

Ritual to The Darkness

Scifur

This is a ritual to summon one of the oldest Eldritch horrors, The Darkness. Often overlooked and underappreciated, this is the eldest sibling to The Nameless Mist, and the most celebrated, Nyarlathotep. While it seems simple enough to call upon The Darkness (and it is) this ritual is meant to strengthen one's personal connection, and bond with it. While at its core it may seem like "Just turning off the lights", it is meant to be more as you are putting in the focus and energy to meet The Darkness half way. This ritual is very simple, and is purely about intensity on your end until the final exile of light, in the name of, The Darkness.

Create a ritual environment in a location that can be shut off from as much light as possible. As your eyes adjust to the darkness, as your pupils dilate they will start to find more ambient light. You should plan to eliminate as much of this beforehand. Rooms with windows should be avoided when possible, or they should be well covered to prevent moon, star, or neighboring lights from entering your ritual space. Lights in adjoining rooms should be shut off, and it is still advisable to place a towel on the floor under the door to block out more light. Light is a tricky thing, and it will find a way. Do your best to stop it before it even has a chance!

Beyond that, prepare your ritual environment as you see fit, but the only true necessity is a single candle. Black is best, but the color does not truly matter. What matters is once this candle is blown out, your room, and ritual space will be pitch black. Incense and other ritual tools are fine if they help put your subconscious in a ritual mindset, but once again, are not needed. This is about connecting with The Darkness, and all the Darkness needs to fully and truly enter your ritual space, is the absence of light. The only other suggestion is to have an easy to find light source for when you complete the ritual sitting next to your ritual area, as clearly it will be very difficult to see when you are done.

Once all preparations have been made, light your candle, then turn off any remaining lights in your ritual space. Begin to stare intently into the flame of your candle, and tap your hand on the floor, or altar nine times. The amount of time between each tap should be longer between each one, creating a progressively slower beat, still staring into the flame of your candle.

Your gaze into the flame should be intense, and undistracted. After you have tapped your hand the ninth time, you should then call on The Darkness. I will not tell you what to say here to invoke it, because you should not look away from the fire to read. Speak from the heart on this, and speak as if you are calling on a favorite pet, or best friend. Call The Darkness to join you, and be with you. The Darkness is an old friend, and it is time for you two to catch up.

After calling on The Darkness with an unbroken gaze, begin to repeat "I call The Darkness to join me, I call The Darkness to join me..." faster and faster, until you can't say it any faster. At this point you may shorten it down to "Darkness join me, darkness join me..." Then as it becomes impossible to say it faster, shorten it again to simply saying "Darkness, Darkness, Darkness..." Until you have exhausted your ability to speak faster, and need a breath. At this point, waste no time in blowing out the candle, and realize you have summoned your old friend.

(Again, do not break your gaze into the flame. If you somehow cannot remember those words, it's fine, just remember why you're doing this ritual... To join and hang out with the oldest thing in Azathoth's creation, The Darkness. If the exact words do not find you, it will be fine, but this ritual is meant to be simple to memorize, while being equally effective)

As you sit in your ritual space and catch your breath, realize that you are no longer alone. You have achieved exactly as you have set out to do. You have conjured one of the oldest Eldritch horrors into physical manifestation. You are now with The Darkness, and no one can deny your success. There is darkness, and there is The Darkness. They are not the same. Enjoy your time with The Darkness. Open your mind's eye to see what it has to show you, and hear what it has to tell you. It may be nothing, and that is fine. Sometimes silent moments together can be just as bonding as deep conversations.



When you are ready and the time has come to say goodbye, at the very least do say that. "Goodbye" before your turn on the light. Remember, you have called The Darkness to join you, and it has. Turning on the lights before you dismiss The Darkness would be a great insult, like throwing a friend out of your house with no word or warning as to why. If this ritual has found you, I have to believe that you would be wiser than to intentionally insult The Darkness. However, once you have verbally acknowledged that the time has come for you to move on, you may turn on a light and move on from your ritual space. It is encouraged to go straight to bed from this ritual, and record any dreams you might have in the morning.

