

The Magician as Spiritual Anarchist



Based on the writings of Hakim Bey, the Gnostics, & Cyber-Punk Fiction

By: Saint Faust, Imperium Magus.

All Magical Experiments Conducted by Saint Faust & Crius, Along With the Order of Ento-Pan from March 2005 – May 2005.

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No Pre-Invoked Curse Will Be Thrown as Those Who Do Not. All Rites Reversed.

A Few Basic Explanations

First and foremost, this entire process of thought was fed by several sources; the first, of course, is probably cyber-punk science fiction books, and the second would be Hakim Bey's The Temporary Autonomous Zone, which will hereafter be referred to as the TAZ. But before we can get any further, I should ask that the reader do me a favor: before you read this, throw aside any assumptions you have regarding "anarchy" or "chaos."

Chaos Theory, along with scientific applications, shows that chaos is the random occurrence of variables within the world we know which can create drastic changes. "Chaos" and "anarchy" are not one; though the true Spiritual Anarchist will prefer them to be on some level. Random variables, of course, can be asserted to be "free will" – man's ability to move with this randomness as though he were at one with it. A "free spirit" may not be complete random but is, in essence, random at critical moments which makes his actions that much harder to gauge unless the entire spectrum of the time he's moving in can be viewed.

an·ar·chy (n r-k)

n. pl. an·ar·chies

- **Absence of any form of political authority.**
- **Political disorder and confusion.**
- **Absence of any cohesive principle, such as a common standard or purpose.**

If we take a close look at the definition of anarchy, of course, we can see a very big discrepancy in the definitions. The major problem I have is the lower two definitions, which are cultural memes based on a series of cultural assumptions. The first is that if one lacks a central figure of philosophy, or government, then everything is going to go straight to shit and fall apart. This is a pretty idiotic statement, considering that we've actually had a series of tribal cultures throughout history without a central form of governance which did just fine until the white-man came along and decided to fuck things up with his way of viewing reality.

Let me ask you a question, then. You sit every day on a chair, when you go to sit down. If I remove the chair, where do you think you'll sit if you need to? On the ground. Let's take this same concept and apply it to government: if we take away a government, what will man do? Man, for the most part, will govern himself. Much the same way we actually do every day; of course, there are always going to be a few who threaten to break down these basic principles. But do you really think wide-spread raping and pillaging will occur if living just down the street is a group of Muslims willing to shoot you if you so much as touch their daughter? Probably not.

What, then, does that leave us with? How do we work with this concept at all, and is it relevant to us? I believe it is; I have no doubt that others will disagree on principle. First, the idea of "revolution" needs to be tossed out and it is in all honesty a key to the concept of anarchy. Revolution, when viewed at historical level, always leads to even more oppressive systems of government. We obviously don't need that at the moment, despite any issues some of us (myself, for example) may have with the way the government currently operate.

This is what brings me to Hakim Bey's TAZ. The TAZ isn't based around the need, or even ideal, of a revolution but periodic or perpetual insurrection. How is this different? The idea of revolution means the immediate replacement of the system of government – this then leads us to the wonderful betrayal of the philosophy and occupation of even more tyrannical focal points of government. The second this comes to pass, the entire ideology of the revolution is circumvented.

Insurrection, on the other hand, does not need a revolution to occur; it simply needs willing participants who following the brief period return to an almost normal viewpoint of life. Insurrection normally occurs when those involved are simply tired of the way things are being done and decide to shake their fists at the government as a whole. However, you may have noticed thus far that I've focused on the government – and what Magician really cares all that much for politics? What we need to realize is that Government and Organized Religion are two sides of the same threshold: control. Control with a big "c," if you can dig it.

Heresy is a means of social resistance; you and I are all ready, in the eyes of the organized religions out there, anarchists eating away at their philosophies. The root for heresy is the Latin Haeresis, which means "to choose." Our great plot against all of them is to choose for ourselves. Take a moment to consider that. We've chosen for ourselves...

We've circumvented their control over us and decided that we have the means and technologies, spiritually, to do what they claim to do. We are their biggest and most potent enemy because we simply don't need them; the same can be applied to the State, which can make us just as dangerous...

