracula is related to Erie Bathory. During her reign Ersze Bathory feasted upon the blood of some 650 young girls. Not only did she drink their blood but she would also, often bathe in the drained blood of her victims. It is interesting to note that Elizabeth was initiated in the dark arts of black magick before becoming a vampire. Being initiated by the warlock Thorko and the witch Ilona Joo. The two introduced her into blood rites and other sorceries. It was her cousin the Count Gyorgy Thurzo who eventually wrested the Countess. The Countess Ersze being of royal line was not killed but rather placed under house arrest in the dungeons of Bitese for the rest of her life. It is rumoured that Ersze continued her supernatural studies and life as the vampire queen, beginning another generation of vampires throughout Europe.

Modern Vampires

Less than 200 years later in 1732, we later find record of an epidemic of vampirism sweeping throughout Serbia. It is recorded that Government troops were ordered to open graves in the area of Meduegya. The soldiers found much to their horror at least ten rosy cheeked, fresh blooded corpses, who were undoubtedly vampires. The soldiers destroyed these vampires by burning the bodies. It is possible that these vampires were also the descendants of the Countess Ersze; upon considering the closeness of the two countries and her increasingly supernatural ability.

In Paris 1849 police discovered graves in the Pere Lachaise Cemetery opened and sexually violated. Police stationed on guard saw a dark figure at the scene. Following a trail of blood the police discovered the vampire Victor Bertrand (Le Vampyr). Bertrand was captured by police, and admitted to vampiric practices mid an addiction to necrophilia. This vampire after all was French.

As vampires have continued to this very day, one wonders just how many vampires the Serbian soldiers missed. Vampires have made a re-appearance in the 20th century. In 1924 the Hanover Vampire Fritz

Haarmann was put to death in Germany for killing 24 boys by bites to the neck. He was later decapitated by a sword in 1925. In 1949 another the London Vampire John George Haigh was discovered by Police and hanged at Wandsworth prison.

Magical Vampires

Vampires appear throughout the occult and within our magical mystery tradition. Modern magician and co-founder of the Golden Dawn, MacGregor-Mathers developed a series of rituals to protect magicians from vampires. Another occultist Brodie-Innes (whom succeeded Mathers) used methods borrowed from Mathers to successfully protect and rid himself from vampires.

Magically speaking, it is noticed that the mythic Dracula continues to grow in strength and supernatural skill. The numerous retellings of his story have undoubtedly added to the astral make up of this being and vampires themselves. In magick the magician seeks to move beyond the narrow confines of historical vision. To the point where the imagination creates the reality decided by the magician. However this does not alter the historic reality until time itself changes the past. In magick the principle of: More belief provides more power. Hereby is a function that similarly aids mythical creatures such as vampires. T

Magicians, unlike historians, are trained to see into other realities. Thus magicians can change the past, by changing the dimensional influence of the present, upon the past. Thus the present time-waves (movement) affect the very reality of the past. The stories of today about Dracula actually change and empower the Lord of Vampires himself.

A magician cares very much how the past is perceived, if they are going to use the past for substance within a spell. To take full effect, spells whether curses or blessings must allow their magick to work away into the source. Because of their mythical content, vampires can work more easily with astral and dream world influences.

Such workings we are receptive too, but are generally alien to our nature. Especially subject to change are our inner worlds and the trans-dimensional nature of other worlds - the magicians' playground. In magick there is no objective truth, no objective reality, things are either useful or not. All perception and reality to the magician is subjective.

Whether one argues or not for the validity of objectivity; even the actual argument returns to the mind - and hence subjectivity. Today the curse or blessing of vampires grow. Faster than before; as they are now assisted by such things as visual technology. For example, movies and television strengthen the story. Sight is stronger than sound and with every viewing the story and the reality of Dracula is gaining more strength. The signs are there, if one cares to look.

Today the *mythic* Lord Dracula has numerous priestess and priests throughout the world (of which the *Senatorius Sacerdos Harpyiae* vampire Order is but one) Fed by the energy of the faith, Lord Dracula is growing more powerful by the day - so be careful next time you night-walk alone past a graveyard!

Perhaps some readers feel excitement or longing and not fear - at the mention of vampires. If so, then perhaps it is time to question whether they should commit themselves to the dark cult. Just as working and worshipping a pagan deity within mythology is valid, so too is Dracula. This is possible because legends are built on mythology and the myths influence the very consciousness of today.

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