

Issue 1 April 2003

Introduction

Merry Meet all,

On the 27th January this year the site received its 1000th member, quite an achievement since the site was only relaunched back in September of 2002 and soon the site will have in excess of 1500 members. Since January many new and exciting features have been added to the site to improve the user experience. These have included an online shop, many photo galleries, improvements to the forums as well as the spawning of many moots around the country.

Another change to the way WiccaUK is run is the introduction of the WiccaUK Constitution which has resulted in the formation of a committee of members who deal with the day to day running of the site. Further details about the committee and the constitution can be

found on the site.

A couple of months back I thought that it would be a good idea for there to be a WiccaUK magazine which would enable members to get there articles and opinions published in something other than the forums on the site as well as the artists and budding artists to be able to show off their work in the magazine for others to look at. That was the basis of this magazine.

Since then I have been working hard to bring you this magazine. I called out to members across WiccaUK for anything they would like to be put into the magazine and both me and Arual got a host of replies for this issue. And thus the magazine was born.

In this issue I have tried to bring you a range of different and

varying subjects. There are articles by Djara and Synesis on the fate of the future and introduction to Thelema. We have two poems this issue by Onagh and Seawitch.

I have also started some recurring information topics in the magazine, in a beginners guide to the Craft Nightwolf will show us the various meanings and uses for crystals. There will also be a regular book review section. In the near future I plan on adding more sections of this type.

Anyway, enjoy the first issue of the WiccaUK magazine. Let me know what you think of it and please keep on sending in articles and pieces of creative writing!

Sparks

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SITE FACTS

- The sites busiest hours seems to be between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
- Mon days are the most popular day for people to visit the site on.
- The busiest day on the site so far was on March 19th 2003 where 7309 pages were viewed.
- On the 2nd April WiccaUK reached 1500 members.s

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WiccaUK Moot Information

Here is a list of the next WiccaUK moots. If you are interested in holding a moot let us know and we'll post it up on the site alternately contact Janika, our events coordinator.

London Moot-Sunday April 13th Black widow Pub

Nearest Tube: Gloucester Road for District, Circle and Piccadilly Lines **Directions:** When you have reached Gloucester Road tube station take the left hand exit out of the station and start walking up the road. Cross the road junction and you will walk past both a post office and a Barclays bank. Continue in the same direction up the road. When you have reached a bathroom shop (Pipedreams) you should be able to see a black pub with flames on the opposite side of the road, this is the Black Widow.

Midlands MootSunday April 13thNew Street Station, Birmingham

Edinburgh Moot
Saturday May 3rd
Holyrood Pub

WiccaUK Q&A

How do I get my own personal Avatar on WiccaUK?

To get an avatar on WiccaUK is simple. When creating your avatar remember that it should be 100 pixels wide. If you would like an avatar you must be prepared to let others use it as well as yourself. When you have finished your avatar email it to Sparks and he will put it onto the site for you and notify you when it has been done.

TIP: to discourage other members from using your avatar simply put your username on the picture you would like to be uploaded. ISSUE I PAGE 3

A Brief Introduction to Thelema

Thelema is a magical philosophy that derives from the writings of Aleister Crowley, the famous and often controversial turn-of-the-century magician and mystic. Thelema is a Greek word (Qelhma) meaning "Will", in the sense that "It is my will to do X". A complicated and sometimes perplexing philosophy, it is nevertheless the writings of Aleister Crowley concerning this philosophy and magick (the "k" was added by Crowley for a number of reasons) which are responsible for the upsurge in the interest in all things occult in the past century.

Thelema as a philosophy really came to birth in 1904, though it had some historical precursors (notably François Rabelais' Gargantua et Pantagruel), through Aleister Crowley. He was on honeymoon with his wife Rose, and she, having fallen into a trance-like state, informed him that the God Horus was angry with Crowley for ignoring him. Some days later, through Rose's mediumship, contact had been made with a spirit, calling itself Aiwass who claimed to be the minister of Hoor-Paar-Kraat (the Egyptian god Horus in his aspect as an innocent child). Later still, this same spirit dictated to Crowley The Book of the Law, the fundamental text of Thelema (the book is also sometimes called Liber AL). It is in this book, which consists of three chapters, each being the dictation of one of the Thelemic pantheon of Gods, that we can find the quotation which is very much the heart of Thelema:

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law"

Liber AL, I,

40.

