

THE
CEPHALÆDIUM
WORKING



Aleister Crowley

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This edition is published privately for Thelemites and other friends.

Editor's note, 1996: This edition is accurate and proofed against a photocopy of the holograph MS. It features Aleister Crowley, Leah Hirsig, and C. F. Russell (Fratr Genesthai) in the Abbey of Thelema at Cephalu Sicily, November 28th 1920 (circa) to January 20th 1921. Following are Crowley's comments from *The Magical Record of the Beast 666*:

“21 November, ☉ . Russell, Fra.∴ Genesthai arrived.

“24 November, ☽ . Opus VIII, 31-666-31, p.o. Opus IX, 143 ☐

“28 November, ☉ . Considerations of the Cephaloedium Working.

“29 November, ☾ . Working on Record for Cephaloedium Working.”

An XVI
⊙ in ♂
© in ♀

The Book of
The
CEPHALÆDIUM
Working

The Cephaloedium Working

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

I ask an Oracle of Thelema for this Working.

Liber Lapidis Lazuli — the Solar chapter “O white cat, the sparks fly from thy fur! Thou dost crackle with splitting the worlds.”

I ask a Yi King symbol for the whole Working.



“Big Earth.” It means Manifestation: i. e. the bringing forth to birth of the forces hitherto developed by us in secret.

I ask a Tarot Trump to represent the Prime Pantacle of the Operation.

XVI The House of God.

Now the Oath of the Working is to establish the Book of the Law; in particular to finish the Comment and to publish the Book as therein commanded. First therefore in this Work is Hermes to be invoked and next the Sun. I am therefore to restore the Card “The House of God” as I did when I abode in the body of Alphonse Louis Constant with the Card “The Devil.” I will therefore obtain a Vision of this Card, and paint it upon a panel of mahogany wood with the proper colours and forms.

Now on the day of the Sun, in this the Sixteenth Year of the Aeon, when He stood in the Sixth Degree of the Sign Sagittarius, whose Letter hath the value Sixty, the Moon being in the Sixteenth Degree of the Sign Cancer whose Letter hath the value Eight, did The Beast 666 To Mega Therion a Magus of A. :. A. :. Baphomet 729 the Supreme Holy King of Ireland Iona and all the Britains that are in the Sanctuary of the Gnosis X° O. T. O., Avatar of Bacchus Diphues in the Place of the XI° O. T. O., Logos of the Aeon of Ra Hoor Khuit, Grand Master of the Knights of the Holy Ghost, Grand Master of the Knights of the Temple, Eidolon of the Rosy Cross, Alastor the Destroyer Spirit of Solitude, Wanderer of the Waste, of the Blood of Kerval Arch Druids Hereditary to the Oak, whose Holy Angel his Guardian is Aiwaz 93, the God first dawning upon Man in the Land of Sumer, whose brow weareth the wreath unfading of the Bards of English Speech, whose breast beareth the token of adventure upon Mountains beyond any man of his fellows, whose body and blood bear witness of the Wounds of Astarte, and the shames of Priapus, even I in the Abbey of Thelema at Cephaloedium that am hidden, did convene therein to counsel Alostrael, 31-666-31, the Scarlet Woman Léa my concubine, in whom is all power given, sworn unto Aiwaz, prostituted in every part of her body to Pan and to The Beast, mother of bastards, aborter, whore to herself, to man,

woman, child and brute, partaker of the Eucharist of the Excrements in the Mass of the Devil, Sorceress of the Rite of Esau and Jacob, and also GENECΘAI, 143, a Neophyte of A.: A.: a Master Magician of O. T. O. and a Passed Postulant to the Secret Chamber of the Knights of the Temple, High Priest unto The Beast before the Altar of Purple and Gold.

First then this Brother GENECΘAI made Invocation of Tahuti Lord of Wisdom in the Great Magical Circle of the Abbey, that He might come upon us in power.