From the Nameless Mists

A message from the Council

Welcome to our second issue! We are so happy to present to you this the second issue of the AA. While the cold and dark descend upon us in the northern hemisphere bringing us indoors and closer to our families. Those in the southern are out galivanting and enjoying the fair weather. Take time to reveal in the face of the near impossibility of yours, let alone one another's existence, and give thanks to the stars from Which we came. Have a happy new year!

All hail the Old Ones,
From the void to the void,
Your Harbinger, Phlegethotep



Thoughts from the Void: Musings of the Members

N'esog-vrftth

When meditating on the various gods and horrors to find which god would best embody my essence, I tried on quite a few. Yog-Sothoth embodied knowledge, for which I was full of random facts. But after a month and attempting to find my true name, I realized it wasn't quite accurate. I tried again with Azathoth, and for about two months it seemed to fit well, for when I close my eyes I can't visualize and am blind, but that's only part of me, not the whole story. I finally settled on the Darkness, the Void. It felt right. Shortly after that my essence came forth, N'esog-vrftth.

I don't use it in the Temple Discord, but it is bits and pieces of the R'leyhian words "orr'e" - soul/spirit, and "N'ghft" - darkness, and the V from Void. The Darkness isn't good or bad, it just is. In the same manner, I just am. I came from the Void/Darkness and when I die I shall return to that same Darkness. I believed this long before I found the Temple, or had ever heard of the Old Ones. I never subscribed to the idea there is anything beyond what is here and now, in front of us. I don't fear death, as I have been with the Darkness before. Metaphorically, I've been to the lowest pits of hell and at the bottom of that, there's darkness. The moment I came closest to ending my own life, the Darkness was like a blanket, comforting me. It held no shame or judgment. It allowed me to just be, no matter the choice I made. That comfort saved my life, and like Pandora's box, I found hope. When I speak my true name, I become centered and calm, like coming home.

Fm'Toth

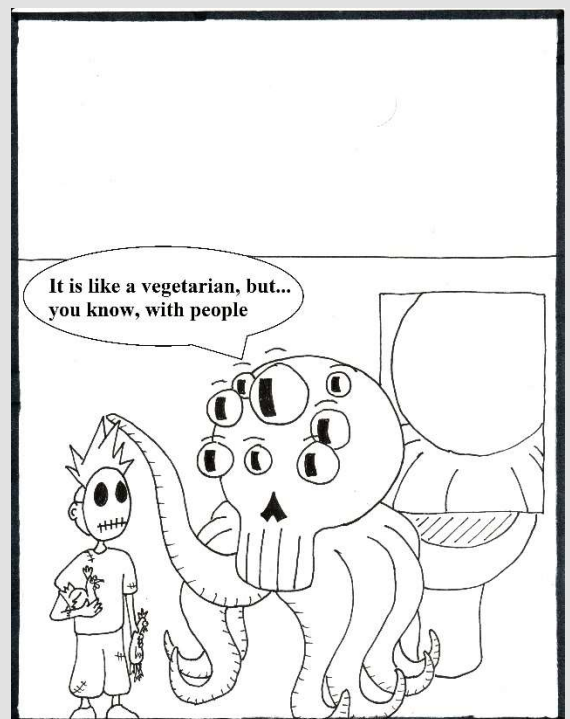
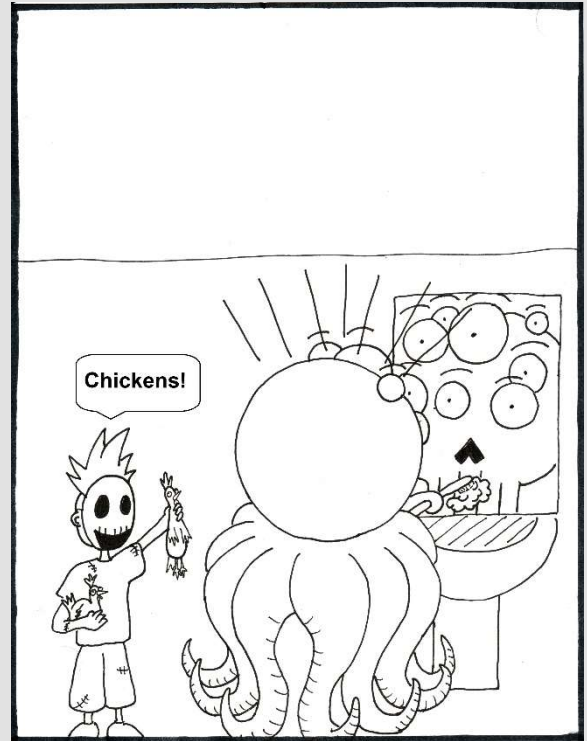
Prior to joining I never considered Darkness as an entity unto itself; Darkness is the absence of something else light. For this edition of the Advisor, I challenged myself to take a new look at Darkness as an Archetype and potential Deity.

