



# Satan the Prophet A History of Modern Satanism

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# What is Satanism?

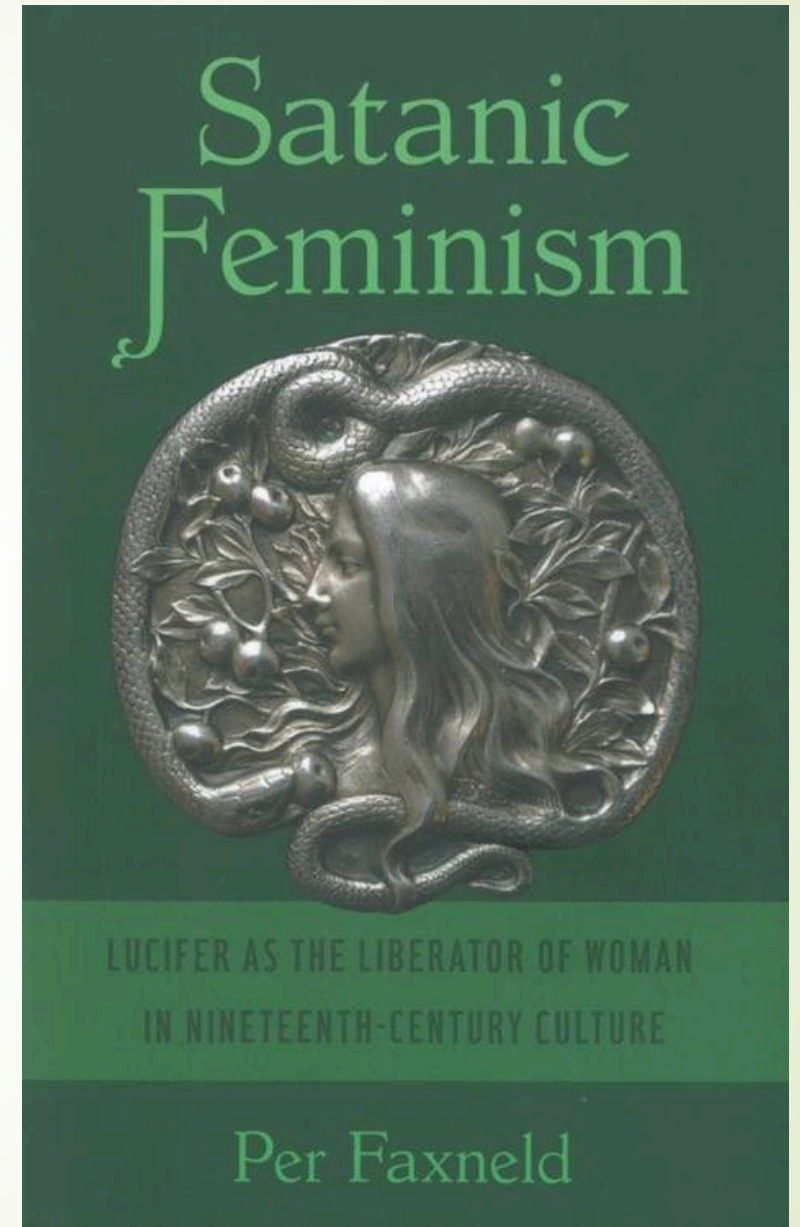


- ▶ In my book *Satanism: A Social History* (Brill, 2016) I define Satanism as including:
  1. The veneration of the character identified with the name of Satan or Lucifer in the Bible – whether he is considered as a sentient being or a mere symbol
  2. by organized groups with at least a minimal organization and hierarchy
  3. through ritual or liturgical practices, in a broad sense.

Of course, many other definitions exist

# Romantic Satanism

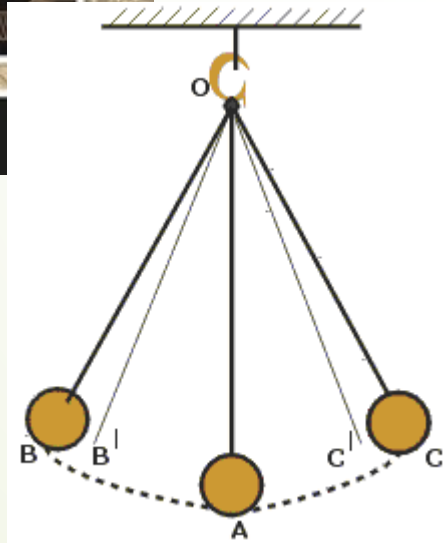
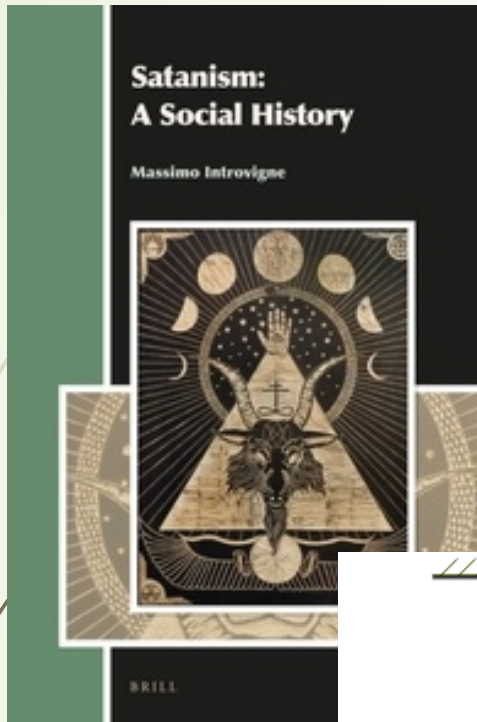
- ▶ Outside of my investigation remains *romantic Satanism* (on which Swedish scholar Per Faxneld published in 2014 an almost definitive study), i.e. poets, novelists, social activists, artists who showed some sympathy for the Devil and used Satan or Lucifer as a symbol of almost any possible rebellion: against superstition, mainline religion, anti-feminist patriarchy, moralism, conventional academic art, capitalism. They normally did not create organizations and rituals and it is doubtful that they really “venerated” Satan



# A Modern Phenomenon

- Pre-modern incidents of Satan-worship do not correspond to my definition of Satanism. A first, embryo form of modern Satanism only appeared with the Paris “Black Masses” (right) during the reign of the French King Louis XIV (1638-1715), in the 1670s





# A Pendulum Theory

- In my 2016 book, I propose a pendulum theory.
- 1. Small groups of Satanists become gradually known.
- 2. They generate strong societal reactions (anti-Satanism) in the form of repression, exaggeration, and moral panics, which force them underground.
- 3. The exaggerations discredit anti-Satanism and Satanists gradually re-appear

# I. Proto-Satanism (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)



# Satanism Begins

- In this lecture, I focus on Satanism (rather than on anti-Satanism), distinguished in proto-Satanism, classic Satanism, and contemporary Satanism
- The first incident of proto-Satanism started in 1679, when the police of King Louis XIV arrested a number of soothsayers and renegade priests, including Catherine La Voisin (1637?-1680, right) and Father Étienne Guibourg (1603-1686)