At first this appears to be a licence to "do whatever you want", though nothing could be further from the truth – however, the "shock value" of this statement is important, and this is true of many parts of Thelemic scripture. To understand what is actually being said requires a deeper knowledge of Thelemic philosophy about the individual. *The Book of the Law* states "Every man and every woman is a star" (*Liber AL, I, 2*) and to Crowley this meant that each person, as a star, had their own unique orbit. This is what Crowley refers to

as the "True Will", the Telos or purpose of existence. It is thus the duty of each person to understand and come to know their own True Will, and their moral obligations come only as a result of this True Will. Many interpreters regard the "thou" of the sentence to refer not to the individual person, but to their "Holy Guardian Angel". The achievement of the mystical experience sometimes called the "Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel" (a term derived from the Book of the Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage) is the same as knowing one's True Will. Thus the statement refers not to the individual in terms of his or her instincts or wants, but rather as a humble statement of devotion to the higher will – and to the self at the highest level, for according to many, the Holy Guardian Angel refers to the transpersonal self, the self which is at one with the divine. This should not be taken to mean that a Thelemite cannot indulge his tastes and desires - merely that s/he is neither enslaved by them, nor does s/ he attempt to deny their existence.

Thelemic morality and ethics arise at a time of great change in the systems of morality of the time. At the end of the Victorian era, the old commandments of the monotheistic religions were looking in poor shape - people were beginning to realise that external, absolute moral laws could never fit with human beings. With the writings of Nietzsche firmly established as philosophical greats, and evolutionary theory biting a large chunk out of the credibility of organised religion, human beings began to realise that the responsibility for their own moral actions and their own moral worth must come from within, not without. A number of attempts have been made this way, especially with secular humanism. This change in attitude towards morality is expressed in Thelemic philosophy as a "change of Aeon".

Thelema conceives of a system of Aeons, or Ages, governing human thought and action, which change every so often. These Aeons are dominated by one "formula" or specific spiritual idea. Three periods of human history have been defined in terms of these Aeons, which Crowley named according to Egyptian deities: the Aeon of Isis, the Aeon of Osiris, and the Aeon of Horus, which Crowley claims began to dawn at his time. These have often been attempted to be synchronised with historical ideas – the Aeon of Isis being ven-

eration of a mother-principle, the Aeon of Osiris being characterised by dying-andresurrected Solar Gods, such as Osiris, Dumuzi and Christ, and the Aeon of Horus to be characterised by the veneration of the child principle, and all that might yet entail. However, this is woefully historically inaccurate, and a much better way to look at it is in terms of the way a believer approaches spirituality: in the Aeon of Isis, this was in terms of literal commandments to be adhered to by the letter, such as in Orthodox Judaism; in the Aeon of Osiris, religion is characterised by attempting to get in contact with "the spirit of the law" and imitation of the perfect deity behind it (being Christ-like is a prime example; in the Aeon of Horus however it is within the self that humanity begins to look for guidance. All of these elements can exist within any religion within one given time, though according to the Aeon, one is likely to predominate. Even in modern Thelema, all three exist - there is the veneration of the Book of the Law as a sacred and inerrant text; the attempted imitation of the bald, dead, Englishman; and then there are those who have taken Thelema and built on its foundations in accordance with their Will. For a religious philosophy of the New Aeon, it is pretty sad that among selfproclaimed Thelemites there are often so few of the latter.