In the Dream Quests of Unknown Kadath, Randolph Carter fell through endless void described as Sentient Blackness. The Darkness is older than all except Azathoth, frequently viewed as the companion to the Unnamed Mists. This is an interesting parallel to Genesis of the Hebrew Bible, where Darkness covered the face of the ocean until Light was created.

As the counterpart to the Nameless Mists, which represent unlearned knowledge and omniscience, Darkness likely represents the ability to remove or hide that which has been learned or discovered.



The Further Adventures of Yog and Steve



Leaky Basement

Fm'toth Gna'uln

Darkness and Cold are interesting that they defined by the absence of something else. At the same time, they are not really considered absolute in their absences, but are compared as relative to something else.

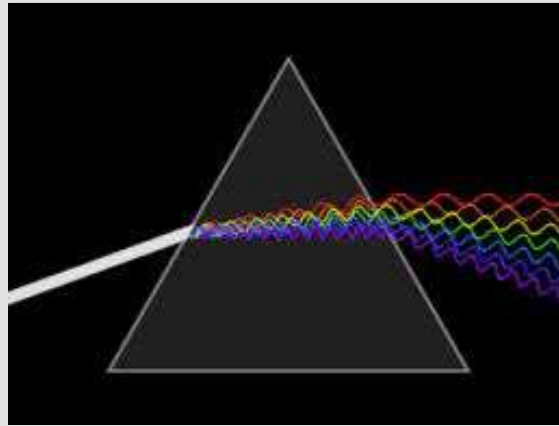
Hot and Cold, Light and Dark are considered opposites, but actually exist on a spectrum. While this author doesn't subscribe to the entirety of this principle; this helps to understand the Fourth Hermetic Principle of the Kybalion: The Principle of Polarity. "Everything is dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; like and unlike are the same; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degrees; extremes meet; all truths are half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled."

What we define as 'Heat' is a measure of the energy contained within the atoms of what is being measured. The scale used is 'Temperature' and the higher the temperature; the more the atoms within are moving or vibrating. At Absolute Zero; Zero degrees Kelvin (-273.15 Celsius, -459.67 Fahrenheit), all atomic motion has stopped. Interestingly, cooling something to this level is theoretic in nature and cannot be done in a lab, though we can come remarkably close. Coldest temperatures we have reached is approximately 450 picokelvin (450 trillionths of a degree from absolute zero).

On the other end, there is the theoretical maximum temperature; which is anywhere between a 10 with 17 zeros degrees Kelvin and a 10 with 32 zeros degrees Kelvin, depending on which physicist you ask. Some even theorize that there is no maximum possible temperature. Comparatively, the core of our Sun is about 15 million degrees Kelvin; which is only 6 zeros.

What we know as Light is packets of energy known as Photons. The amount of energy the photon contains determines the wavelength of the photon. We then classify the nature of the light based on wavelength. Our eyes can only pick up photons which 'vibrate' between about 380 nanometers (1 billionth of a meter) and 700 nanometers. Depending on the specifics determines the color we interpret; for example, a photon with a wavelength between 625nm and 750nm is usually seen as a shade of 'red' by the eyes, whereas between 450nm and 485nm is seen as a shade of blue. The reason for this narrow range of interpretation is because the vast majority of the photons released by the Sun fall within this range.

Wavelengths outside the visible spectrum are called by different names along the electromagnetic spectrum. Photons with wavelengths which can measure in the hundreds of meters area called Radio Waves, whereas extremely short wavelengths in the



Picometer range (1 trillionth of a meter) are known as Gamma Rays, which are highly energetic. Even when there is no visible light there are likely to be numerous other photons which we are incapable of seeing.

