

(Re)Issue 3

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Be the Change you wish to see in the World

Fm'toth Gna'uln

The above quote is purported to be from Mahatma Gandhi, which was essentially a paraphrase of what he really said, "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. ... We need not wait to see what others do."

What the sage was telling us is that when a person changes for the better, so does the world around them. In the same way, if a person changes for the worse, so does the world change. More importantly, do not wait for the others to change; be the one who changes.

Of a similar vein, the Greek philosopher Heraclites said, "Everything changes and nothing remains still; you cannot step twice into the same stream." The only certainty in life is that change is constant.

It isn't just 'life' that changes, it is the universe. Entropy is the natural process of achieving thermodynamic balance; in essence it is the state where everything is in equality. Heat travels towards cold until both areas are the same temperature; assuming no barrier exists, which can stop the process. It isn't just heat, but molecules themselves or charged particles. Things naturally move from high concentrations to low concentrations until they are equally distributed. Charged particles move away from like charged until all are evenly spread out. Even gravity moves an object with high potential energy (above the ground) until it has lower potential energy (touching the ground).

All this causes constant movement and change within the universe. Life itself takes advantage of these tendencies to change energy into something it can use. The membrane of most non-photosynthesizing cells in the existence constantly moves negatively charged particles (Electron carriers) into limited spaces, then uses the natural motion of those particles flowing out of those spaces to create ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate) which is the basic form of energy for cell. This is much like carrying buckets of water up a hill, in order to have the water flow over a waterwheel to get it turning to grind flour.

Nerve impulses happen because the cell membranes are constantly pumping out sodium ions to create a gradient of lots of sodium outside and little sodium inside. A nerve transmits an electric signal by opening pores on its surface to allow the sodium ions to rush into the cell. This influx of charged particles triggers bubbles filled with chemicals to fuse with the cell membrane at the end of the Axon in order to spill those chemicals into the synapse. Life uses Entropy to cause changes it wants!

Even the largest stars are constantly changing; shifting magnetic fields, fusing hydrogen into helium, flares and bursts, general radiation spilling to the cosmos causing changes upon things they hit.

Atoms themselves also slowly change over time, releasing neutrons or beta particles to change isotopes or even changing elements over seconds to billions of years! From the largest to the smallest in the universe, change is the one constant.

To direct change against entropy, some form of energy is required. For example, it is 'energetically favorable' for carbon to be bound to oxygen as carbon dioxide. If you simply mix carbon dioxide and water you get an unstable carbonic acid which is what makes sodas fizzy. The carbon dioxide unbinds with the water producing the gas again.

Photosynthesizing organisms use the energy in solar radiation to fuel a process that removes the carbon from carbon dioxide and binds it to water to form sugar molecules.

To make changes to oneself or one's environment, energy is also needed. Humans are seemingly unique in that they have the capacity to choose where their energy is directed. As the new year of the Gregorian Calendar is ushered in, many look for some form of self-improvement. It may be quitting a bad habit or starting a new, better habit.

The majority of those resolutions don't last much longer than a month. This is likely because most people are only motivated to make the change, not disciplined. The distinction is as simple as it is hard to master. Motivation is the desire to accomplish something. Discipline is doing something even when you don't want to.

From the Nameless Mists

A message from the Council

Gratings,

I trust the winter season has found most of us well. For those of us not having a joyful year end never forget that we are stronger together.

As 2023 draws to a close let us keep our eyes on the horizon, as time marches on so do we. In nature as time passes growth is almost inevitable, plants and animals grow and thrive. Or don't, and become fuel. A main tent for the temple is ascension, and to that we dedicate this issue.

Remember every step is progress and failures and setbacks are part of growth. Keep driving on.

Ia ia Cthulhu
 All hail the Old Ones
 Happy new Year
 Your Harbinger
 Phlegethotep



Motivation is a feeling while discipline is a decision. It may not seem like much, but it is hard. It is about consciously telling the self that you are choosing to perform the action, even if you aren't feeling like doing it. It is about doing it every day until it becomes a part of you, which can take months.