Technology or Power to the Audience

Now, how does any of this thought apply to technology? Aren't we currently being fed the same bullshit? The answer is yes and no: there are new technologies out there that even now we can harness. The fact that those claiming to want to create a "Satanic Nation" have not begun to use these technologies is in fact a drastic oversight. We live in a day and age when the 'Net has altered everything that once was and promises to do so again... And again, and again, and further still.

Get ready, baby, the beginning of the end of the way we once lived is here. I read William Gibson's *Neuromancer* in 1997 and instantly fell in love with the idea; I'm not a technophobe, and that's why you get the joy of reading what I have to say right now. I can only hope some of the conclusions and considerations I've dealt with will be of measurable use to those even now seeking to change what we have here. Even if it isn't, at least I can get the word out...

As the audience, we all ready have begun to take control of distribution channels that had once come from above. We can now, with relative ease, download things that we want... For free. People bitch and moan about "piracy" and fail to consider that we have all ready taken the anarchic principle of pure piracy and begun utilizing it again. When piracy first began in the Middle Ages, mostly with Islamic and Moorish corsairs making bucket-loads of money by taking what they wanted, we labeled them through History's eyes as being the first capitalists.

This, once again, goes back to the TAZ. Bey had originally said that the "anarchic content of the Web" was capable of creating a unified front against the mainstream media. Just a few years ago a new edition of the TAZ was published by Autonomedia – his primary distributor (despite the fact that the entire book was produced under the Anarchist Anti-Copyright Act and we can all view it for free) – and in his introduction he discusses how the Web has failed us. It has been bought out!

But, wait, hasn't the new technologies of the Web liberated vast spaces of imaginable vistas for us to get completely for free? Hasn't the youthful rebellion against the RIAA and MPAA created such a liminal stir that they are now suing 12 year olds? The answer is yes. Once against the anarchistic, change-needing youth have liberated what they wanted.

Most of those my age no longer listen to the radio; we have iPods – playlists of music we like going where we want them to go. We no longer watch TV; we download it when we want and watch it where we want. We no longer go to the movies unless we desire to see the movie; otherwise we download it. Piracy is afoot my friends, and spreading and Bey may well have ignored it, but others have not. The battle lines have been set and unless the capitalist and savvy economic overlords out there can find new ways to distribute their ads, the entire system will inevitably fall apart at the seams. Mark Pesche has all ready proposed new systems for money to be made, and ways to change how we now view content for the audience without the long and drawn out struggles... But the old guard is still resisting. Well, they'll lose.

They can only sue so many people before they lose so much money production spirals to all time lows and the entire system shuts down or they can change and begin again under the new stresses... You can't fight this anymore. You can only embrace it and change it: which is exactly what our economy has done for the past fifty years, anyhow. Pepsi now pays for my music downloads; or I pay a dollar a song. That is nothing. I can get an entire CD I actually want for ten bucks. That's about an hour and fifteen minutes of work for me. Or I can download the single for a dollar, which is about ten minutes of work.

Emergent Technology: Embrace the Change Now!

How does any of this apply to us? This is where it gets great. Thanks to Podcasting, Shoutcast, and a variety of other ways, you and I can now manufacture our own "radio-style shows" for audiences. Thanks to downloads, we can now create cheap PDF files and distribute our ideas across the internet for free; thanks to bit torrent, a variety of shows we want, on things we want as occultists, are literally at our fingers.

Two months ago I embraced the Podcasting move when Gray Lodge Occult Review, an online occult 'zine, began their "gPod" website. I can now scan it daily and download great things to listen to or watch entirely for free with the full consent of those creating it. What a wild idea. I can download sections of books that are being made or prepared to be released and then decide to buy them if I love them. I can listen to the old Timothy Leary tapes that haven't been sold in decades, and get those old-school ideas I missed out on...

Of course, so far the "Occult" movement towards this technology has been slow. Most of the "for free" stuff has been limited to Yahoo group "Priestesses" releasing Lavey's shit entirely for free and violating copy-right laws in ways that can lead to lawsuits...

Not that the Church of Satan gives a shit at the moment, but eventually they just might.

What I propose is that those wishing to begin distribution start small; a few blogs here and there transmit the idea; these ideas then move on to much larger scale distribution via things like Bit Torrent and RSS feeds, eventually leading to people like me downloading them and grinning insanely. I can easily download Tsirk's "Demonic Bible" – but eventually I'll want that leather-bound edition he plans to release if he chooses to, and thus he's marketed it to me for free before it has even hit the shelves of stores...