# Popular Magic in Paris



- To understand what exactly happened, we should consider that a flourishing occult subculture existed in Paris in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, with soothsayers and marginal priests selling at the same time poisons, abortions, horoscopes, magical swords (left), rituals for finding hidden treasures, and *pistoles volantes*, i.e. coins “baptized” by priests that, when spent and given to another person, would magically reappear in the pocket of the owner



# Black Masses



- ▶ The policemen who investigated did believe in the existence of the Devil, but appear in the documents as serious and not too gullible. They concluded that La Voisin, Guibourg, and a few others had started selling a new occult product: the Black Mass, an “inverted” Catholic Mass celebrated on the body of a naked woman serving as an altar, where Satan was invoked in order to obtain money or love

# A Political Affair

- ▶ A special court nicknamed the Chambre Ardente prosecuted those involved in the Black Masses ring, sending some (including La Voisin) to be burned at stake, while others died in jail. It was disbanded by Louis XIV when some witnesses implicated Madame Françoise de Montespan (1640-1707, right), the King's semi-official lover and the mother of five of his children



# Aftermath

- Montespan was probably innocent and some witnesses did exaggerate: but it is probable that at least something similar to the Black Masses really happened in Paris. The incident coincided with the rise of the gazettes and the modern press. It was widely reported all over Europe and generated some copycat cases



# Italy: Satan the Friar



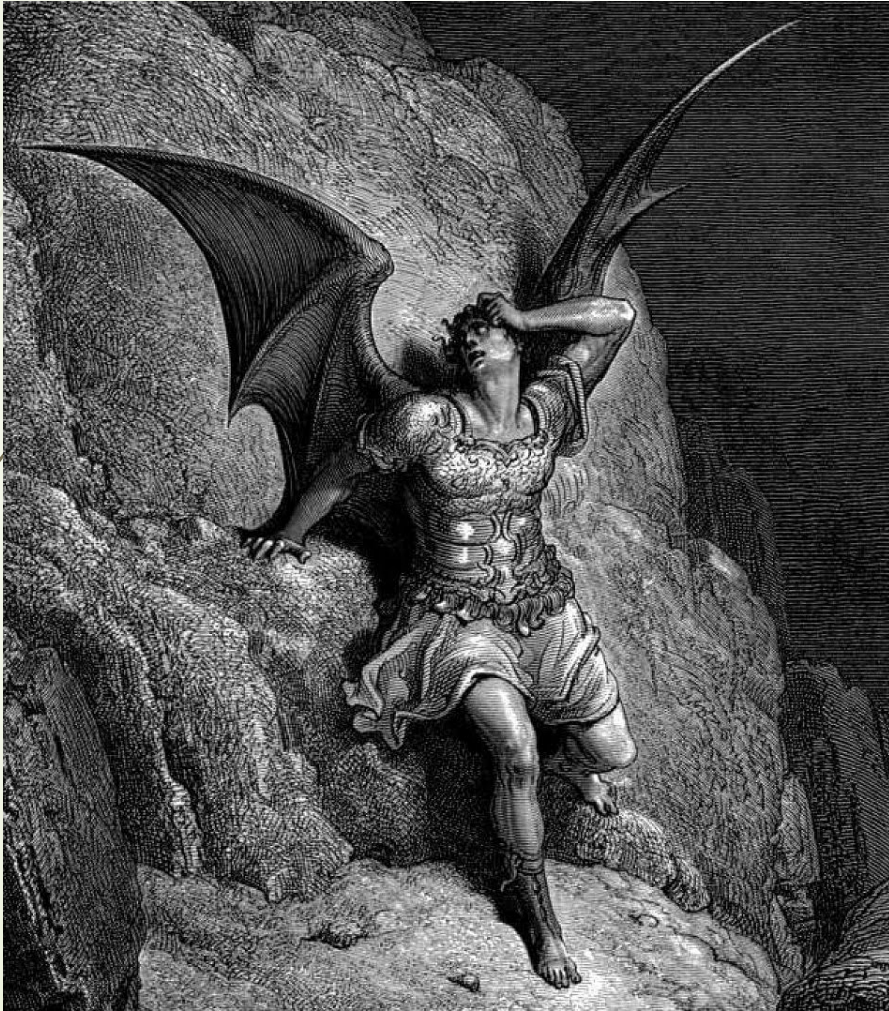
- ▶ In Italy, the excitement about the French case was one of the roots of the 18<sup>th</sup> century scandal involving Father Domenico Costantini (1728-1791?), a Reggio Emilia member of the Congregation of the Oratory who was accused of seducing young girls by proposing to initiate them into a satanic cult. The case duly inspired later writers and painters

# England: Satan the Politician

- In England, a parody of Satanism was organized by Sir Francis Dashwood (1708-1781), Chancellor of the Exchequer (i.e. Minister of Finances) of King George III (1738-1820). Despite persisting rumors, his Society of Saint Francis, meeting in the abbey of Medmenham, was never called "Hell-Fire Club" nor was it truly Satanist. Theirs were just anti-Catholic parodies and libertine parties, whose spirit was captured by William Hogarth (1697-1764) in his portrait of Dashwood (right)



# Russia: Satan the Translator



- ▶ In Russia's rich 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century esoteric and masonic subculture, the fascination for the character of Satan in *Paradise Lost* of John Milton (1608-1674) led many to speculate on Satan or Lucifer as a liberator of suffering humans. But these intellectual speculations did not generate a real Satanist movement