We must address the question of Thelemic deities, though with some brevity, as it is a complicated area. The deities of the Book of the Law are the chief deities of Thelemic tradition, though we will address another deity as well. The deities of the Book of the Law have Egyptian names, as the Egyptian deities were the ones which were worked with by Crowley and were best known by him, however, they are distinct in terms of their nature. These three deities are in Thelemic spelling, Nuit, Hadit, and Ra-Hoor-Khuit. As the true nature of the Gods can be conveyed only by mystical experience (fortunately Crowley was kind enough to produce a method of meditation to understand the two states of Nuit and Hadit) these explanations are difficult and the nature can only be conveyed by allusion. The Goddess Nuit is the principle of absolute negativity, the infinity of expansion, "Infinite space and the infinite stars thereof". The God Hadit is the principle of absolute positivity, the infinity of contraction to a point, the "secret Serpent coiled about to spring"

and the lover of Nuit. In relation to each other, they can be understood as

The third deity of the pantheon is called Ra-Hoor-Khuit, the Crowned and Conquering Child, can be understood as the child of Nuit and Hadit, and the contact between infinite contraction and infinite expansion. If the trinity is represented as a circle with a point in the middle (Nuit and Hadit respectively), then Ra-Hoor-Khuit is the field in between the two. He is the synthesis, where the other two are thesis and antithesis. There is another aspect of the child, Hoor-Paar-Kraat, who is the innocent twin of Ra-Hoor-Khuit. In one respect, this God can be regarded as representative of the unified magician and his Holy Guardian Angel, though it would be a mistake to say he is "nothing more" than this.

The other Thelemic deity we must mention is the Goddess Babalon, who is often portrayed riding Therion, the beast. Obviously, there is some imagery here that will be shocking to anyone who has had a Christian upbringing, and let us address it here: Crowley was the child of Christian fundamentalist parents, and was evidently traumatised by his upbringing. Crowley declaring himself the "Beast 666" and including in his religion Gods who bear more than a passing resemblance to characters from the Book of Revelations is obviously going to shock some readers and strike others as merely childish. Certainly it was childish, and Crowley was no saint, but it is also a token of his spiritual independence from Christianity. But these ideas do not remain at a hildish level - they become complicated deities in their own right, and are thus separate from the Christian tradition. Crowley and later Thelemites have argued that St John's vision portrays them as evil because what they bring is indeed destruction, but destruction of the ideas of the Aeon of Osiris. which were only really beginning to be propagated.

Babalon is an extremely complicated Goddess, and merits books to herself, and can be viewed under several aspects. We should here note that the idea of Babalon predates Crowley, and we can look as far back as the Gnostic poem "Thunder, Perfect Mind" to see an aspect of her. Firstly, she is very much the patroness of the aspiring magician, representing all that magical work entails. She demands the totality of the aspirant's work and it is only by totally devoting the self to

her that we head to greater spiritual heights, and she is the union that the magician, as her partner Therion, must ever desire. The image of Babalon riding the beast can be seen as the joyous and ecstatic union of the lower with the higher, the self with the Holy Guardian Angel, the personal ego with the transpersonal self – a dynamic partnership, not a suppression. But it is as the Great Whore that she is most prominently known, and we should look at this - at first it certainly seems that Crowley's approach to her in some places is ambiguous and chauvinistic, but in his most heightened writing about her there is nothing but awe. The Great Whore as a title refers to the fact that Babalon as the Supernal Mother of the whole universe accepts the whole universe - she takes all of the life of the universe into herself, all life must ultimately come to a point of rest with her. Equally, if we conceive of Therion as the Will of the magician, Babalon as the universe unites with it in ecstasy.

We must briefly consider the relationship between Thelema and Wicca (though perhaps this is more suited to another article) - suffice to mention that Gerald Gardner, who founded Wicca, was a IV° Initiate of Crowley's Thelemic magical Order, the OTO. The Wiccan Rede is very clearly an adaptation of the Law of Thelema, though it perhaps betrays Gardner's understanding of the Law as mentioned above that he chose to add "An it harm none" to it. The Great Rite, the chief rite of Wicca is a modified and adapted form of Crowley's Gnostic Mass. The Charge of the Goddess as it was originally written had a large chunk of the Book of the Law in it, prior to Valiente's attempted reworking. Much of the magical method used in Wicca is adapted from the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, via Crowley.