That also means that the entire background for what he wants, his Satanic Nation, has been marketed to me in a way that isn't traditionally mediated. I'm down with this; I got a credit card logo on my ATM card just so I could buy online... And I imagine most of those my age, with JOBS, will feel the same way. Otherwise they at LEAST have the online versions for FREE. Which, by the way, they probably wouldn't have bought anyway if they didn't have the cash; if they love them enough, they will buy them when they have the cash. That means that trying to fight them for money is entirely worthless in the first place.

Islands in the 'Net

Bey obviously thought the 'Net, or Web as he called it, was lost to corporations after the dot-com busts of 98-99. He was wrong. The technology simply wasn't in place to be used just yet for the full-scale programs to begin. We now have them.

Have you been to Starbucks recently, or any of the major bookstores? You'll find signs on the doors that say "Hotspot location". What does this essentially mean for the non-tech savvy? It means download for free, motherfucker. We can now sit down and browse our favorite 'sites on things like PDA's and laptops with Wireless connectivity for free. That means that we can begin getting what we want anywhere, any time. We're that much closer to Gibson's world of Neuromancer...

Don't have broadband? Not a problem. Just get enough money for something with wireless connectivity and live in a major city. Over time, this will spread even across the backwater areas of America and other places. Given time Satellite receivers will be set up in enough places that anywhere in the world, at any time, you can get what you want, when you want it.

That means I can sit down at Borders, and then download a program on Aleister Crowley without every having to pay for anything besides the technology I carry. This is a big deal; it means liberated media... It also means that liberated "islands" in the 'Net, like in Bruce Sterling's book, are beginning to exist. gPod is just one place where we can see this happening right now.

Trouble in Meme-Space

meme (m m)

n.

A unit of cultural information, such as a cultural practice or idea, that is transmitted verbally or by repeated action from one mind to another.

We've got a slight problem here, when we go over the definition of a meme and what it is. How is cultural information relevant to us, and what does it shape? How does it function? How does culture spread information throughout the vast network of human minds? Thankfully, or perhaps not so thankfully, we have memes to help us along. The meme functions on a symbolic level, being the connector-between-ideas. In other words, all those times that we immediately have an "in-grained" or taught thought when something we hear about appears, we're dealing with a meme.

In a way, a meme can be looked at as a "cultural sigil" – when we create sigils, we're encoding memes for ourselves... And if memes get powerful enough they can act as egregores. Take a look at Nike or Disney for a moment and tell me those corporations haven't "fed" something that jumps into our subconscious, imaginative mind? The meme is the first little connector. Give it several more, maybe hundreds or millions, and suddenly you have an idea that's as alive and awake as any other.

In this way, we can say that the "Satanic Scare" of the 80's did actually occur. People really did believe they'd been raped, had the child aborted, and then gone on living... Especially when thought transference, or hypnosis was involved, it was easy to "guide" them to these confessions. The believe in a wide-ranging Satanic conspiracy even today posits that people on this very list are actually murdering women left and right in the name of Satan... This is a meme, alive and well, infecting human minds when it can.

Defense Against Memes?

So, how do we defend against something we unconsciously create in large groups? Well, the answer is typically we don't. Most humans simply aren't capable of such a fight. On the other hand, as Magicians we can. Simple banishing routines when performed daily can "harden" the aura (subconscious) of the Magician to a point where it is very hard to "infect."

Here we come back to anarchistic-thought: avoid the media. Turn the goddamn television off, avoid the traps of TV advertising... Stop watching the news. Just stop fucking watching it. Memes are culturally embedded in the so called "Daily News" to help further the cultural agenda. "Black Men are Dangerous" is a typical one, complete with a picture of the crying family that some sap just shot...

We need to extract these influences from our lives if we want to function on a level that most simply can't. The easiest way to do this is by beginning to combat the memes themselves... But we'll get to that a bit later.

Another problem we're going to face is, in all honesty, the "meme" attached to Satanism. You say, "Satanism" and people automatically assume "Devil-Worship." Let's be honest: we haven't helped this by the name we've chosen. Lavey could have used Prometheans, or anything else, but he didn't. I assume this was because he hoped to finally crush his opposition. Well folks, we've failed so far.