There are some ways that can help, which involve hijacking the dopamine reward system to trick the body into associating the dopamine release with the activity. This can be as simple as placing a piece of chocolate in your mouth as you sit down to meditate, putting enjoyable music on before cleaning the carpet, or watching your favorite movie or TV show while walking on a treadmill or using an exercise bike.

Complacency leads to failure and a common quotation is "If you aren't moving forward, you are moving backwards." This is because Entropy happens, and you have to work to counter it. So, My Friends, become the kind of person you want the world to be full of.



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What May Come Fm'toth

Due to insufficient community assistance, I have the opportunity to inflict upon you some more of my own words.

The ending of one year and beginning of a new is a time for reflection in many cultures. So, in keeping with traditions I am reflecting on what I would like to see the Arkham Advisor become.

The simple answer is that I would like this to become more like a regular newspaper. Articles with relevance to the world and to our members, not simply op-ed pieces related to the Temple. Places where scientific advances are reported alongside new findings in the occult.

Prior to the advent of the printing press and increased literacy rates of the general population, events were reported through word of mouth and eventually culminated in the Town Crier, who was paid to stand or walk about shouting public announcements.

Once paper, printing, and reading became more common important topics and announcements were made in leaflet format. This evolved into the newspaper, which is still commonly used to this day. If you think a newspaper might be outdated, consider that most people read news on the internet... which is just a newspaper in a different format.

What I want to see for the Arkham Advisor is to go from a newsletter for the Temple into a Newspaper sponsored by the Temple. It combines traditional news articles with stories and investigative reporting on the strange and/or bizarre.