Finally, we must consider Thelema as it is today. Many modern Thelemites tend to see their spiritual path as imitating Crowley and everything he wrote. We must indicate here, then, that the only part of Thelema that needs to be done to be a Thelemite is the active practice of your Will - "There is no Law beyond do what thou wilt". If your will does not include the rituals as Crowley wrote them, then it is non-Thelemic to force yourself to do them, and Crowley said as much himself. If it is your Will to do Wicca, then you are being a Thelemite. Any magickal practitioner who understands their path is part of Thelema – they are sticking to their own Orbits as

Yet there is a word to be said. about those deities mentioned above

and Crowley's Thelemic magickal system as a whole - many modern Thelemites are only editing and redoing what Crowley did. The man was, of course, a talented and accomplished magician and his rituals are great to learn by, but as one becomes more attuned to one's own orbit, then the magickal "current" of that system must grow and expand through your work – and there is a dearth of original work at the moment. Many people, myself included, profess a distaste for Kenneth Grant (an English author and magician often reviled by the Thelemic community, and his books are certainly unique concoctions) but at least he is doing new work with the 93 current (93 is the Greek numerical value of the word Thelema, as well as being the value of Agape – love). It is disappointing that the most radical work being done in Thelema is not exposed as prominently as Crowley's work, and it can give the impression of a cult devoted to a long-dead Englishman. This is not the case.

Thus it is that we reach the conclusion of this brief introduction: let it be evident for now that if you follow your own Will, if you are a free-thinker and base your spiritual life on something you yourself have chosen to follow, then in the truest sense of the word, you are a Thelemite.

> Synesis James Butler

Suggested Further Reading:

Crowley:

The Book of Lies http:// www.hermetic.com/crowley/libers/ lib333.html The Book of the Law http://

www.hermetic.com/crowley/engccxx.html The Equinox of the Gods http:// www.hermetic.com/crowley/eoftg/ index.html

Liber NV http://www.hermetic.com/ crowley/libers/lib11.html

Liber HAD http://www.hermetic.com/ crowley.libers.lib555.html

Liber Cheth http://www.hermetic.com/ crowley/libers/lib156.html

The Vision and the Voice http:// www.hermetic.com/crowley/ 1418/418.html

Magick without Tears http:// www.hermetic.com/crowley/ mwt contents.html

Magick in Theory and Practice http:// www.hermetic.com/crowley/aba/

Lon Milo Duquette: The Magick of Thelema (a beginner's guide to Thelema)

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The Fate of the Future by Djara

Fate of the future What is the future? I mean really what could it be, most people see it was what is to come; what has yet to happen; what will happen. Though tie it into fate and destiny and the future can mean more, or less. The majority of the population of our small corner of the universe don't believe anyone can predict the future. Predicting can be very uncertain, and the true meaning behind it can be so clouded you have no hope of decoding.

"Because it is so clear, it takes longer to realise"

The Power of Two

Alone for so long before you came Waiting for a love so rare Hearing the words you said Filling my heart with hope From someone true and faithful From a caring, loving heart and soul

Alone for so long before you came Your words and actions, thoughts and deeds Holding me, reassuring me, always Love so clear in your eyes From someone true and faithful From a caring, loving heart and soul

Alone for so long before you came Soft words of love you win from me My heart is drawn to you Protection and solace found in your arms From someone true and faithful From a caring, loving heart and soul

Alone for so long before you came My heart is yours eternally Incomplete when apart from you Made whole in your embrace From someone true and faithful From a caring, loving heart and soul

Alone for so long before you came Struggling, afraid, lonely You found me and healed me Showing me the power of two You are someone true and faithful You have a caring, loving heart and soul

Seawitch 13th oct 2001 copyright

I'll have to type faster before I lose my thoughts to my terrible short term memory (I have a
photographic memory, but it heck
doesn't help with your own
thoughts). But back to my point,
which I will get to in the end, I assure you — I just drift, like I am now,
ok I'm finished here.