There is the possibility of an area containing absolutely no photons, which would require significant shielding to prevent penetration of high energy photons. Likewise, there is a theoretical maximum number of photons in a given volume.

Darkness is defined as the absence of light, whereas cold is defined as the absence of heat. However, when you really look at it; Darkness is merely *less* light than some other point and Cold is merely *less* heat than another point.

A moonlit night is dark compared to midday, a moonless night is dark compared to the moonlit one, and even a moonless night is bright compared to windowless basement.

Likewise, it may be warm outside compared to indoors in the summer; which may be the same temperature but hot compared to the winter snows. However, even the hottest temperatures on Earth, 56.7 degrees Celsius, is cold comparison to the average temperature of Venus, 464 degrees Celsius. Which is, in turn, frigid compared to the surface of the Sun, around 5500 degrees Celsius.

Darkness and Light, Cold and Hot are scales. While there are theoretical maximums and minimums, by far you cannot define most situations as an absolute cold or dark. So, in actuality, what we define as 'cold' or 'dark' simply means an appreciable distance to the left on a scale from Minimum to Maximum in comparison to another point.

Cold is also traditionally associated with Dark because of the natural association of the Sun to Heat. Even in arctic climates, it is known that it is colder at night and in the shade.

The Harbingers Sweet Dill Pickles

One cup white vinegar
One cup water
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup white sugar or local honey
2-3 tablespoons of salt
A few cucumbers I prefer English
3 or 4 canning jars with rings and flats
Fresh dill
A few bulbs of garlic
Assorted pickling spices (I use the Ball brand mix but let your heart decide)

This will result in pickles that remain shelf stable for 8-12 months. Not the most glorious meal when times get tough but full of nutrients and electrolytes to fend off starving and dehydration. Tie with a decorative ribbon or place a jar in a gift bag, these pickles also make excellent hostess or mainstream holiday gifts.

Select and sanitize your jars

Prep your cucumbers by cutting to your preferred shape, I prefer spears, chips or slices



Stuff your jars make sure that the pickles are below the threads. You want to get as many in the jar as you can without damaging the others.

Don't forget your garlic, I do 3 peeled whole cloves per jar.

Add your Spice mix on top and a good amount of fresh sill shoved between your pickles.

Set jars aside.

To make the brine bring your water and vinegar to a boil and mix in salt and sugar/ honey until dissolved, once clear remove from heat and allow to cool.

Once brine is cooled add to jars, fill until pickles are juuuuusst covered.

Wipe rims with a clean and moist lint free towel, and set your flat on top, apply ring baby tight (so air can escape wile processing).

Can via an approved and safe method or tighten that ring down and enjoy your pickles within a fortnight.

We at the temple are not liable for any misfortune that may be fall one attempting this recipe or consumption of its products.

Divination for December 2023

By Damien and Kadish Ph'ee

Six of Swords- Is the starting point of this spread, it speaks about the feeling of being stuck or unable to move toward your goals. My siblings, this card also gives the advice to remember that though it may seem difficult you can succeed if only you try.

Four of Coins- Opposing, it speaks about being unmoving in your beliefs. Some find it difficult to be able to adapt or at least be flexible in their passions. We must learn to play in the void again and find rediscover what The Old Ones can teach us. We can find joy and wonder at the void should we learn to just let that happen.

Hierophant- Opportunities, The Hierophant is a representative of alliance, encouragement, wisdom, servitude, and guidance. There are some who fit this role within the cult. The Nyth, find the time and speak with them. Find the guidance you need and learn from them. They can and will help you find meaning in the Old Ones. In this dark time of the year, illumination can be found within those who have found the light before you.

Five of Coins- Subconscious, These months can seem as a bleak and dark time. However happiness and Joy can be found within the cult, your friends, and family. We sometimes look to the sky and wonder where the sun has gone, or worry about finances and gifts. Remember that you are not the only one who tightens their belt another notch or draws their hood just a little tighter to ward off the biting cold. Find warmth in each other.

The Chariot (Reversed)- Past, In the past we were a larger group with direction and with an ever-growing purpose, there was music, celebrations, and contests. That was taken away from us. We try to rebuild to what we had, however it seems so hard. Everyone has their own way of seeing how to get there, but the paths don't seem to match up at the end. We will get there Brothers and Sisters, we will not give up. No matter how rocky the road seems to get, or who stands in our way. We will get there.

