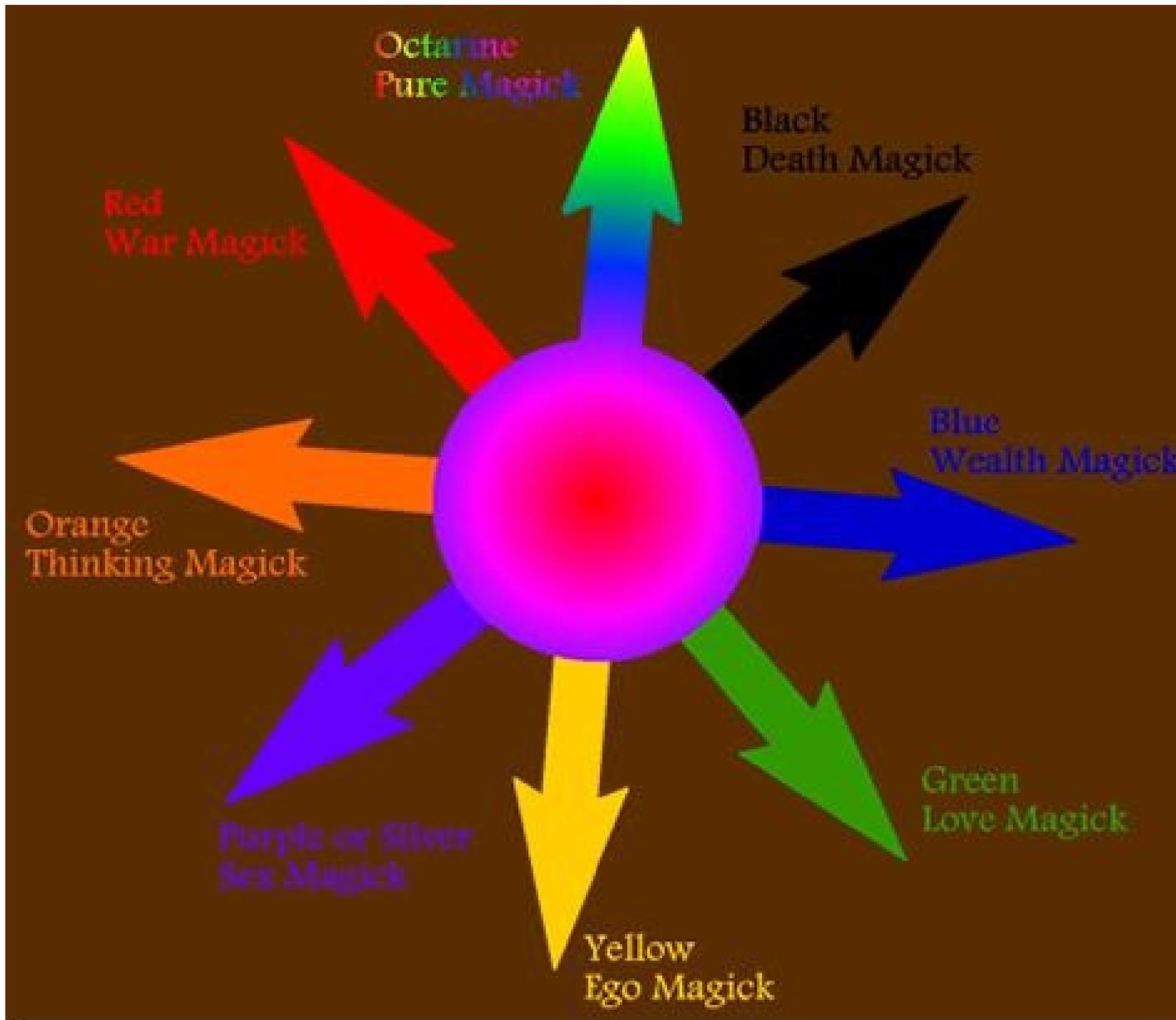


# Chaos Magic

Fra. Ophis, CHS



# Ways to talk about Chaos Magic

- As an innovative current in magical thought
  - As a movement
  - As a collection of techniques
- ... We'll touch on all of these as we go

# **Chaos! What a word. What does it mean?**

1. The common definition: a state of disorder, lawlessness; the mess we're left with when systems break down.
2. The mathematical definition: the behavior of non-linear systems, which may be unpredictable in detail, but still have some high-level order (attractors).
3. The fertile void underlying and preexisting the Kosmic order, as in “primal chaos.”

**Which one is Chaos Magic named after?**

If you said #3, you are right. Give yourself a kiss on the Apocalypse. But it's flavored with the other two.

We get our formal ideas about **XAOΣ** from the Greeks. Those crazy Orphics started it all:

**XAOΣ** was the first of the Protogenoi to emerge at the creation of the universe. She was followed in quick succession by Gaia (Earth), Tartaros (the Underworld) and Eros (Love the life-bringer).

**XAOΣ** was the lower atmosphere which surrounded the earth - invisible air and gloomy mist. Her name khaos literally means the gap, the space between heaven and earth.