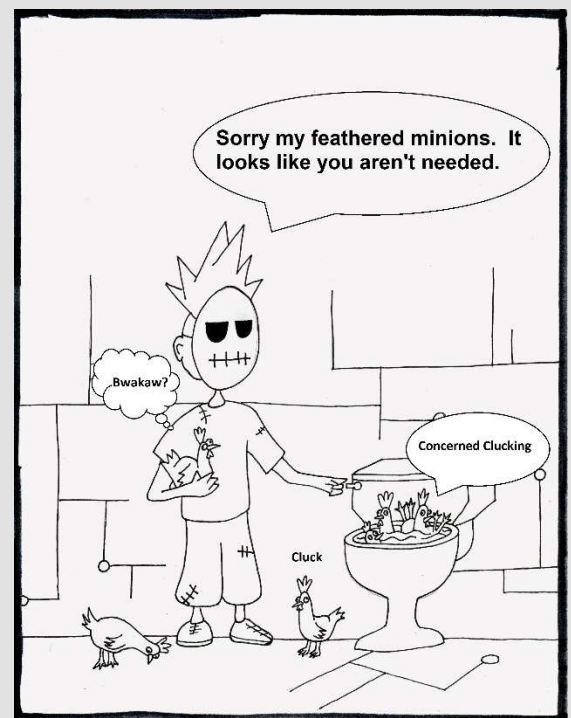
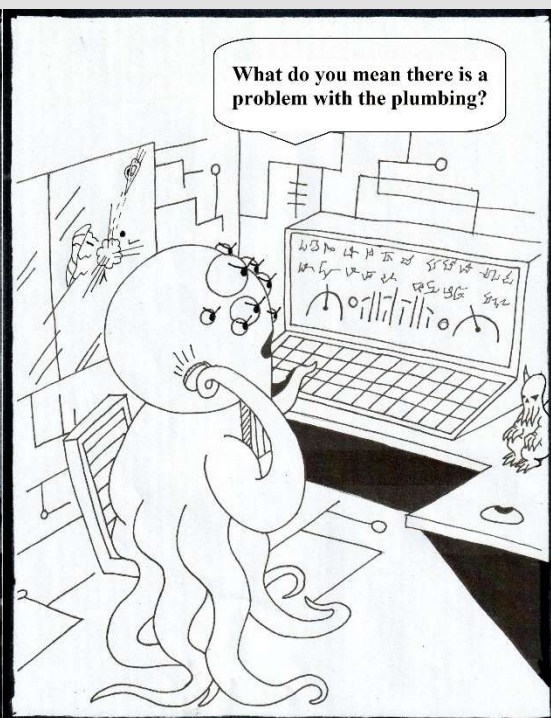
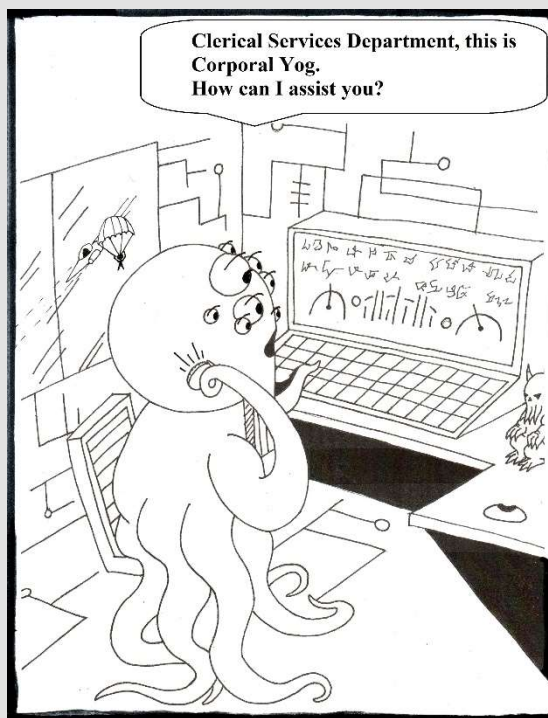
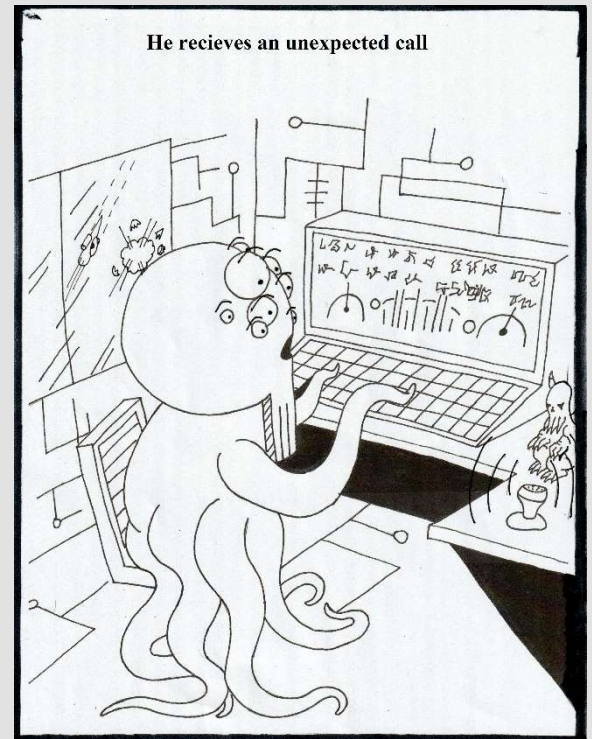
Over the next few editions, we will be working on adding some traditional newspaper favorites, such as crosswords and similar puzzles like Sudoku. We hope to continue our home-grown comic strip for a long time as well, along with our divinations.

What is needed then is articles on more than topics strictly Temple related. At the same time, we don't want to fill our pages with drivel about celebrity gossip. We would still include Temple related information, such as messages from the Council, rituals, etc. We would include articles that others could find interesting or useful as well.

If you know someone who is interested in being a reporter, or you are interested in it yourself, please reach out.



The Further Adventures of Yog and Steve



Azathoth Meditation

-Scifur

This meditation is meant to realign the cultist with chaos and strengthen their connection to Azathoth. Its Intention is to help us leave our bodies and return through the void, so that we may be reborn in the moment. We do so intend to move forward and live to its fullest potential. By choosing to accept every moment as the first moment of your future, we are reminded of the power we hold in this world. Use this to leave behind any past boundaries, so you may live life to your fullest potential.

Find a relaxing place to sit and allow yourself a few moments to focus. Life is hectic, crazy and wild, with distractions around every corner. If you can avoid those distractions for a little bit, that is best. If you simply cannot, do your best to focus on your meditation anyway. This can be done anywhere, at any time, but it is best to sit upright.

Close your eyes and breathe deep. Start to imagine a white light glowing overhead, growing into existence out of the stars, and forming a pillar of light that engulfs your body. Feel it taking hold of you, and pulling you into the stars like an alien tractor beam. Focus on the sensation of rising into space, with this white light all around you. Look down at your body as you get pulled away, deep and deeper into space. Deeper and deeper into the void.