So, how do we deal with this? We can cut our losses, move back, and re-name ourselves. However the Old Guard aren't going to want to do that. And so, some of us are actually left at a Stand-still... While we are "Left Hand Path" and fully agree with almost all Satanic thought (aside from maybe the ONA's creepy-ass teachings, and those of a few madcap cult leaders) we also realize we cannot combat this meme functionally without additional weaponry. Something needs to be done about this...

Mimetic Warfare: How to Kick Symbolic Ass

Memes can be assaulted on an astral level; just like a servitor or an Egregore, they're vulnerable to psychic assault. In the late 80's and early 90's, the A.O.A. of which Hakim Bey was a member, began spreading around interesting curses. The curses involved calling up the personal "shadow-self" and cursing an organization, rather than individual. In a sense, this makes even more sense.

If we assume that astral projection is 90% the creation of imagery in the mind of the practitioner followed by the expulsion of energy radiations that spread beyond him and attempt to "Sense" and interact with the "other" that means that there are less astral barriers in a workplace than in a single human mind. That's because so many are involved, and so many – haha – memes might be combating each other at that one time.

Of course, there is another theory that they are vulnerable because those toiling day in and out for nothing more than pay under a single name and logo (in essence, what you need for a Servitor) creates a being that then "lives" on an astral level rather than a "real" level. Okay, I dig this... Each one works when we get down to how to deal with a meme.

What we need to do is, essentially, begin our own psychic warfare strategies. The first way is to implant another "idea" where the traditional one was. This is easier if the idea is negative because for some reasons memes seem to thrive on negativity. Given enough time, and enough people spreading the basics of this mimetic implant, the original meme itself will be subverted and altered...

A major question that needs to be asked is this, "if we can do this with memes and Egregores, what about God?"

I think this answers a lot of questions about his sudden "change of heart" in the New Testament... Enough people assaulted the "Meme" of the Hebrew God for such a long time that they subverted the original meaning of what it was. Interestingly enough, the Christian God is currently under psychic attack in the same way from Quantum Mechanists and Physicists.

A Little Experiment

I have this weeks experiment for those wishing to take it. For the next week declare yourself a Christian; for the entire week, any time you have a theology debate with a Christian, or a discussion on religion, insist that you are in fact, a Christian – even say you're searching for a church as we speak – and during the discussions allow yourself to slowly slip in bits and pieces of Gnostic heresies. Or perhaps a bit of Satanic thought.

I believe that if, in all honesty, each of us conducted this experiment for a good enough length then given time we could fundamentally fracture the Christian-Meme.

In that way, we could subvert it from within without ever having to have “gone to war” as far as ideologies go. In fact, if we cracked their meme, we would alter reality on a level where some Gnostics “truths” might become... universally recognized in a way that would subvert the meme even further.

It is of course, simply a theory, but well worth considering. We don't have to shake our fists at the sky to get this shit down; nor shout Hail Satan at people (I've preferred “Hail Eris” lately, myself, just to throw people off) to begin getting shit down.

Disappearance as Will to Power & the Pandamonaeon

The big pie in the sky belief of Chaos Magicians from the 80's on was the introduction of the Pandamonaeon; so much so that I made the slogan for my own website “The New Aeon Is Here, Are You Ready to Up the Ante?” For the most part, the 5th Aeon was something that was worked for, and worked for, and worked for... And then seems to have simply appeared at the moment when the rest of the scene was shutting down.

Over the past few years, America has had a huge explosion of practicing Chaos Magicians; to the point where if the increase continues to happen they may eventually rival the New Age/Wicca trend currently in effect. The mere idea of this is something to be pondered given time, but it isn't all that... strange at the same time. We can look at the times we live in and understand easily understand why some would be drawn to the mere idea of chaos as an approachable ideal.

Few, however, have read any of the early literature beyond that of Phil Hine and Peter Carroll. This is not to say that either of those authors isn't worth in depth reading, but it leaves a lot to be desired. When we approach Pandemonium, we can see where some are thrown off. Utilizing Bey's theories, along with the mere definition of the word, I think an approachable understanding can be made. First, if the world itself is now filled with White Noise we can disappear into the background of the world, working and utilizing our skills to create drastic or minor changes, and then simply fade again into that static.