## II. Classic Satanism



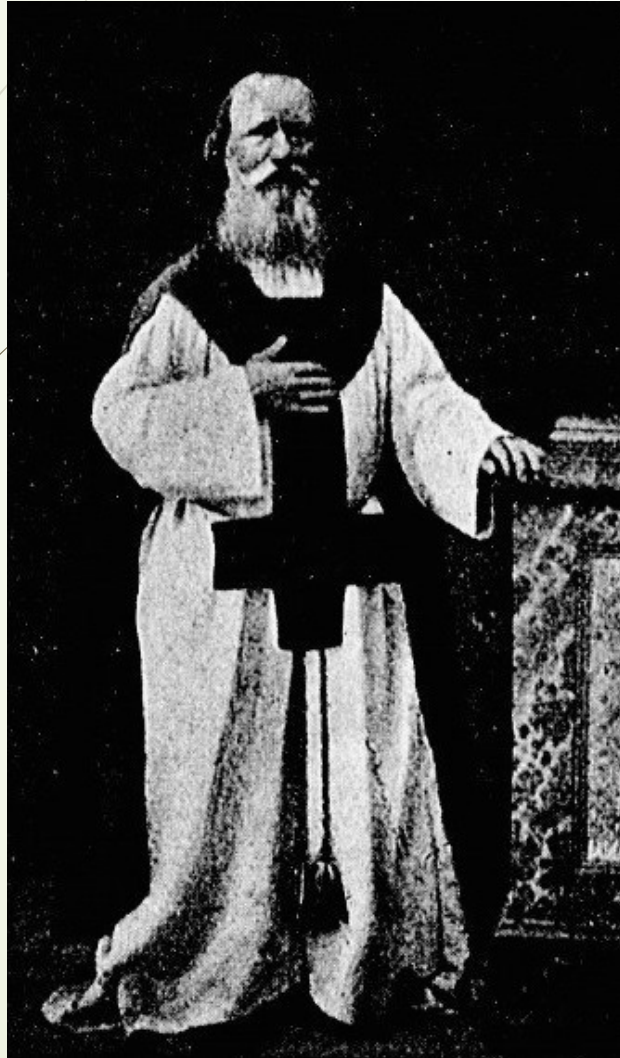
# Éliphas Lévi and the Baphomet

- ▶ After an epidemic of anti-Satanism following the (allegedly “satanic”) French Revolution, Satanism resurfaced in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and classic Satanism began. French esoteric author Éliphas Lévi (Alphonse-Louis Constant, 1810-1875) was not a Satanist, but offered to the Satanists their most popular icon ever, the Baphomet, portrayed it in his book *Dogme et Rituel de la Haute Magie* (Dogma and Ritual of High Magic, 1854-1856)





# Satan the Archivist: Vintras



- ▶ Another relevant name is Eugène Vintras (1807-1875, left). He promoted a schism within the Catholic Church, introducing bizarre occult rituals. Vintras collected “archives” about the Satanists with the aim of fighting them, and ended up being accused himself of Satanism by the Catholic Church

# Satan the Pervert: Boullan

- ▶ Even more germane to our story is Joseph-Antoine Boullan (1824-1893, right), a defrocked and libertine Catholic priest and theologian who joined Vintras movement and caused a schism therein. He too claimed to fight Satanists through occult rituals, but his bizarre system of sex magic and his taste for sexual perversions placed him more often at the receiving end of accusations of Satanism



# Satan the Author: Bois and Huysmans



Bois (left) with Huysmans (right)

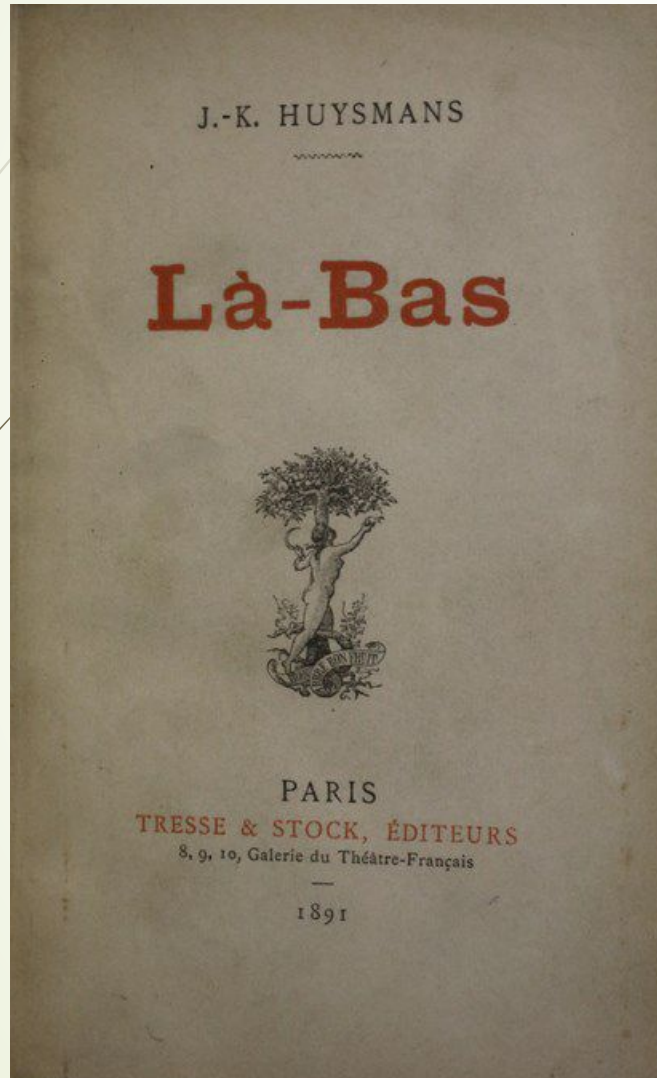
- Boullan was a main, but not the only, source for the books about French Satanism of journalist Jules Bois (1868-1943), who in turn greatly influenced *Là-bas* (1891), the phenomenally successful novel of Satanism by Joris-Karl Huysmans (1848-1907)

# The Mystery of Canon Van Haecke

- From sources other than Boullan, Huysmans derived the idea that a respected Belgian priest, Canon Louis Van Haecke (1829-1912) was in fact Europe's main Satanist leader. Whether Huysmans simply believed false rumors or Van Haecke was at least interested in some form of occultism is still a matter of debate



# Real or Fictional Satanists?



- ▶ The debate goes beyond Van Haecke. Did Huysmans really come across information about Satanist groups, as he always claimed, or was it all just fiction? We cannot know for sure, but certainly Huysmans' description of a Black Mass in *Là-bas* became a model for many 20<sup>th</sup> century Satanists, a case of nature imitating art

# Satan the Unknown: Ben Kadosh

- ▶ Less famous than Huysmans' Satanists, but perhaps more real, was Danish "fringe" Freemason Ben Kadosh (Carl William Hansen, 1872-1936, right) who proposed in 1906 to found an occult order devoted to worship Lucifer, or Satan, as the creator of our material world. Although Kadosh founded several small occult societies, it is unclear whether the Satanist one was ever established



# Satan the Philosopher: Przybyszewski



- ▶ In addition to calling the attention of scholars of Satanism on Kadosh, Faxneld claimed that influential Polish novelist Stanisław Przybyszewski (1868-1927) “formulated what is likely the first attempt ever to construct a more or less systematic Satanism.” Przybyszewski, however, did not create an organization around his philosophical version of Satanism. Some of his disciples perhaps did, although to a very limited extent

# Przybyszewski and Váchal

- ▶ Przybyszewski was influential on several artists, including Czech painter and occultist Josef Váchal (1884-1969), who often alluded to Satanism in his paintings (*Invokers of the Devil*, 1909, right)





# The Portmoneum



- Disturbing satanic, as well as Theosophical and Christian, images were painted by Váchal between 1920 and 1924 in the extraordinary murals in the home of collector Josef Portman (1893-1968), in the Czech city of Litomyšl