Watch your body become a grain of sand into all of the other things around it. Watch the Earth begin to fade, and blend into the moon, other planets, and stars. Watch the planets of galaxies far away come together, swirling around each other, and become one as well. See multiple galaxies start coming together and start spiraling around you in their tiny insignificant clusters.

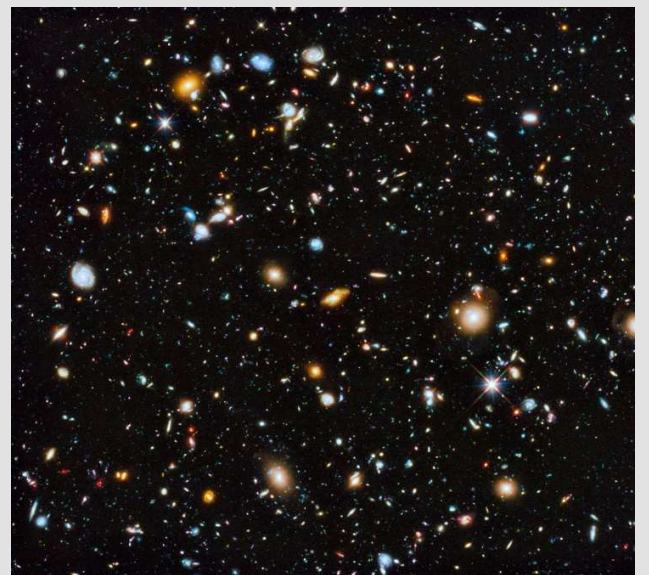
After a few moments notice that the insignificance of galaxies is suddenly matched by the number of them. They keep massing, and closing in on you, as if creating a cocoon around you. You are not scared, alarmed, or even worried, as this happens, because you know that you are safe. These swirling groups of galaxies become so numerous that they put you into a cocoon of darkness, comfort, and warmth.

In the darkness you begin to hear indistinguishable murmurings, and sounds, but you cannot identify them. You cannot tell what they are, or where they come from. Suddenly, you once again see a light, and with a squeezing pressure you feel yourself forced towards it, rapidly. The light is blinding, as it once again surrounds you and you enter it. Open your eyes and see that you are once again back inside of your body. Reborn into this moment, with the spirit of Azathoth. You are now in your own personal sphere of Yog-Sothoth, reborn as a powerful cultist.

After you complete this meditation, it can be a valuable time to reflect on things. Scan your memories of recent moments, and moments long past. Try to fill in the gaps. Are there moments you can't remember? Do you have to use your imagination to remember them, are you guessing, or do you truly remember? Then realize whatever those answers might be, are all insignificant to your future.

Look around and try to imagine who brought you here for this moment. Why are you where you are? Whose story are you a character in, what is your role in it, and how are you filling that role? What can you take advantage of from this moment? How do you move forward from here in the most desirable path?

What do you want to happen? How could it happen? Most importantly, will you see the signs, and make the proper moves to ensure it happens? When an opportunity comes your way will you take it, or let someone else take it? If you want it, take the opportunity. You have all the power of Azathoth within you, and your life is your own sphere of Yog Sothoth. Move forward with confidence, and power! Hail Yog-Sothoth, Hail Azathoth, Hail the Old Ones, Hail Yourself!



Divination for January 2024

By Damien and Kadish Ph'ee

Question: Which changes should we make within ourselves in the upcoming new year?

Card 1: Origin "Reversed"

The Six of Wands

This last year we have been apprehensive, feared disloyalty and mistrust; we must learn to trust each other and come together as a family.

Position 2: Opposition

The Eight of Wands

We are all very enthusiastic, all of us have the energy to give to the Cult. Those of us that are true all wish to walk the path without guidance this energy is wasted.

Position 3: Chances/New opportunities

The Page of Cups

The page of cups reminds us the new opportunities we will find in the new year will be found within ourselves. We will rebuild with our minds and our hearts. Let the others in the Cult rebuild your R'lyeh.