People see the future as undetermined, uncertain, with so many variables that it is impossible to predict. But nothing is impossible

- I draw your attention to the chaos theory - And what a great one it is. The basic's of it (and I'm sure one of you will correct me, but for my benefit I use this part of the theory) you would have to take into account EVERYTHING that happens at one moment to be able to guess the next moment. Lucky for us most of the time we don't need to do that when we are guessing what will come next on our favourite TV show as we only have to look at the previous storyline to get the picture and we do not have to take into account what a bad night the producer of the show had before filming it ;)

There are two theo-

ries I like, one that states the future doesn't exist until it happens, but then that would mean the future would never exist, because by the time is did it wouldn't be the future, so that begs the question WHY ON EARTH DO WE HAVE A WORD FOR IT! The other idea is that it can and can not exist, as in if we had the ability to time travel we could only go back in time but not forward, but a future self of us with the same ability would be able to travel back to "our" present, as it would be his/her past. But the fact they could travel back to us would suggest the future does exist, yet we still can't get to it unless we sit around watching our favourite shows till it comes around.

But that's not the point I'm trying to get across, it's the ability to predict the future is what I'm trying to reach. So....all those that have experienced precognitions, premonitions, visions of what's to come please raise your hand *raises his hand*. In fact I think everyone has the ability, just some of us don't want to believe in it. But what allows us to....oooo my thoughts are running away again, better go faster....have these precognitions. For this I refer you to my crazy theory about how we are all travelling through different universes (ask me about it later if you have no clue what it is) which I have now decided to call "My idea on drifting universes" In which I say we are

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all moving through layers of universes from one moment to the next (a moment can be any length of time really) Now really as we pass through each universe we go forward in time, which gives us the perception of linear time. Now what if we we're able to view the next universe we we're about to enter, in that case we aren't seeing the future, we're just seeing the next universe. But in that universe anything can happen, but remember every universe contains the effect of every cause we make, animals make, quantum fluctuations make, that cells make, that everything makes.

This would also lead to the fact that at the beginning of this universe/reality the infinite number of universes would already exist, which could lead us to the thought there was never the beginning of time or this reality (I don't like to say universe as I've been says there are loads of them) The universe is a very open place, with everything being sent out, every effect, every fluctuation is being sent out everywhere. And those open to them are able to receive and decode all these signals, and once you have every variable accounted for, predicting what will happen next is easy.

I know I haven't really given a well rounded explanation to all of this, but I would appreciate your thoughts on all of this

> Djara <Djara@gmx.net>

Midsummer's Eve

Darkness falls, goodbye the day, Into velvet night it flows. By light of moon I make my way, The Lady shows me where to go.

Through the forest deep I walk, Guided onward by her hand. Silent by twig, leaf and stalk, I travel safely through her land.

Then a clearing to I come, And I slowly look around. To see a stone, flat, and then some White flowers scattered on the ground.

Gentle brook flows to one side. A silver fountain shining pours. To it I go and bade, decide, Half cup is mine as half is yours.



'Midsummers Eve Edward R Hughes



My silver Lady, glowing stands; Before me in the forest glade. And smiling she holds out her hands; Thus unto her I am bade.

In milky hands, she takes the cup, Drinks the blesséd water deep. Whispers "My thanks, now let us

Then in my temple you may sleep."

A bounteous spread, a feast divine, The guests - the forest creatures

Food that is hers is also mine, On this night after sacred day.

The food is gone, the creatures sated.

My Lady leads me through the trees. Until we reach where I have waited, I rest, I dream, my mind at peace.

Shafting sunlight sneaks through the leaves, A sunbeam playing on my

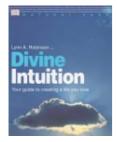
Awoken, moss lies in my sleeves, I rise and look around the place.

Of Lady, faeries, there is no sign, It is as if they never were. They only revell in the dark, Protected by the light of her.

Onagh

iot's Guide to Being Psychic). "To

Divine Intuition—Lynn A Robinson



Description: It's hard to imagine a more elegant or "Although spiritually book work sound book on develop- primer, it

ing intuition than Divine
Intuition. Using fullcolour graphics, heavystock paper, and sophisticated type, Lynn Robinson has created a fitting tribute to the gent
divine connection between inner tuiting
guidance and the voice of God.
"Every person has a unique sense of the meaning of the word 'God,"
writes Robinson (The Complete Id-