Thus was Tahuti manifest in the mind of The Beast, like Light therein, clear, icy, wit without heart. And I beheld the Working afar off, free utterly of desire towards it; and I was aware of certain things concerning it; as here now to be writ down.

Firstly: the Working shall establish the Aeon of Ra Hoor Khuit by obeying the instructions given in the Book of the Law.

Secondly: it is a Working of Mercury and Sol, combined even as they are in The Beast; so that the Word of the Working is אלה, 36, the square of 6 and the sum of the first 8 numbers, &c, &c. Now Aleph is the letter of Hadith as Hé of Nuith, and Lamed is their balanced union.

Thirdly: Alostrael resumeth Nuit and The Beast Hadith; their Copulation is therefore by this word 36 well signified.

Fourthly: it is written, Liber Lapidis Lazuli, Cap III, vv 16–18 that all is vain unless there be “a man’s life spilt for thy love upon Mine Altars.” Thus then let His High Priest do sacrifice to The Beast, thereby to consecrate Him to the Rite.

Fifthly: that the Paris Working the first model for our present Orgia is not to be followed pedantically.

Sixthly and lastly: that special names are to be used by us; for The Beast Ophion 700, for Genesthai 143 Iacchaion, and for Alostrael a new name not yet given. Also that the vapour of the Oxide of Ethyl may be used in the Workings.

After this the Yi King gave us our First Working as Air of Air, that is, these present writings and considerations of the Whole Matter.

I now make Qabalistic investigation of the letter Pé.

1. It is “A Mouth” and therefore is the Word therein.
2. Its value 80 is Jesod, the Foundation.
3. It is the Third Letter to Aleph and Lamed in CCXX, and the final of A. L. P. Cf also “eight, eighty, four hundred and eighteen” “Knowing the law of the fortress, & the great mystery of the House of God.”
4. It is the third equilibrating Path on the Tree: as Stability is only perfect

as infinite Change (see XIth Aethyr) so Construction is only solid if based on War.

5. "I am a god of War" &c is Ra Hoor Khuit.

6. The Word in the Mouth is 93: Aiwaz is the Lord of the Fortress or House of God, which is the Abbey of Thelema.

7. Aiwaz is spelt Ayin, the Eye, i. e. that of Shiva or Horus, the Meatus Penis and the Anus; Yod, the Phallus, Spermatozoon, and Hand; Vau, the Fertility of the Testes and Uterus as well as the Nail of the mentula, being Taurus the Cow Isis and the Bull Apis or Shiva, the Son in Tetragrammaton, the Redeemer by Reproduction, the Mithraic Bull of Resurrection and Initiation in the strength of the Body. And lastly Zain is the Sword of the Phallus, and Gemini the double sexual nature, the murder-lust between the incestuous twins Cain & Abel, Horus and Set or Harpocrates, Osiris and Typhon, etc. And Gemini is the airy pulse that gives a basis for the Voice of the Messenger, the menstruum of the Holy Ghost, the swing of the motion of Love, the house of the Sun in May, when he impregnates Maia with Mercurius whose mouth uttereth His Father. And Zain spelt fully is 67, the number of Binah the All-Mother. Ayin is moreover the Devil of Lust, the Goat of Mendes, Pan, Baphomet; and spelt fully Ayin is the Erection and Leaping and Extension of the Phallus; Yod is the Spermatozoon, the Solitary Boy Hermes, the Virgin; while Nun is the Eagle of sexual Ecstasy, the Serpent of Life through Death, the Scorpion or Scarab of Kephra, the Womb which transmutes through corruption, the Semen or fluid vehicle of the Spirit, the Elixir of Magick, the Blood, Wine, and Poison in the Chalice.

And Yod as repeating that God, and prophesying the Vau that follows it, ends with Daleth the letter of Venus, the Door of the Palace of Love.

Then Vau reproduceth itself in its spelling, as it is written: "all is ever as it was" in the Book of the Law.