Or, due to the noise & confusion, we are now allowed to take what we will and toss what we will so that we can find for ourselves what we believe. The ties that once bound us are no longer shackles, but rather an endless bandwidth of data for us to pick and choose. Of course, some will always rebel against this simply because many feel you need to follow established dogma to get anywhere.

We live in a world of hierarchy, and I have to ask you... how far have we come following our leaders? Not very far. Not very far at all.

Occult Groups & the TAZ

One of the primary functions of the TAZ is to bring the person away from the mediated world and help them enter into a world of experience. Occult groups tend to do this on their own; do the fact those involved are typically seeking spiritual experiences they begin to mediate themselves, or at least move away from the mediated culture that we have now.

The serious Occult practitioner would rather read a book on something like demonic evocation rather than watch a TV program; and this is big news. I've been interested in reading some other aspects of what goes on in our world, and the world outside, and how they coincide in a way. One of the major reasons that people are drawn to TV, I've concluded, may be the fact that it stimulates the same brainwaves that sleep and meditation do. The major question is: how does meditation, and TV, differ?

I think that meditation differs because the practitioner projects himself inward, sliding through a myriad of tunnels and shifting through strange images and thoughts, building himself up along the beta waves he generates. This is opposed to TV, which generates beta-wave processes but projects those watching TV outward, allowing the subconscious content of the media to begin a control process. This might be why imagination has dwindled over the past few years, and more children seem to be the perfect little mediated robots.

However, when we gather together as groups of spiritual seeking individuals, we begin to seek changes together that can allow the raw experience of this world and the next to build up around us. We begin to naturally shunt everything that might keep us back, and this is as good as it gets. We live in a day and age when everything has become mediated. Can't go to church? Don't worry, it's on TV. Can't miss that program? Just tape it. The entire process seems endless.

If drastic changes need to be made, why not re-invent the way the modern religious “organization” works. Toss out hierarchy, become a brotherhood of equals. Each person contributes each week, substituting the role of Priest to become just another brother or sister – but one with ideas and goals that fit with the whole. Given enough time, with enough people backing such a movement – something we’ve done so far in small degrees with covens and open-ended groups, the entire structure of how spirituality is viewed can be changed. Memes don’t have to be bad things – we can always make our own.

The Group Astral Work Experiment

Some months ago I began to wonder if Astral Projection could be utilized on a group level rather than just a personal level. As a way to both instigate imagination and with the hope that a group could come into contact with spiritual beings without the use of evocation I began the experiment. I began by crafting pseudo-path workings and building from there. I then shaped them into a more freeform way for a group to experience the astral.

A few things came from this: the first was that the entire experience became what were practically story-telling sessions in which the group immersed themselves in the rich, symbolic nature of the imagination. The second was that it confirmed that by using this process, the group can come into contact with major archetypes and spirits.

Those spirits best to attempt contact with are the things of dreams and nightmares. For this reason Lovecraftian group work is possible with this process. It is, however, extremely potent and can be quite frightening.

To experiment with the process you need to know a few things:

1. Atmosphere is essential.
2. Music and smells heighten the experience to extreme degrees.
3. Things can go wrong depending on the variables involved.

To begin, formulate a group “Astral Temple” – an imaginative cave, temple, or location which the entire group can interact with and do work in on their own as well as while working together. Lead into the temple through a meditation sequence that will aid the group in bringing out the potent theta brainwaves. Then begin to lead them into the place in which you wish to encounter the spirit – a world of dreams or nightmares, a hidden cavern beneath the group temple, any place which stimulates the imagination.

The more of the setting you describe while they are in the state, the more they can actually hallucinate being there. An example is that we once did a working where we went “under-water” – and we could all feel the water brushing along our bodies.

At varying points have other members of the group take over and describe what they are seeing and doing. It is best to let them then pass the torch to random other members of the group. The reason for this is each person will have a picture in their mind that they are interacting with which might not quite match your own. That way, if you let them feed you some of the details, you may all slowly come into the same map and place – the same imaginative time and place.