# Satan the Suicidal: The Ordo Albi Orientis



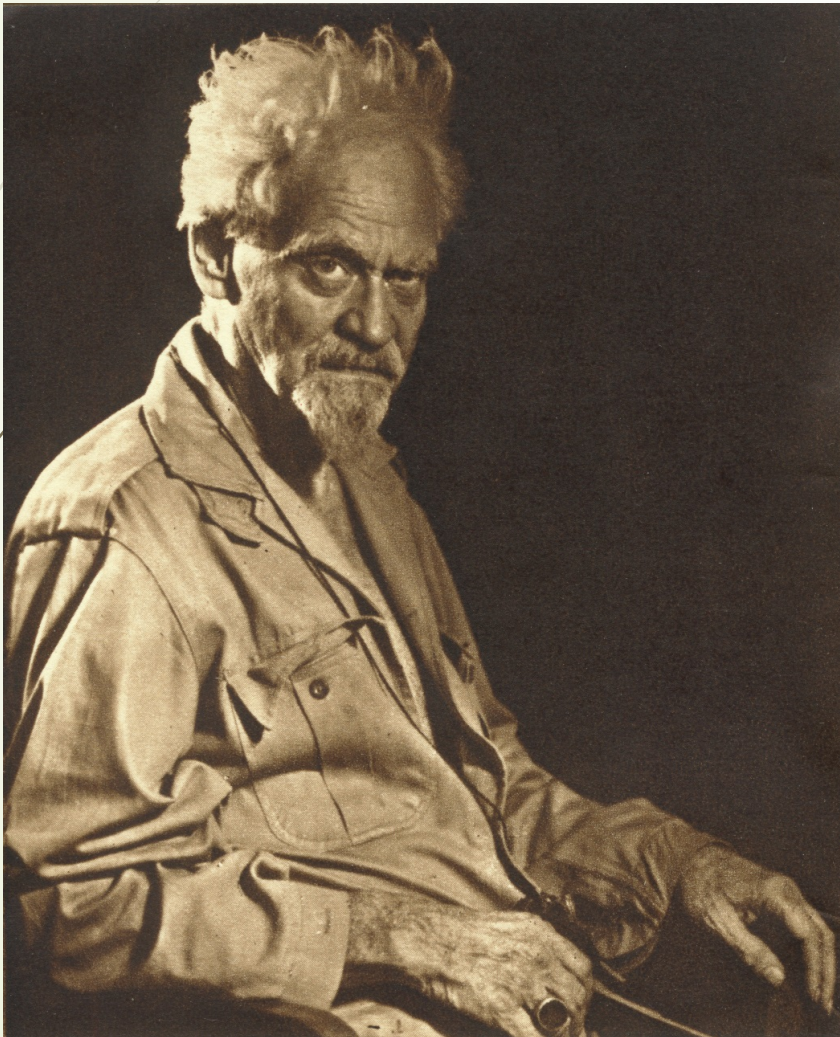
- ▶ The sulphurous fame of Przybyszewski was also a factor in accusations of Satanism in Poland against Czesław Czyński (1858-1932, left), who founded in 1926 the Ordo Albi Orientis. Although a number of seemingly ritualistic suicides in his circles were, admittedly, puzzling, scholar agree that Czyński practiced a non-Satanist form of sexual magic

# Aleister Crowley and Satanism

- Crowley (1875-1947, right) is often described as “the father of modern Satanism.” In fact, he was not a Satanist. He occasionally used “Satan” and “Lucifer” as metaphorical names designating the Sun, the penis, the astrological sign of the Capricorn, or certain spirits of the collective unconscious. However, he firmly maintained that the Biblical Satan “does not exist” and that Satanists were “sincere Christians in spirit, and inferior Christians at that,” because they implicitly accepted the Christian vision of the world



# Satanism vs Wicca



- Crowley was influential on the rebirth of ancient witchcraft and the first groups of Wicca established by Gerald B. Gardner (1884-1964, left). Wicca is not Satanist. Like Crowley, it accuses Satanists of accepting the Christian narrative about God and the Devil, while Wiccans want to return to pre-Christian and non-monotheistic forms of religion

# Satan the Crowleyan: Fraternitas Saturni



- Crowley was not Satanist, but some Satanists were Crowleyans, and many modern Satanist rituals are influenced by Crowley. The Fraternitas Saturni, founded in Berlin in 1926 by Eugen Grosche (1888-1964, left) was an example of an organization combining, at least in its early days, ideas derived from Crowley and Lucifer/Satan worship

# Satan's Priestess: Maria de Naglowska

- ▶ Russian aristocrat Maria de Naglowska (1883-1936, right), a friend of Italian right-wing esotericist Julius Evola (1898-1974), operated in Paris between 1930 and 1935 the Knights of the Golden Arrow, perhaps the first modern organized Satanist organization. Her elaborate system included sex magic and was based on a dualism worshiping both Satan and God



# Satan the Barber: H.A. Sloane



- ▶ Herbert Arthur Sloane (1905-1975, left), a barber in Toledo, Ohio, claimed to have operated, since 1948, the oldest Satanist organization in the U.S. There is no evidence, however, that he called his group Satanist and used the name “Ophite Cultus Sathanas” before hearing of the Californian Church of Satan in the late 1960s. In previous years, Sloane only operated as a Spiritualist medium and a psychic

# Satan the Antichrist: Jack Parsons

- ▶ The main link between the Crowleyan milieus and the Satanism of the 1960s was Jack Parsons (1914-1952), a renowned Cal Tech rocket scientist who organized in Pasadena a communal cult of the Antichrist, whom he came to identify with himself. Parsons died in the explosion of his laboratory in 1952





# Parsons and Cameron



- Parsons' commune is mostly remembered for the involvement of two characters who eventually became famous. The first was artist Marjorie Cameron (1922-1995), who became Parsons' lover and engaged with him in (unsuccessful) sex magic experiments in order to procreate a "magical child"

# Parsons and L. Ron Hubbard



A rare photograph of Hubbard and Betty

- ▶ The second was L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986), who later founded Scientology. He reported that he successfully infiltrated a “black magic cult” on behalf of the U.S. Navy Intelligence in order to destroy it. From Parsons’ point of view, he was simply a member of the group who left the commune with a part of its money and the scientist’s young girlfriend, Betty Northrup (1924-1997), whom Hubbard eventually married

### III. Contemporary Satanism



# Satan the Showman: Anton LaVey

- ▶ “Classic Satanism” was largely a literary phenomenon, with very few real organized groups. These only appeared in a significant number with modern Satanism, inaugurated in 1966 with the foundation of the Church of Satan in San Francisco by Anton Szandor LaVey (born Howard Stanton Levey, 1930-1997, right)



# 1966, The Year of Satan



- LaVey proclaimed 1966 “Year One of Satan,” but in fact his church evolved from a Magic Circle he co-organized in 1961 with Hollywood underground director Kenneth Anger. By recruiting celebrities such as Jayne Mansfield (1933-1967, left) and (later) Sammy Davis Jr. (1925-1990), LaVey succeeded in being perceived as both fashionable and inoffensive

