

The Devil's Sabbath

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The Theistic Satanism community is often resistant to accepting leaders or working collectively. There is also a hesitancy to claim some status of clergy and lead others' journey of worship. This is desirable most of the time but can leave the sense of community lacking. To alleviate this I have laid out The Devil's Sabbath, a guide for groups to come together and venerate Satan without requiring the presence of clergy, prior experience, or a consistent "flock."

My intention with this guide is not just to enumerate everything into a step-by-step guide that anyone can follow. It is also to ensure comfort and equality between everyone in attendance. The sabbath can be lead by a single steward, or each step can be lead by an individual in attendance. Who does the name vibrations? Whoever knows how. Who reads the invocations? Whoever is comfortable.

Expectations and Burnout

There is a need, especially as the practice is in its infancy, to adjust one's expectations and goals with following this guide. Burnout is a real concern. Most people will not ever volunteer to be the steward. This is okay, but it is why things must be kept in perspective.

Feelings of unease can stem from wanting others to "share the load" of organizing an event. Thus, it is important to not think of this as an event. It is my suggestion that anyone trying to use this guide takes it as a personal practice that is simply open to others to join. Do not bend yourself over backward to accommodate others' schedules. Do not go out of your way to advertise and seek a turnout. Come to terms with the fact that you will regularly be the only participant.

Instead of lamenting others' flakiness, take joy that all the merit of that week's session will be for you only. Bend the session to your personal flavor. It's an opportunity. Seize it.

Guide for Attendees

What do I need to join?

Nothing! You are perfectly welcome to sit in and observe the proceedings. There are elements of group participation which will require some preparations but all of these are entirely optional. It is expected that attendees will keep themselves muted unless input is called for.

What if I want to participate?

There are some things you will need to be ready with before participating in the devil's sabbath. You will need time and space. The session takes about [45 minutes?] and there will be portions of standing and sitting. If you already have an altar, this would be an appropriate place.

Before the sabbath, you should prepare some candles or incense (optional but highly recommended,) and an offering. If you have a favorite offering, all the better. If you don't, flowers, food, drink, and incense are common choices. You should also take care to note the cardinal directions in the space you are planning to use, as we will be calling to these directions.

Optionally, you may want to bring a wand, ceremonial dagger or athame. These are not necessary, but can be used during the process.

I want to include my deity/spirit in the sabbath; can this be done?

This request is more than welcome, but you will need to make additional preparations before the sabbath. You will need to have ready an invocation and a prayer to your deity/spirit. You should also be certain to prepare an appropriate offering, as yours will be the only one given to your spirit/deity.

At the beginning of the sabbath, the steward will ask for special requests. This will be when you indicate your addition. During the proceedings, you will be called on to perform your invocation and prayer.

I don't like X part of the sabbath. What do I do?

This is okay. You are not required to adhere to anything done in this document. In fact, you are encouraged to adjust things to your liking. Use a tool you prefer, burn things at the time you wish, pray whenever you feel called to. If you have an objection to any part of the sabbath, you will be expected to keep it to yourself during the proceedings and simply abstain from participation until we move on.

Can I use this to make my own thing?

I highly encourage it! This sabbath has been written with the intent that others might take it up for their own purposes. This is my practice that I am opening to everyone, in every sense.

Guide for Stewards

Here, you will find the steps to follow for The Devil's Sabbath. It is advised to familiarize yourself with the process beforehand but some complexities will require keeping the instructions close at hand.

Welcome

This can be kept short. Simply call everyone to order and notify them that the proceedings will begin shortly. Allow five minutes for late-comers and for everyone to finish their preparations. When everyone is settled, ask for special requests or dedications and keep them in mind for their proper time. If someone requests to add a deity or spirit to the proceedings, verify that they have an invocation and prayer ready.

As the sabbath begins, invite attendees to light candles and incense to their preference. Remind them to keep incense intended as offerings for that portion of the sabbath.

Purification

This will involve performing a modified version of the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram. The steward is expected to guide the group through each step of the banishing. They will also take charge of the intonations while the others quietly perform the motions. A full script for the guided purification is provided below.

Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram [1]

We begin by standing, facing West. If you are using a wand, dagger, or athame, keep it in your hand, and use it in place of your fingers as we move through the ritual.

Take a moment to relax and focus. Begin to feel yourself growing larger. Your surroundings shrink until the building you are in becomes a dot at

your feet. Soon, the whole region, country and the planet itself become smaller and smaller beneath your feet. Now the solar system, the galaxy and the entire universe becomes but a speck beneath you. As it fades from view, physicality melts away. You are left in sheer existence. Nothingness. Sublime darkness. You are at the center of the universe. Existence itself expands out from you. You can do with it, what you please.

Picture a white flame above your head, bright and powerful. This is the source. This is life. Bring your first two fingers to your forehead.

[Vibrate the word “ANI”]

Picture a spear of light emerging from the flame. It is drawn to the tip of your finger, at your command. Direct it downward, through your center, out through your feet.

[Vibrate the word “ECHAD”]

Picture the spear of light encountering a black flame beneath you. When they meet, the black flame sends a spear of its own upwards. The two intertwine as they share their energies.

[Vibrate the word “VE-ANI”]

Touch your chest and imagine the energies swelling there, a great flame at your command. With every breath, the flame grows in size until it subsumes your entire being. Spread your arms wide and feel your flame spread with them.