Position 4: Subconscious

The Four of Coins

In subconsciousness we all "know" the way, unfortunately your way is different from others the way of the Cult is not a single path. It goes the same direction in many ways, our tapestry is woven with many threads. Accept your brothers and sisters.

Position 5: The Past

The Queen of Wands

In the past we have been bold with our decisions, advice's given freely, We must do so again. We must continue the great work, not stand by and wait.

Position 6: Future

The Six of Swords

In the future our goals will not be reached so easily, there will be many trials, we must hold faith within the cult. Work together each one of us holds a stone. Our beliefs are the mortar we will all build the temple to its proper form. This is the way.

Position 7: Inner Strength

The Ace of Coins

Our inner strength is our potential, and our wealth of knowledge. We plant the seed with the temple and it will grow as the Old Ones will, will it.

Position 8: Hopes and Fears

VIII Strength

The hopes and fears of us, The Temple, are the strength of ourselves versus the outside world. As we let new members in, and as we cross out into the light will our strength hold true. We must believe in each other as well as the Old Ones. You must harness your own flame and hold onto your desire, hold it like a torch as you walk through R'lyeh.

Position 9: Influences

XVII Star

The Star reminds us that we are all connected to the Divine, it is said that when the Stars are right the Old Ones will rise again but through the stars, we see the magic of their world. The Void and the Light of those Stars brings us a wonder and gives the Temple a purpose of being. When the stars align, we will be ready.

Position 10: Overview

XXI The World "Reversed"

Overall, the answer is we must move in the direction that calls us, the Cosmos do not cease to move for anyone, Life is movement, Life is progress, Stagnation is Death; Progress is life.

May the Stars align - Damian

The Horrorscope

Azathoth,

Your talents will be tested this month as you attempt to communicate with the unknown forces through interpretative dance. Eldritch harmony awaits in the synchronicity of your erratic movements.

Cthulhu,

You will dive deep into eldritch dreams this month. Just remember that not all tentaded horrors are unfriendly. If one offers financial advice pay close attention; such beings are disconnected from time and might have visited the future.

Dagon,

The cosmic scales tilt toward mysterious encounters. Engage in diplomatic relations with interdimensional beings this month and be sure to offer them snacks. Eldritch entities have a soft spot for gummy bears and cheese puffs.

Darkness,

This month the cosmic wind whispers secrets of forgotten realms. Embrace the chaos in your burnt toast, it is the Eldritch Toast of Fate. Beware rogue breadcrumbs; they're portents, not breakfast

H.P Lovecraft,

Your eccentricity will reach new heights this month as you delve into bizarre and esoteric pursuits. Just be prepared for your friends and family to question your sanity. After all, even Lovecraft would have raised an eyebrow at your collection of taxidermy cryptids.

Hydra,

The stars have decided to test your stubbornness in finishing the jigsaw puzzle this month and have whisked away a single piece to an alternate dimension. Embrace the eldritch persistence you've been gifted and open the portal to find it.

Hastur,

You will find yourself at the center of a gathering. Those attending will speak in a language of universal truth but you will not remember any of it afterward. Your task at this gathering of unholy unions? Passing around the finest of ethereal hors d'oeuvres and slices of cosmic cheese.

Nameless Mist,

You alone in the universe possess a skill which no one understands. It has no benefit to your everyday life. However, no one else has mastered the art of synchronized swimming with ethereal sea cucumbers so what do they know anyway?

Nug & Yeb,

Step one, organize your sock drawer with cosmic precision to open a portal to the lost sock dimension. Step two, avoid detection of and steal from the interdimensional sock thieves. Step three, profit from selling everyone's socks back to them.

Nyarlahotep,

You will be given an opportunity this month in the form of an offer by a strangely dressed figure. Sure the contract they make you sign involves trading your soul but hey, in return you get a comfortable office chair.

Shub-Niggurath,

Tough times may lay ahead. They may also lay behind you depending on which way you're walking. In any case, if tentaded creatures offer life advice, nod sagely and make notes for they might be onto something.

Yog-Sothoth,

Beware the whispers of the abyss this month, for they may guide you to the eternal void. They may also lead you to the perfect sandwich. Be wary of tentade-shaped veggies and tread carefully around condiments from unknown sources.