# Topless Shows



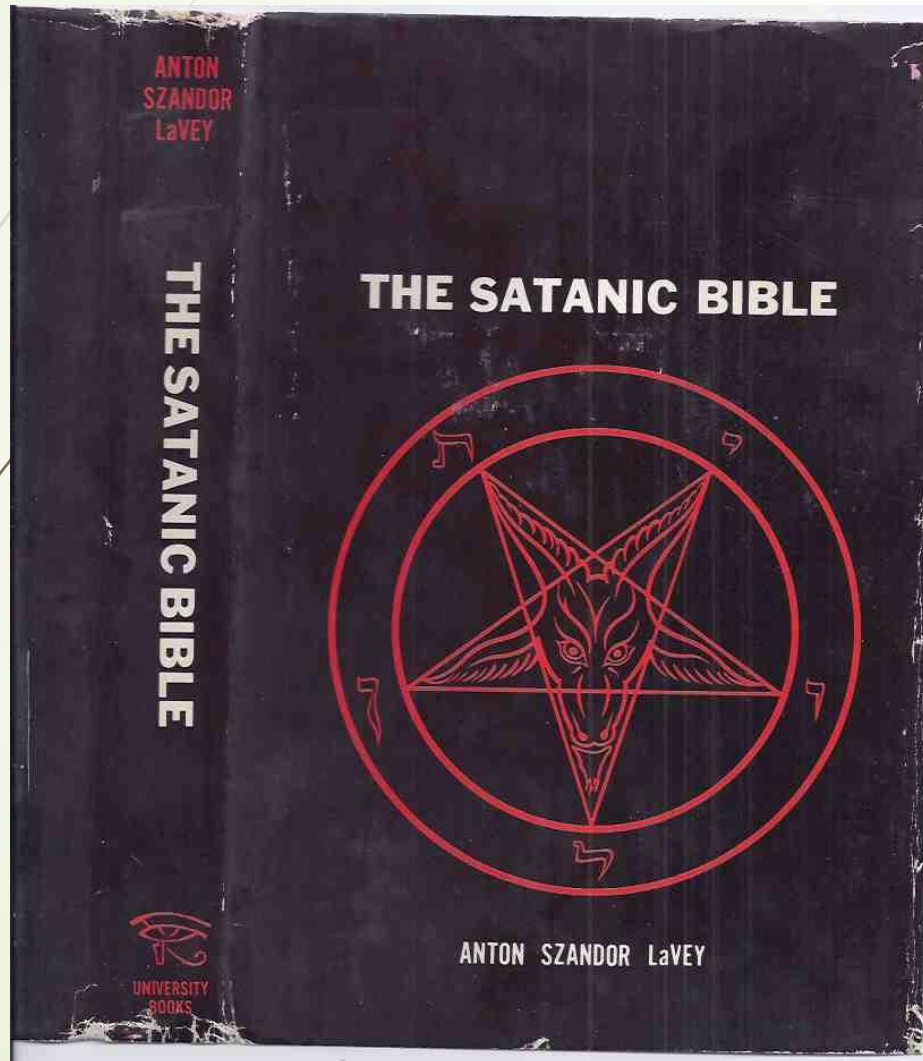
- ▶ LaVey also titillated his audience in 1967 with a *Topless Witches' Sabbath*, featuring as one of the dancers Susan Atkins (1948-2009, above), who would later become one of Charles Manson's assassins

# The Ayn Rand Connection

- In fact, however, LaVey had a clear ideology, derived from Russian-American atheist novelist Ayn Rand (1905-1982, right) and from an obscure volume published in Australia in 1890, *Might is Right*, signed by “Ragnar Redbeard” and almost certainly written by the anarchist New Zealander philosopher Arthur Desmond (1859-1929)



# Social Darwinism



- Rather than a religion LaVey proposed, in his best seller *The Satanic Bible* (1969), a social Darwinist, humanist, and anti-Christian ideology of the survival of the fittest and of the right of the strong to prey on the weak, based on both Rand and *Might is Right*



# Satanic Rituals

- Some claim that the Church of Satan was just a human potential movement. However, both in the *Bible* and in his 1972 *Satanic Rituals* (which had both a confidential internal and a public mass marketed version) LaVey included enough references to Western esotericism and Crowleyan sexual magic to create a certain ambiguity in his movement



# The Aquino Schism of 1975



Before the schism: Aquino, Sammy Davis Jr. and LaVey

- The ambiguity led to the 1975 separation between LaVey's "rationalist" branch of the Church of Satan and an "occultist" faction, persuaded that Satan really existed as a sentient being, who followed LaVey's lieutenant, Michael Aquino, a U.S. Army colonel specialized in psychological warfare, who founded the Temple of Set

# The Temple of Set

- ▶ Aquino (right) had problems of his own. He was (falsely) accused of child abuse, and (with some bases) of Nazi sympathies. He managed to remain in the military and to keep the Temple of Set alive to these days, although it has perhaps evolved into what Finnish scholar Kennet Granholm prefers to call “post-Satanism”