[Vibrate the word “KOL”]

Bring your hands together in prayer and point them downward.

[Vibrate the word “LE’OLAM”]

Now, take the pose of Baphomet, with the left hand downward and the right hand upwards.

[Vibrate the phrase “SOLVE ET COAGULA”]

In front of you, draw an inverted pentagram, beginning at the top left corner and proceeding to the lowest point. Visualize your black flame sprouting along the lines you trace. With your finger or tool, pierce the center of the pentagram.

[Vibrate the name "SAMAEL"]

Turn, clockwise, to the north. Draw your pentagram, and pierce it.

[Vibrate the name "HAVAY"]

Turn to the east. Draw your pentagram and pierce it.

[Vibrate the name "LUCIFER"]

Turn to the south. Draw your pentagram and pierce it.

[Vibrate the name "SATANAIEL"]

Return to your west-facing position. Stretch your arms out at your sides.

[Vibrate the phrase "BEFORE ME, PAIMON"]

Feel a gust of wind rolling over your face as King Paimon, dressed in gold, rides in on a camel.

[Vibrate the phrase "BEHIND ME, ORIENS"]

Blazing heat rises behind you as King Oriens dressed in red and green, rides in on the back of a black elephant.

[Vibrate the phrase "AT MY LEFT HAND, ARITON"]

Picture the crashing waves of the sea rolling in with Prince Ariton.
Flanked by two serpents, he rides a great dragon.

[Vibrate the phrase "AT MY RIGHT HAND, AMAYMON"]

Greenery, vines and flowers sprout to your right as Prince Amaymon arrives, clad in brown and green and riding upon a lion.

[Say the phrase "FOR ABOUT ME, FLAMES OF THE PENTAGRAMS, AND
WITHIN ME BLAZES THE BLACK FLAME"]

We will repeat the same motions with which we began the purification.

Touch the forehead.

[Vibrate the word "ANI"]

Direct the light downward.

[Vibrate the word “ECHAD”]

Light and dark intertwine.

[Vibrate the word “VE-ANI”]

Touch your chest then bring your arms wide.

[Vibrate the word “KOL”]

Bring your hands together.

[Vibrate the word “LE’OLAM”]

Bring the left hand down and right hand up.

[Vibrate the word “SOLVE ET COAGULA”]

Return to space. Return to Earth. This place is pure.

Invocation

Now, we call the spirits to attend our sabbath. At its most basic, you may call Satan for worship and no others. An invocation is provided below. If someone has requested veneration of a particular spirit or deity, ask them to provide or perform the invocation at this time.

Invocation of Satan

Ave Satanas, Star of the Morning
Ave Satanas, Bringer of Knowledge
Ave Satanas, Patron of the Dauntless

Offerings

With the proper spirits in attendance, it is time to call for any prepared offerings to be made. Some will be burning offerings so it is prudent to allow several minutes for these to be set and burn down. While offerings are being made, recite prayers from the following section.

Veneration

It is time to give prayers of admiration and thanks. Again, this may be kept to just Satan for simplicity. A prayer is provided below, but contributions from the group should be welcomed. Give preference to prayers to Satan going first, then follow with prayers to other guest spirits.

Prayer of Veneration of Satan [2]

O grandest of the demons, and most wise,
O fallen god, fate-driven from the skies,

O first of exiles who endurest wrong,
Yet growest, ever stark and strong,

O subterranean King, omniscient,
Healer of man's immortal discontent,

To lepers and outcasts thou dost show
That Passion is the Paradise below.

Thou, by thy mistress, Death, hast given to man
Hope, the imperishable courtesan.

Thou givest to the Guilty their calm mien
Which damns the crowd around the guillotine.

Thou that hast seen in darkness and canst bring to light
The gems which are jealously hidden from sight,

Thou stretchest forth a saving hand to keep
Such men as roam upon the roofs in sleep.

Thou who give suppleness to drunkards' bones
When trampled down by horses on the stones,

Thou, to console our helplessness, didst plot
The cunning use of powder and of shot.

O thou, who makest gentle the eyes and hearts of whores
With kindness for the wretched, homage for rags and sores,

Thou, sage's lamp and exile's staff, serene
Guide to those kneeling by the guillotine,

Refuge of those who, robbed of pardon,
Seeketh to build their very own garden,

Satan, to thee be praise upon the Height
Where thou wast king of old, and in the night
Of Hell, where thou dost dream on silently.
Grant that one day beneath the Knowledge-tree,
When it shoots forth to grace thy royal brow,
My soul may sit, that cries upon thee now.

Meditation

When all fires are properly handled, it is safe to move on to meditation.
The amount of time will be highly dependent on who is present. 15-20
minutes is an acceptable baseline.

Dismissal

Deities in attendance will require a license to depart. Give the group a
moment to make any final prayers before dismissing the deities.

Words of Dismissal

Honored guests of our sabbath, our time together is closing.
Take your last taste of the enjoyments we have offered and go in peace.
Carry us in your hearts as we carry you in ours.
Ave Satanas

Open The Floor

Following practice, you may have arranged a guest speaker or someone will want to share a thought with the group. Invite them to do so by opening the floor to final thoughts.

Sources

[1] The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram, LEFT-HAND PATH VERSION - Cipher Grove <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYRjY5kkzVo>

[2] Les Litanies de Satan- Charles Baudelaire (Various translations)