And in Aiwaz are found the Three Star-Clusters of Earth-Nature, the Goat under the God Set or Saturn for Hadith, the Begetter, and Mars exalted therein for Force and Fire, the Virgin under Thoth or Mercury, His Word creating in her the Eidolon of His Nature, and the Bull under Isis or Venus, the mighty redemption and nourishment of Love, for Nuith the Womb of Space wherein Her lord worketh His Work.

By this cometh forth the Sign of the Child, the Star-Cluster of the Twins, under Hermes the Word, airy, elastic, bisexual, eternally young, the Lovers born of one Womb, made Two that by Love they may make themselves One.

So then in this Name Aiwaz is every rite of the Magick of the Aeon of Horus declared in detail, and in His number 93 is shewn forth not only the Word of

the Law, but the Ways of the Word and the Mysteries of Truth.

This Name then and this Number shall be the Glyph Hieratic to unlock the Fortress of the Aeon; Captain is He of all the hosts of Mars, and Ra Hoor Khuit crowned King in that Palace of Force and of Fire. Set The Beast, for Ayin, Thoth Alastor the Logos for Yod, Apis Perdurabo for Vau, and Hoor-Hoorpakraat Baphomet for Zain; foursquare mystic, wonderful, as cherubs shall I that am One through these Four be the builder and warder thereof.

And the Scarlet Woman shall bear Her cup therein, bestriding Her Beast; and Iacchaion shall stand with his Rod, to urge The Beast therewith.

For He hath the Wand of Death and The Beast the Cup of Death, but the Beast hath the Wand of Life and The Scarlet Woman the Chalice of Life.

Now Pé joineth and guardeth the Victory and the Splendour, the frontiers of the Kingdom of Truth; and it is the Issue, whereby the Bowmen may sally forth from the centre Tiphareth to Yesod the apex of the salient. And Pé is the girdle of the Loins of the All-Father, and the Sword in the girdle, as Teth is his breastplate of courage, and Daleth his helmet of love. This Sword is shewn as a Lightning-Flash or Flaming Sword on the Fortress that defends the Kingdom: it is the Sword or Spear of Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

The card is then thus briefly to be described.

Ra Hoor Khuit the hawk sends forth a Ray of Light as a sword.

The fortress is his Aeon of 11 towers for Abrahadabra.

Within is Aiwaz with 93 & 220.

About it is 666 in fourfold form.

The Scarlet Woman bears Cup and Sword, riding The Beast; and Iacchaion follows with his Rod.

Thus far concerning the card XVI.

Now then followeth a consideration of the Vestments of the Artists.

Of the Robes and Insignia of the Work.

1. The Scarlet Woman shall wear the Scarlet Abbai; for it is (a) proper to Her (b) proper to Mars (c) proper to Aries, wherein the Sun is exalted.

She shall bear a Golden Cup for Wine, Blood, or Poison; and be girt with a Sword, as it is written in the Book of the Law. She shall wear a girdle either of white or of mixed colours. In her hair shall she wreath Her serpent.

2. The Beast shall wear an orange slip and sash as proper to (a) Hod (b) the Sun (c) Gemini; for he is Prophet of the Gods, and he is The Beast 666, of the Sun, & he is innocent, a Child, even as Horus-Harpocrates, with Double Function in Love. Over this shall he wear the Robe of Blue for Nuit lined with Scarlet for Hadith and the Sun is gold on his breast. He shall wear the Crimson

Cap for Binah that covereth him, with the White Cross of John for Kether. He shall wear His ring of a Magus, and His Rosy Cross. He shall bear the Wand of Obeah, with its Janus-head of Man and Woman, and its Four Snakes for His weapons.

3. Iacchaion shall wear the Black Robe lined with gold, for he cometh forth from the darkness of the outer, and the Light but fringeth him. Also black is proper to a Neophyte.

His head shall be bare, for shamelessness, and as the symbol of his function in this Working.

He shall bear the style and the papyrus for Thoth, to write the Words of the Work.

Also he shall bear The Book of the Law.

Of the Furniture of the Temple.