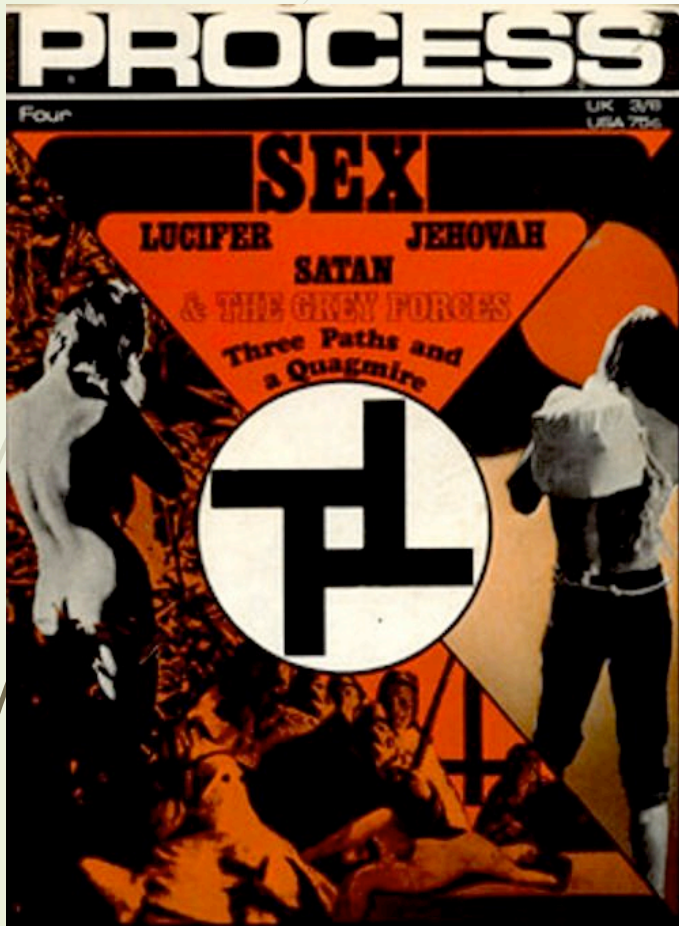


# Rationalist vs Occult

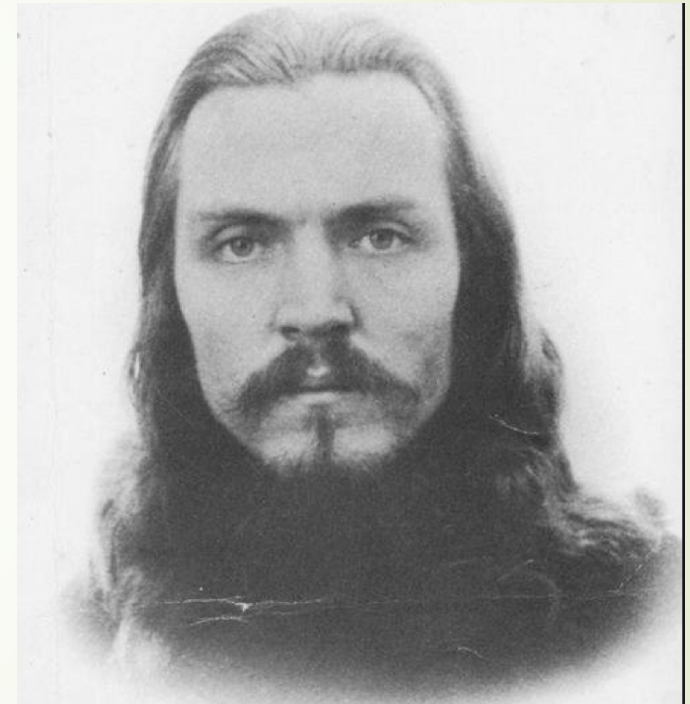


- The 1975 opposition of “rationalist” vs “occult” (or “theistic”) Satanists still largely defines the global Satanist scene. Contrary to pessimistic predictions, LaVey survived quite well Aquino’s and some further schisms, and at least 60% of world Satanists are still “LaVeyan,” be they members of the Church of Satan (currently led from New York by Peter Gilmore, above) or otherwise, with a special flourishing in Scandinavia

# Satan the Jungian: The Process

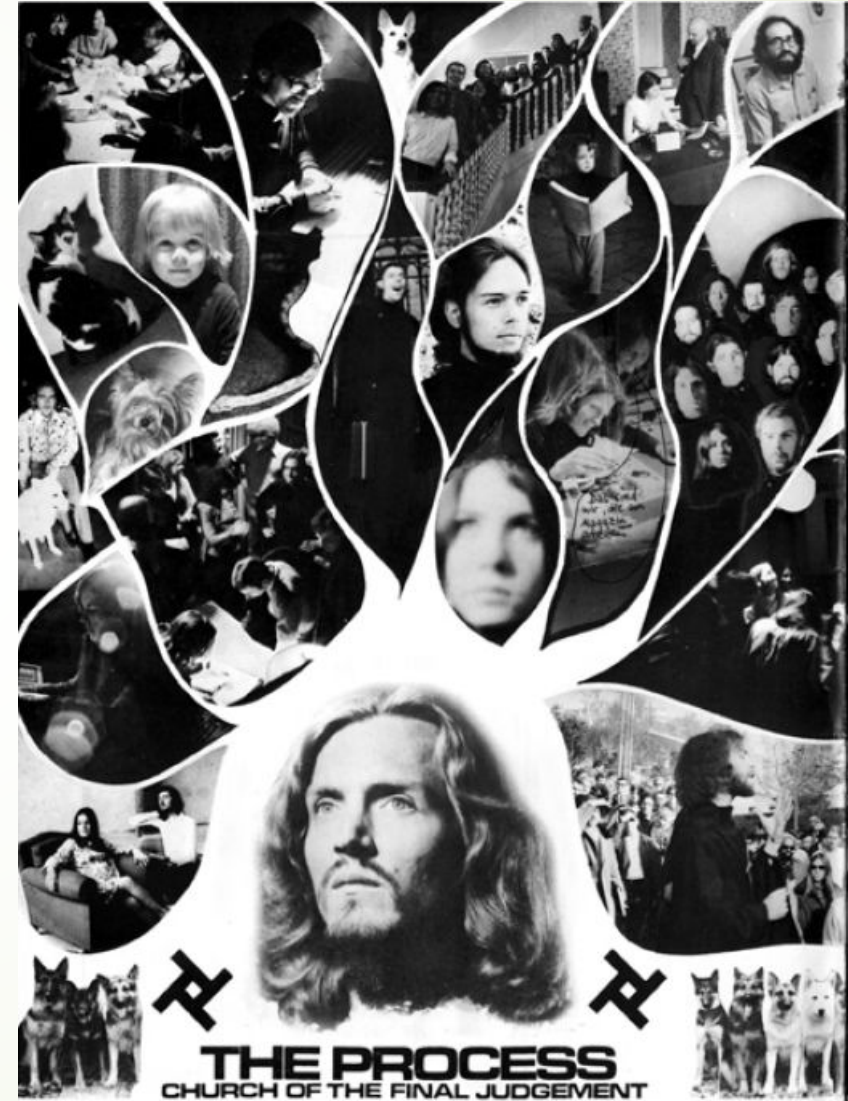


- Somewhat outside the typology was The Process Church of the Final Judgement, founded in 1966 in London by ex-Scientologists Mary Ann Maclean (1931-2005) and Robert De Grimston (1935-, right) and based on a sophisticated Jungian theology worshipping both God and Satan



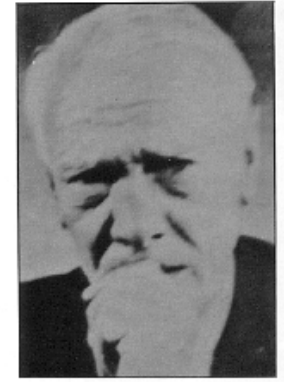
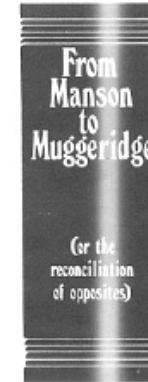
# The Rise and Fall of The Process

- After a short-lived communal experiment in Xtul, Mexico, The Process became notorious as a “dangerous cult” in the United States and collapsed in 1974, with the separation between Robert and Mary Ann, although the latter kept elements of The Process in her Foundation Church and later in the animal rights Utah community Best Friends



# The Manson Disaster

- The Process's demise was also due to its contacts with Charles Manson, the leader of the communal group the Family, infamous for the 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate (1943-1969) and others
- Although in fact Manson started co-operating with The Process (left) and using satanic references only *after* he was arrested, the association with him made The Process, in the eyes of some media, "America's most dangerous cult"



In his testimony to the Los Angeles Court, Charles Manson had this to say about his relationship with society: —

"I have done my best to get along in your world and now you want to kill me. I say to myself, 'Ha, I'm already dead, have been all my life.' I may have implied that I may have been Jesus Christ, but I haven't decided yet what I am or who I am. But what you want is a fiend because that is what you are. You only reflect on me what you are inside of yourselves, because I don't care anything about any of you."

"I don't care what you do with me. I have always been in your cell. When you were out riding your bicycle, I was sitting in your cell looking out the window and looking at pictures in magazines and wishing I could go to high school and go to the prom. My peace is in the desert or in the jail cell, and had I not seen the sunshine in the desert, I would be satisfied with the jail cell much more over your society."