"Although the gence book works works and le Rega primer, it can imagin

gently walks readers through intuitive training. "Just for today," she begins, pay attention to your daydreams--the images that come to you, the longings that

me, the concept of God means an invisible intelligence that animates our world and provides wisdom and love to guide our lives." Regardless of how you imagine or know God, intuition is its voice, she explains. Although the book works best as a primer, it can also be enjoyed a refresher course. Robinson

you imagine can "inform you about your life purpose." In the next chapter, she helps readers explore the act of intuitive decision making: when faced with two options, she show readers how to listen for the answer that gives a sense of peace and calm. "Your body provides a wealth of guidance and feedback to you," says Robinson. Each chapter offers a manageable means to hone the art of intuitive listening--the ability to hear and interpret "the still, small voice of God."

The Myth of the Goddess:

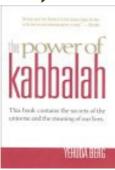
Evolution of an Image



Description: A fairly hefty (700+pages) analysis of the development of the goddess from paleolithic times, to the modern day. This includes the histories, myths and attributes of the major female deities from Crete, Mesopotania, Egypt, Babylon and Greece (and others),

through to Eve and Mary in the Christian church. Well written, very accessible and with lots of pictures. An excellent summary of the development and then suppression of the goddess in history. "An excellent summary of the development and then suppression of the goddess in history"

The Power of Kabbalah-Yehuda Berg



Description: Shrouded in secrecy and centuries ahead of its time, the insights and revelations of Kabbalah and its teachings were denied to all but a chosen few. Branded as mysticism, fanaticism, and heresy, every sort of taboo was attached to the teachings in an effort to keep them secret. Through it all, Kabbalah was and continues to be the original technology of life – the science of the soul, the chemistry of fulfilment, the physics of spiritual transformation.

A beginners Guide to the Craft Nightwolfs Crystals

Welcome peeps to Nightwolfs Crystals. I will tell you about the main healing qualities of the most popular crystals available to us and some more rare ones. This will run until I have run out of crystals to talk about or Sparks fires me! If there is a particular crystal you wish to know about feel free to message me at anytime and I will help in any way I can! enjoy!

Agate - a form of chalcedony found in many varieties and colours, exhibiting banded layers and unusual patterns. Highly valued in ancient cultures, this is a popular talisman for protection, good fortune and good health. As it connects our intuition with the earth, it is excellent for dowsing and use in earth healing. Promotes self-awareness, gives stamina, strength and durability.

(Good if you have a 5 minute wonder on your hands!)

Amber - a fossilized tree resin from pine tress dating back 20-50 millions years ago, it radiates sun and solar en-



ergy. transmutes negative into positive thinking and attitude. A good luck charm for travellers. Activates the solar plexus and root chakra. Amber revitalizes mind, body and soul, it also helps relieve depression. Supports physical healing and detoxification. Indicated for disorders of the adrenals, liver, and spleen. Gives pain relief for teething children and aids healing of wounds. (Good for empathy, help keep your aura clean of other peoples feelings)

Amethyst - A form of Quartz, ranging from light violet to an amazingly deep purple. "The stone of mediation and spiritual guidance". Amethyst opens the crown and the third eyes chakra, enhancing the connection to the cosmic forces, spiritual guidance, visionary states and psychic awareness. promotes a healthy, spiritual lifestyle. Brings deep healing sleep and helps reduce pain, especially headaches. Amethyst is essential for placement in scared space, meditation area as well as the altar, The Queen of healing stones! (Believe it, can't heal without a little Amethyst with ya!)



Apophyllite - a member of the zeolite family. Grows in a four-sided pyramid

shaped structures. "The stone of joy and happiness" it opens the crown and third eye chakra. highly successful in reliving headaches and migraines (trust me I know!) Eases aches and pains. Enhances dream work and helps to disperse negative energies from computers. It is a favourite for spaces clearing in Feng Shui. (If your into rearranging your room so it looks like a temple!)



In Next Months Issue

next months issue?

In next months issue of the WiccaUK magazine there will be an introduction to the committee members and the Mods on the site as well as more articles by

So what can we expect to find in members on the site including an interesting overview of Wicca and Witchcraft by Casp, more poetry, more book reviews and the continuing craft section.

> BB Sparks

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