In the East the Altar of Fire, and the Throne of The Beast, with incense etc.

In the West the Scarlet Woman, and the Altar of Sacrifice, the Wine etc.

In the South the Throne of Aiwaz, with the altar of . . .

In the North Iacchaion with the Table of the Scribe.

In the centre the Hexagonal Altar, with the Pantacle, the Image of the God — our aborted Man-Child, the Bell, and the Knife, the Oil and the Lamp, or candle.



Of the Ceremony in General

The Formula of this Magick is this:

1. Banish.
2. Purify.
3. Consecrate.
4. Equilibrate.
5. Make Oath.
6. Invoke, by song, dance &c.

7. Make Iacchaion God, by Ether.

8. Sacrifice him to The Beast, who thus becomes God. Use here the “Accendat” and the right Mantram, the Tu qui es & the Quia Patris.

9. Sacrifice The Beast to The Scarlet Woman, using Her mantras F—— S—— etc. Ether at pleasure.

10. Consume the Elements, as by Amalantrah the Wizard we are taught, the Pantacle being the “Earth.”

(In parts 7 to 10 weapons & robes may be laid on the Throne of Aiwaz.)

11. Perform any scrying or utter any prophesies, as may be given, and at leisure and pleasure resume vestments & insignia, & close Temple.

So far of these matters.

Now we begin our first Working by the Invocation of Hermes on His day with the Sun in 9° ♈ the Moon in 23° ♀ and Mercury in 19° ♀, one hour before Noon with him in the Zenith sextile to Venus Jupiter and Saturn.

In furtherance whereof, at eleven of the night of Monday, did The Beast work under The Scarlet Woman his Work, to make the Great Operation go aright.

Immediately was The Beast inspired to a writing Mercurial, a satire upon the Fish; and thus wrote he some 14 or 15 hours.

The Oath of the Cephaloedium Working

Hear All that we, ΤΟ ΜΕΓΑ ΘΗΠΙΟΝ 9° = 2[□] A.: A.: The Beast; Alostrael, The Scarlet Woman; and ΓΕΝΕCΘΑΙ 0° = 0[□] A.: A.: do now in the Presence of TAHUTI most solemnly swear to devote ourselves to the Establishment of the Book of the Law as uttered by Aiwaz 93 to 666, by the Way of the Cephaloedium Working as in the record thereof it hath been written.

Witness on Hands:
Το Μεγα Θηπιον 9:2 A.: A.: 666.
Αλωστρουελ - 31-666-31
FEVERDOL

The Banquet of Fish and Yellow Wine was consumed and the Oath of the Working witnessed accordingly, with ceremonial proper thereto, and concluded at 1.48 P. M. of the Day of Mercury which openeth the month called December.

I ask a symbol for the next Day of the Working.



∇_{of}

The formulation of the Restrictions and the dispelling of

©

Ignorance

id est: make careful arrangements, and ask for further Enlightenment.

How should we obtain further Enlightenment?



“When one’s resting is like that of the back & he loses all consciousness of self: when he walks in his courtyard & does not see any of the persons in it — then there will be no error.”

Die Jovis. Began the Pantacle of XVI, and went on with my Fish story: which by the way is the Blasting of the Old Tower of Jesus-Tyranny.

Die Martis. We have all three been sick in various ways, so that save for beginning the Painting of the Pantacle no work has been done.

I ask a symbol to indicate our proper course of action.



Cf General Symbol. I should suppose that this means that we can now begin again.

What shall we do to-morrow die ☽ ii?



The Tiger. See line 6. Consider the whole course that is trodden and examine the presage which that gives. We will therefore invoke Tahuti, and read the record up to this point, then obtain illuminated Wisdom as to our course.

This Operation was accordingly taken in hand at one o’ the afternoon on the Day of Juppiter.

The formulation of the Primum Ens Melissae was however difficult, The Beast receiving a communication of a climatological character reminding him of his Lost Lustre.

It is therefore incumbent to make a new divination to ask: what course is now proper to pursue?