Later, in the jail cell Charles Manson, in an article specially written for *The Process*, developed these thoughts and gives his reality on Death:

PSEUDOPROFUNDITY IN DEATH in one's eye, so insignificant as I. To fall off into endless dream, becoming the dream of total self. Death goes to where life comes from. Total awareness, closing the circle, bringing the soul to now. Ceasing to be, to become a world within yourself. Locked in your own totalness. Oh, fear my GOD, giving all to life as life falls into no thought pattern. Becoming the sun, moon and my mountains have breath, my oceans have feeling, my eyes cry rivers and blinking stars reflecting other suns, other worlds at peace in my calm night, becoming the wind and knowing all in my world is death.

He who lives and thinks only thinks he lives. Can a bird fly in fear of height? Youth march on tombstones of old thought calling to the teacher's grave in the name of living. Call to evil and sin by the preacher, father, priest, mother church. Calling off into madness. Working off and acting out mother and father life game of "honour thy parents". Looking to the old.

Death is peace from this world's madness and paradise in my own self. Death as I lay in my grave of constant vibration, endless now.

Prison has always been my tomb. I love myself as I love my death, as being alone with self the words I send you bore me and bring me from my death only to play in your illusion and bring down the Christian thought placing new value on life being death and death being life. Your world is not your world as you may think.

I owe it nothing. It owes me all, for this is what I gave and this is what I receive. For I am dead to your thinking. Dead to time, dead to death, seeing no death. The way out of my cell is not through the door. I have hidden from your opinions and lived in your prison hell with death looking at me through the eyes of the dying. Life is death, death is life. Meanings are yours to place.

Now is and will be as it has always been, indestructible, indescribable. In your heart is a part of my life's heart in death. Die.

Why ask about something that moves within your soul? Casting off fear is only to become one with self-death. Total negative becomes total positive and then you see that all your life you have lived with fear of death. ✠

Mr. Muggeridge, what do you feel about death?"  
"I feel it's wonderful, I look forward to it."

"What are your views on life after death?"  
"I'm convinced that there is a life after death but I'm equally convinced that it's not possible to form any view of it in this life. I feel that Christ's death and resurrection is the key to all wisdom. I feel that this, Christ has made a totally unique contribution to all of us."

In another interview (with Mr. Roy Trevisian) Malcolm Muggeridge expands: —

"Death is essentially the reason for religion. We could probably say along if it wasn't for death, but we can't because of the fact of death. First of all my own feeling about it is this — that it is impossible to know. There are certain things that we can never know, and the circumstances of dying, and what happens afterwards, are among the secondly, I have an absolute conviction, without any qualification whatsoever, that this life that we live in time and space for three or four years and ten is not the whole story; that it is only part of a larger story. Therefore, death cannot be for others, or for one's self, or any more than birth is a beginning. Death is part of a larger pattern it fits into a larger, eternal scale, not simply a time scale. This is something I know. Whether the ego, or what we call the personality remains intact, or remains at all, whether the separate individuality as we know it remains, are questions to which I don't know answers. No one knows and no one will ever know. I think of my death as something which will transform my way of living into another mode of living rather than as an end; and one thinks of others who one has loved and who have died as equally participating in that of existence, in that larger dimension. To me this is completely satisfactory. I don't want to know any more than this. I'm perfectly content with I can honestly say that I have never been afraid of death, and I am I afraid of it now than ever. I just look forward to it as something that will happen. I should like to be spared, obviously, from mental collapse because I should hate to be that kind of burden on people, but even I am perfectly certain that if one were so afflicted, it would somehow be part of this larger plan, and as such must be acceptable. I think the most important sentence in the whole Christian religion, deridom speaking, is "Thy will be done". This is the essential sentence to be a to say especially in relation to death."

Malcolm Muggeridge quotes this prayer of St. Francis of Assisi as one of his favourites: —

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hate let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; where there is darkness, light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled to console; not so much to be understood, as to understand; not much to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again into eternal life." ✠

# 1. Rationalist Satanism





## Satan the Nietzschean: The Order of the Left Hand Path



- ▶ Coming now to a geography of recent Satanism, among the “rationalist” groups one of the most influential is the Order of the Left Hand Path, founded in New Zealand in 1990 by right-wing author Kerry Bolton (in a recent picture, left). He proposed to reform LaVeyan Satanism through the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). Bolton eventually converted to Christianity, but the Order still exists

# Satan Bolognese: The Children of Satan

- ▶ Italy has a comparatively significant Satanist scene. The largest group is the Luciferian Children of Satan, founded in Bologna in 1982 by Marco Dimitri, who served time in jail for alleged child abuse although he was finally recognized as innocent. While critical of LaVey's antics, Dimitri offers in fact a variation of the Church of Satan's rationalist Satanism



# Satan the Wiccan: Michael Ford

- In 2015, Michael Ford made headlines by inaugurating the first Satanist temple open to the public in the Old Town Spring suburb of Houston, Texas. On the surface, Ford's Satanism is a variation of LaVey's. However his organizations (Church of Adversarial Light, Order of Phosphorus, Greater Church of Lucifer) are also part of Luciferian witchcraft, a galaxy of small groups that try to keep together Wicca and Satanism claiming that the god of the witches was in fact Lucifer



# Satan the Activist: The Satanic Temple



- ▶ Even more visible than Ford is now Lucien Greaves (real name: Douglas Mesner), who founded in 2013 The Satanic Temple. It quickly became well-known for its very public celebrations of Satan and lawsuits asking, in name of religious non-discrimination, to introduce Satanic statues (left), prayers, and after school clubs wherever their Christian counterparts are allowed in public spaces
- ▶ Greaves has a LaVeyan background but the real aim of his initiatives is to induce courts, rather than to introduce a Satanist presence in certain public places, to eliminate the Christian one

## 2. Occult Satanism



# Satan the Nazi: The Order of Nine Angles



- ▶ Among the “occultist” Satanist groups the largest (some 2,000 members) may well be the Order of Nine Angles (ONA), founded in England in 1970 by “Anton Long,” widely believed to be a pseudonym for the notorious British neo-Nazi David William Myatt (above). ONA is openly Satanist and celebrates its own version of the Black Mass. It is also a secretive organization, as it maintains that terrorism is a valid tool to usher in the new Black Aeon

# Satan the Alien: Joy of Satan



- ▶ Joy of Satan was founded in the early 2000s by Maxine Dietrich, a pseudonym of Andrea Herrington, the wife of American neo-Nazi leader Cliff Herrington. It offers a unique combination of theistic Satanism, Nazism, and UFO conspiracy theories. It regards Satan as a benevolent alien who created the Aryan race, while extraterrestrial villains created the Jews

# Satan the Communist: The Satanic Reds

- ▶ A curious group is The Satanic Reds, founded in New York in 1997 by Tani Jantsang (above) as an evolution of groups she had been part of since the 1960s, inspired by the mythology created by novelist H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937). Jantsang also combines Satanism with social reform, using Marxist symbols but in fact proposing something more similar to New Deal's social realism