Later authors defined **XAOΣ** as the chaotic mix of elements that existed in the primeval universe, confusing it with the primeval Mud of the Orphic cosmogonies, but this was not the original meaning. [Source: <http://www.theoi.com/Protogenos/Khaos.html>]

In 1597, German alchemist, Theosophist, and Hermeticist Heinrich Khunrath published a booklet, *Vom hylealischen Chaos*, which argued for Chaos as the *Prima Materia* of Alchemy.

Belgian alchemist Jan Baptist van Helmont agreed with him, and noting the atmospheric root of Chaos, and conceiving of that as a model for how we “feel” Chaos, coined the term “gas” for the first time.

That works nicely with the root of Spirit as breath: Gk. πνευμα, Hb. *Ruach*, Skt. *prana*, etc.

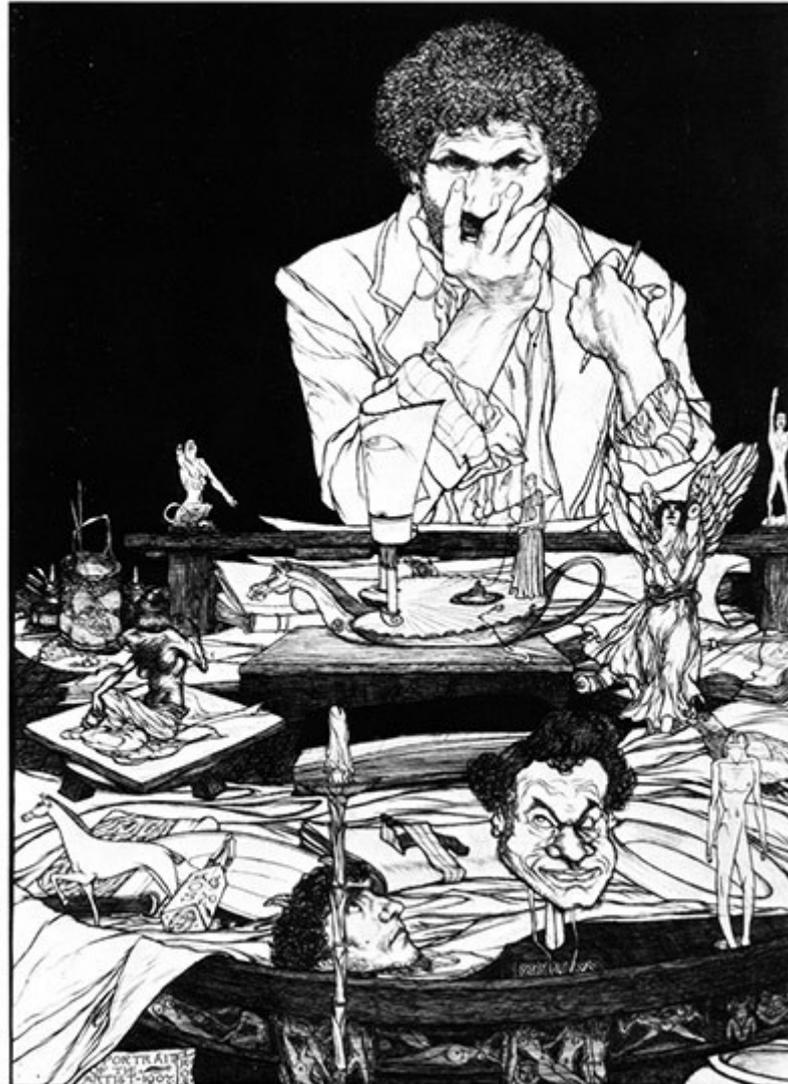
You all know that subtle whatsit that connects your consciousness to the All, yes? Then why no word for it?

# Tradition and Innovation

- The people who pioneered the Chaos Current were not dabblers. They had all done extensive work before:
- Austin Osman Spare (1886 – 1956) had been in the A.:.A.: after extensive self-study
- Ray Sherwin (1952 - ) Author of *Results Magic*, co-founder of IOT
- Peter J. Carroll (1953 - ) Author of *Psychonaut*, *Liber Null*, *etc.*, co-founder of IOT
- Ralph Tegtmeier [Frater U.:.D.:] (1952 - ) IOT, Fraternitas Saturni, author of *Practical Sigil Magic*, *etc.*

# A. O. Spare 1

Portrait of the Artist, 1907:



# A. O. Spare 2

- Spare had no intention of founding a movement in either magic or art. Like William Blake, his work can be appreciated, but hardly imitated.
- Spare pioneered the sigilization technique that was explored by future Chaos magicians.
- One of his signature practices was the Death Posture, one type of what would later be known as “inhibitive gnosis.”
- Infamous for binding spirits into some of his paintings.

# Notable Organizations

One of the major things Chaos Mages were rebelling against was the stultifying atmosphere of traditional magical Orders. The cure for this was obvious: they set up magical Orders:

- Templum Niger Solis [TNS] (Australia and abroad).
- The Pact of the Initiates of Thanateros [IOT] (England, Europe, and abroad).
- Thee Temple ov Psychick Youth [TOPY] (International) as much artists' collective as magical Order.