Be prepared to take over if things go south. After a time, ensure that you arrive at the proper destination and meet the being/spirit/archetype. Give each person a bit of time to have their own inner-discussion with it, and then slowly lead them out through meditation. You may find that some members aren’t quite prepared to do this, and will have trouble keeping up the visualizations. This means that if you wish to continue with the project, you’ll need to give them some homework on visualizing.

Finally, take them out through meditation and discuss what they felt and saw as a group. You may be surprised what you find. I think this entire process is much like storytelling may once have been – with altered sights and smells to take people to other lands – dreamlands – and that over the years we’ve replaced these experiences with mere books and television, which is why I added this section to my little discussion.

The World of Experience & Personal Revelation

This entire series of thoughts was written in the vein of the Gnostics, and other early heretic sects of Christianity and beyond, who constituted the first Spiritual Anarchists. The Gnostics themselves waged a background war against Christianity and treated the Christian and Jewish God as a tyrant. In their anger towards

materialism and the consumption of life by Mammon, they were the first to up the ante. It is from them that I derive what little sense of history. After the Gnostics, the apostate monks that formulated Goetia and other 'Black Magick' mysteries kept the torch alive.

To me, magick has become a street thing. A living, breathing movement not along the lines of the elite pseudo-Aristocracy we now have to deal with, but from those striving to make themselves more than a mere man. Every man and woman that proclaims themselves to be a Magus and works for a better world, or at least a better life, is a Spiritual Anarchist. Our history need not be one of tribal Shamans and Druids to be potent; the dark side of magick that existed in the early Christian world is just as potent a mechanism to draw off.

Those that are "Satanists" or "Chaos Magicians" have no true background except as heresy, and heresy has always been a form of social resistance. I hope that I've treated the subject with enough dignity that those wishing to proclaim themselves above this world, and beyond it, have enough thoughts as to blast through the veils of reality we've shrouded ourselves in and give themselves to the goal of what has always been transcendence: to make yourself more than what you are.

Considering that our world is now super-saturated with media and we cannot entirely escape its grasp without going "to croatan" as it were, doesn't mean we cannot attempt the escape. Nearly every act of will by a person with a spiritual bent is an anarchistic Will to Power. Power over themselves, rather than power over the world around them. If you have trouble imagining that you can be free, the easiest way to recall what it was like was your first sexual experience.

Remember the sensation of doing something simply because you desired it, not because someone said you could. The feeling of bodies and minds mingling, moments lapsing into minutes and hours – that is the taste of freedom. We constrain ourselves every day by pretending to be things that we aren't, or feeding the ghost-machines of the world we live in.

By practicing magick, we make this world into something a bit more strange – a bit more imaginative. If you don't see a need for this, then take a good goddamn look around. Many people spend most of their lives in a dull classroom setting just so they can later spend the rest of their lives in a fucking cubicle supposedly making a living. They come home and bitch at their families and endlessly bemoan the need for a better education – despite the fact that they obviously aren't happy.

Freedom is finding happiness for yourself, and following your dreams and desires. If you can't follow your dreams and desires, then why live life at all? Why continue waking up every day? Just start making the choices that will define who you are right way. Turn off the television, burn the newspaper, toss that book out the window and go buy a cup of coffee and meet someone new. Make life an adventure – live it as imaginatively and creatively as possible.

Don't bemoan revolution or insurrection right away – one person can make a drastic change in the life of another. If we win over just one more person for every "spiritual anarchist" all ready out there, and they win over others, the changes will begin to become as enormous as ever. It's time to start carrying the torch and proving that we can put the money where our mouth is.

As a final note, just two weeks ago I was able to download a documentary on the "tele-street" movement in Spain. In a place where almost all media is controlled by one man, there has begun an underground street war against the media in which pirate TV stations now flow openly to those who want it. One of the founders of the ideas now permeating the movement even referred the stations as "temporary autonomous zones." Given enough time, such a movement can even spread to our super-materialist world of America and the surrounding countries and be one more force in the resistance ultra-consumerism.

It has always been my dream to see this world change to suit those with imagination, and that the next generation will itself has more imagination than those that came before.

The new Aeon is here; now is the time to begin placing the stresses where we must so that the 5th version of Baphomet becomes as potent as ever, and any dual currents appearing become as we wish them. Let us proclaim an end to the world that we can only derive so much pleasure from, and that the beginning of another is here.