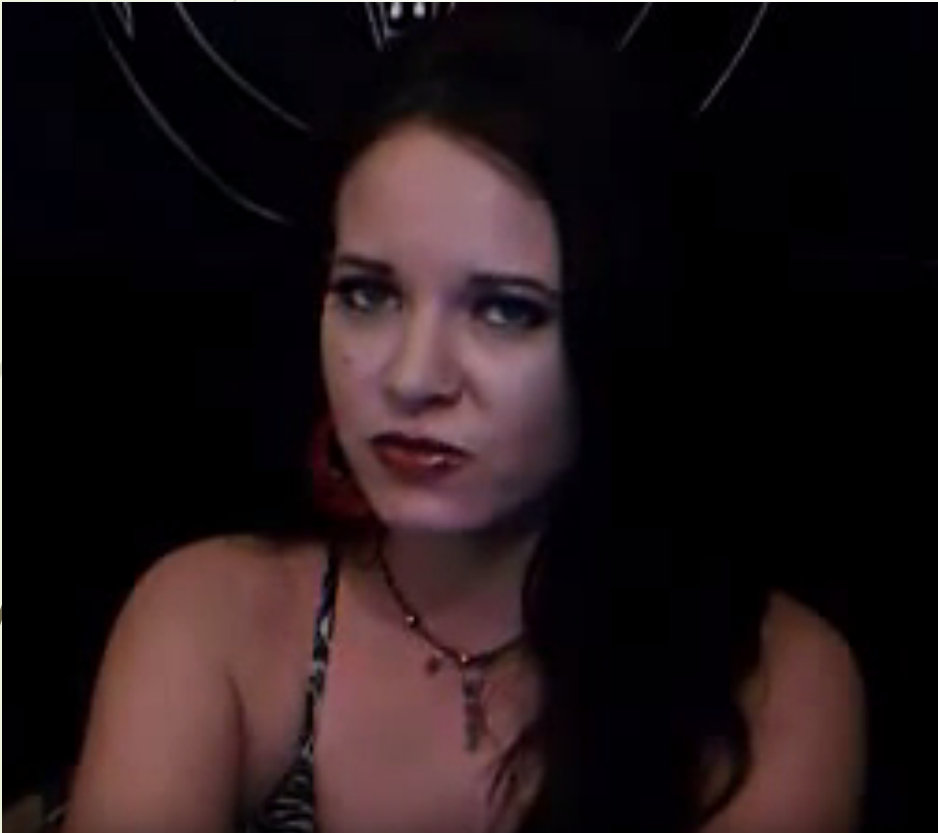


# Satan the Artist: The Neo-Luciferian Church



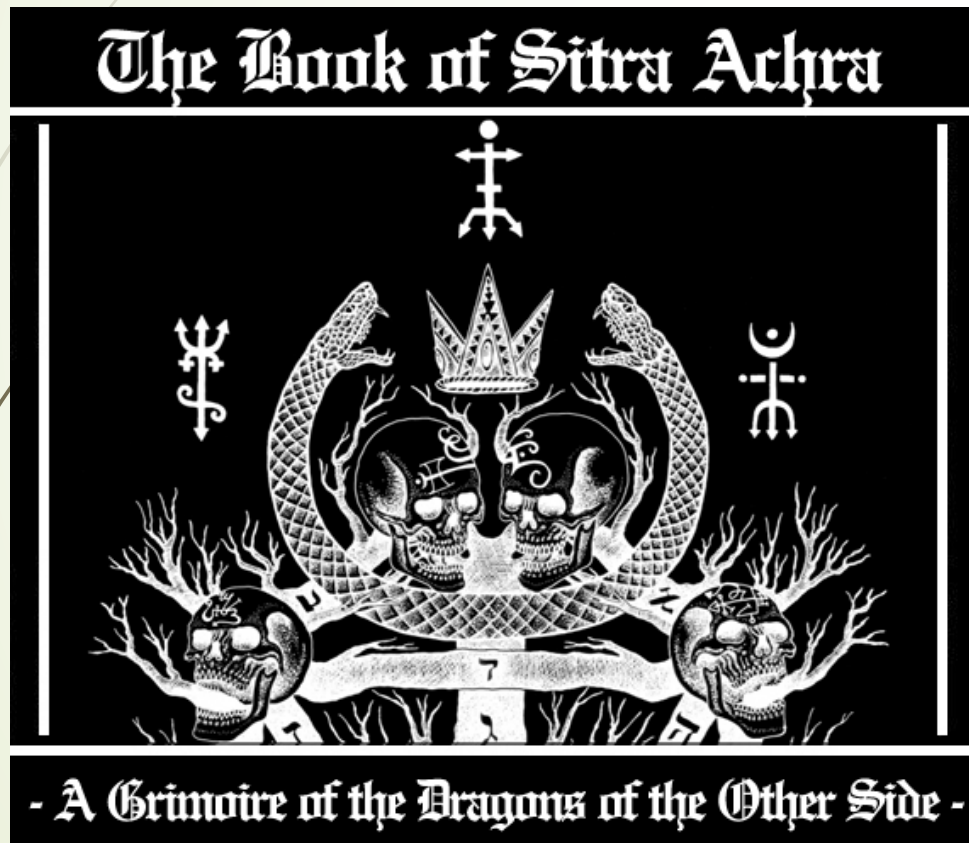
- ▶ Michael Bertiaux is a popular Chicago esotericist, who operates a variety of occult orders. One is the Neo-Luciferian Church he established in 2005 with Danish occultist Bjarne Salling Pedersen, claiming a succession from Ben Kadosh. The church worships Lucifer as one of several possible representations of the divine, and claims that Luciferian energies are specially mobilized by art, as evidenced in Bertiaux's own works

# Satan the Webmaster: New Theistic Satanism



- Theistic Satanism has now a significant presence on the Web, although the LaVeyan variety maintains a majority share there. Large “theistic” Web sites are operated by activists such as Venus Satanas (left) and Diane Vera, whose Church of Azazel also organizes gatherings and rituals in New York

# Satan the Misanthrope: Anti-Cosmic Satanism



- Most Satanists celebrate Satan as a “good” character and the liberator of humans. Only in the musical milieu of Extreme Metal – the subject matter of a separate lecture in this cycle – we find an “anti-cosmic” Satanism worshipping Satan as the dark god of death, destruction, and evil. The main “anti-cosmic” group is the Swedish Temple of the Black Light, once connected with the Metal band Dissection and whose most mature statement is *The Book of Sitra Achra* (2013)

# Satan the Criminal: The Beasts of Satan

- From the Extreme Metal milieu also came the most lethal Satanist group to date, the Beasts of Satan, founded in the Milan area in 1995 and whose leaders were found guilty of three homicides of group members. They may have instigated two more followers to commit suicide. Dissenting members were sacrificed to Satan, a very rare instance of a small but really homicidal Satanist group



# Satanism: Why Bother?



Jim Carrey's parody of Satanism and conspiracy theories, 2014

- ▶ Satanists throughout the world are less than 5,000, although with a larger online and offline audience. Why bother with the study of such a comparatively small phenomenon? And why do some become Satanists? They express an interest in radical religious and occult symbols and an equally radical refusal of Christianity, which has been influential on the arts and music, and tells us something about deep currents and forms of social distress in the modern world



That's all  
Folks!