They all have the same history up to a point: “In the early 1990s a rift occurred...” TNS still existed in some form as late as 2009. TOPY spawned AIN, and some IOT members formed RIOT.

# Second-Wave Chaos

The fragmentation of the Orders of Chaos didn't end the movement. Two things supervened: the opening of the global Internet to individual subscribers and the occult publishing boom.

- Second-wave Chaos focused on innovation. People just coming up and learning to use the “traditional” methods were derided as “people who only know how to jerk off on a sigil” (Yes, it was that male-centered).
- Although there were several print journals started, the movement became largely web-based, with Phil Hine's site and [chaosmatrix.org](http://chaosmatrix.org) emerging as outstanding resources.

# Chaos Now?

- By about 2005, Chaos had lost center stage. The cool kids had gone back to traditional magic, either in the Lodges or as independent Sorcerors. It was also cool and au-courant to claim to be doing post-Chaos or anything-but-Chaos magic while doing, well, Chaos Magic.
- There were still people making it work. Gordon White of the Rune Soup blog refined the sigilization technique so much it almost isn't "magic" any more (and magicked himself up a career out of nothing).
- Peter Carroll came out of retirement, writing several new books.
- A few new practitioners like Andrieh Vitimus put energy into the current.

# Chaos Magic Theory

- “...a concentrated...form of Magick lay at the core of all our various paths and that in stripping it all down to essentials they could then rebuild...” [TNS]
- Gnosis yes, “belief” and “faith” no. Sherwin: “I create and destroy beliefs according to their usefulness.”  
Carroll: “...we treat Belief as a Tool of Magic, rather than as an end in itself.”

Awareness that models of how magic works are just that. More or less equal acceptance of the spirit, energy, information, and psychological models under the instruction "Always use the model most adequate to your aims." [Frater U.:D.:]

- Direct magical action in altered states (“gnosis”)

# Chaos Magic Practices

1

Out of the various techniques explored by Chaos practitioners, two stand out:

- **Sigilization**

In traditional magic, a sigil is a signature of a spirit and can be used as a shortcut to invocation or evocation once it is known. A talisman is a created object with a set of corresponding names and pictures, often including sigils, consecrated to a task. In the Chaos current, this has been radically simplified: a sigil drawn for an intent is “launched” in a state of gnosis and then banished and forgotten to avoid having the ego screw around with it.

Time permitting, we'll draw a sigil on the whiteboard later.

# Chaos Magic Practices

2

- **Entity Creation**

Entities (aka servitors, but not thoughtforms, egregores, tulpas, etc.) can be magically created for specific tasks.

This is called “advanced magic.” What most people mean by “advanced magic” is it requires the basic skills of magic, which most people don't have. It does require care, *as you may get exactly what you asked for.*

Instructions can be found in Philip Hine's *Condensed Chaos* (short form) or the book *Creating Magical Entities* by D. M. Cunningham, T. Wagener, and T. Ellwood.

Do NOT ignore the caution about giving them an external power source; they'll use you up and then die.

# Chaos Magic Practices 3

Notice that funny word “gnosis.” In Chaos Magic, it doesn't mean what it means in, say, Gnosticism.

Chaotes wanted a word for “the state of void mind that comes with a good trance induction,” and they didn't want the connotations of “samadhi.”

There are three main ways of attaining this:

- inhibitory methods such as meditation or Spare's Death Posture
- Excitatory methods such as dancing, twirling, straining
- Orgasm

How is that different from ceremonial magic and witchcraft?

# Chaos Magic Practices

4

- **Entity Creation Example: POTENS**

1

Servitor POTENS

// Amplify healing powers

// To be evoked into a shaman stone that will stay in my medicine bag.

// POTENS will be powered by the stone, which is a constant radiator.

SYMBOL: A stylized caduceus which I will draw separately.

FORM: A pair of serpents in cool colors, blue and green, twined around a pair of forceps or free-roaming as needed.

# Chaos Magic Practices

5

- **Entity Creation Example: POTENS**

2

## POWERS:

To locate and grasp whatever disease I am called to remove. As I evoke POTENS into the patient, it will go directly to the seat of the problem, identify it to me, and take control of it. It will wait for me to do the actual extraction and disposal.

To amplify whatever modes of healing energy I am using.

To draw my attention to persons in need of the kind of healing I can provide.

# Chaos Magic Practices

6

- **Entity Creation Example: POTENS**

3

EVOCAATION:

Oh, POTENS, young and vigorous scion of an ancient wellspring of power, son of Ningishzida out of Mercurius, Self creating Self endlessly. Fertile froth of the world-mind, you accomplish the transformations of the Single First Matter. You embody perfection of form and function. You superconduct the Immanent Power, from below to above, from above to below. You come forth when I call, as an extension of Me as I grow to be the Healer. I conduct your power where Love would have it go. I am the power, I perfectly reflect the Glory, and I claim the Kingdom without End, Amen.

# References

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Hine, Phil: *Condensed Chaos*

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