62. Let the matter take care of itself: enquire further on the next day of Mercury.

Dec. 13 ☾ At two o’clock this morning, after making my Confession, I laid my hand upon the Sacred Lotus of Alostrael and swore these oaths: —

1 — I, _____, the Beast 666 hereby and herein most solemnly promise and swear: to devote my whole working time exclusively to the completion of my Comment on the Book of the Law.

2 — I, etc. as before etc. swear: that as soon as the Comment is ready, I will take the Book and cause it to be printed, bound, and issued in the manner ordained in the Book itself, though I leave myself without money to buy my next meal.

To these oaths, I called Nuith! Hadith! Ra Hoor Khuit! as witness thereof.

I then invoked Aiwaz to aid me to keep them, and in all other ways soever to forward the Work.

2²⁰ A. M. — I therefore open my MS. of the Comment.

Dec. 15

We seem to have been harassed by minor illnesses, so much as to be actually crippled; in fact I have been practically obliged to keep to my bed and Alostrael will take the divination concerning the working.

How shall we proceed



This seems to mean that a new current may be expected.

This New Current turned up on the morning of Dec 16 Die Jovis; in the shape of a letter from the printer of The Equinox III, 2.

The oracle also means that we need to formulate the Yod of our Trigrammaton; which rests with Frater Genesthai. He is at present the "Pure Fool" and must acquire the Sacred Lance.

Dec 24 Die Veneris. I have been revising the Comment on Liber Legis, with the aid of Alostrael, Iacchaion, and Jane Wolfe. This applies only to Chapter I; Chapter II I have revised with Iacchaion only, and Chapter III I have read through alone.

I cannot express myself adequately about my sense of failure in this comment. More, I feel that I have not conquered my repulsion to Chapter III. I ask myself too: have I even tried to carry out the instructions in that Chapter? I am utterly wretched about the whole matter. I say: have I not failed absolutely to obey the "Heavenly Vision"?

I am so miserable that I can only see one course of action: to ask the Yi to give a General Symbol for my past Work in relation to the Book of the Law.



LIV Kwei Mei. Alas! too true! I have been divided against myself: I have put the lesser before the greater; I have gone in just deep enough to compromise myself, not taken the whole hearted plunge which would have brought success. I have been too irritably active, and not persistent enough.

Give a symbol for my right course of action in regard to it at the present time and thence onward.



LVIII Tui. Let there be an even flow of Love to it, a still and subtle dissolution. Water, the weakest thing in Nature, is stronger than the strongest. Steady devotion without anxiety or fussiness will penetrate the universe. Inward harmony and sincerity; the slow accumulation of Karma, constant concentration on the Law, utmost faith even in one's opponents, will gather the whole world into the fold of the Stars.

Wed. Dec. 29, 1920.

Current for this work going to-day and oath renewed in public.

I spent all night writing on certain matters proper to the Comment — 93 pages of MS.

Dec 30, 1920 e. v. die Jovis.

At about ten o'clock of the forenoon The Beast and The Scarlet Woman performed a Mass of the Holy Ghost with the intention of establishing the Law.

Jan 3, 1921 e. v. Frater Iacchaion began a Working which continued throughout the whole night. The Beast accordingly was inspired to continue the Comment through the night following.

Jan 7 die Veneris. Awake most of the night in meditation, The Beast decided on a course of action with regard to the practical matters connected with the Book of the Law:

1. Consult Yi about recovery of the MS.
2. Push through comment.

The Yi gives Khwan (47) ▽ of ☉ meaning Bring restriction to bear on the thief.

Jan 20 die Jovis. The Sun enters the Sign of Aquarius; I record that Frater Iacchaion, the Primum Mobile of the Working, having failed to initiate any Rashith ha-Gilgalim, has caused the collapse of the whole Working, which I therefore declare ended. I now myself repair to the city of Paris, there to inaugurate an alternative course of procedure.

666 To p 542 Dye W 9 2 2 A. A. i.