Seven of Swords (Reversed)-Future, Listen to those around you, there is good advice to be found! Possibly a good story as well. Our future is unknown to us as we continue throughout December we may find new friends and perhaps some of them don't mean the best for you, or even themselves. Be Careful of whom you let close to your hearth, but remember trust is earned. There will be those who will slander you and twist what you say. There will also be some who will talk of things they do not understand. Just remember, to hold your beliefs and smile beneath your hood and know that they will find themselves lost due to their own deeds. Your true friends well rise with you, let the dust and ash be rid from you.

Strength- Inner strength, The Strength card speaks about, Discipline, Courage, Physical Strength, and the strength of one's will. Siblings! Our Inner strength is Ascension!! Working to always better ourselves, emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. We find Joy in making ourselves better and watch each other grow! We are trying everyday to become better than we were the day before. Together we all ascend, we help and encourage each other to be our highest selves.

The Hanged man- Hopes and Fears, We all see the world in a different light. Just was we all see each other in a different way. Perhaps what may be someone's hope may be another's fear. I encourage you to slow down and think about your current position and maybe find just a different point of view. This temple is still in its infancy stage of rebuilding. To further develop who we are as a group just take a step back and look at the whole.

Ten of Wands (Reversed)- Influences, It is sometime hard to complete a task that is outside your normal day to day. It's even harder if you don't ask for help. You can feel immense pressure to do this objective, and if no one offers guidance or assistance it can be overwhelming. Ask, you don't need to carry a burden by yourself. If you see someone in need of assistance, and you are in the position to offer and do so! That is our way, help your siblings and encourage them to carry on.

Five of Cups (Reversed)- Overall, As we all are wondering what to buy for presents, or what to do for the holidays. Remember that the end of the year is approaching and fast. This year has been hard on a lot of us, and we will continue to grow and change as time goes on. Through ascension and encouragement through your Siblings and friends, you will become better than this year's self. Through all of the doubt you face in your current situation or the doubt within yourself, you will ascend by working through it. By asking for help, or by helping others, maybe even just learning to slow down and see things from a new perspective. You will heal, it's all about growing into something better. Building yourself mentally, physically, and spiritually into your best self so you can smile when the light returns.

May The Void Guide you. Damian

The Horrorscope

Azathoth,
Light is leaving your life.
Dark times are ahead.
Winter time means less sunlight.
Try and enjoy as much of it as you can.

Cthulhu,
Your attention to detail will serve you well this month as you decipher cryptic symbols and ancient runes. Just remember, not everything that glitters is gold so approach that strange object in your livingroom with caution.

Dagon,
This month the ghost of a long-lost pet may come knocking on your door. While it may be tempting to welcome your spectral friend back into your life, remember that spectral kibble often has a ghastly side effect. Enjoy their company, but keep the ectoplasmic vacuum cleaner handy.

Darkness,
Your intuition will guide you through the murky depths of the unknown this month. However, not all mysteries are meant to be solved. Some things are better left shrouded in eldritch darkness. Stick to solving Sudoku puzzles instead.

H.P Lovecraft,
You will have an insatiable urge to rearrange the constellations this month. While redecorating the night sky can be exhilarating, it might lead to unforeseen consequences. Your friends may soon question why Orion's belt now looks more like a cosmic corset.

Hydra,
This month your insistence on applying logic to the unexplainable will lead to perplexing results. Just remember, trying to fit Cthulhu into a spreadsheet is an exercise in futility. Embrace the chaos, for the Old Ones care not for your pie charts.

Hastur,
You may feel a strange, eldritch urge to conquer the universe. Your ambitions will soar to cosmic heights, but beware the lurking horrors that dwell in the vast unknown. Maybe stick to conquering Candy Crush instead.

Nameless Mist,
Beware, for this month your penchant for secrets may lead you to a forbidden library of cursed knowledge. The eldritch texts may beckon, but resist the urge to decipher them, unless you fancy communicating with interdimensional librarians who demand late fees in souls.

Nug & Yeb,
Your adventurous spirit will lead you to explore the darkest corners of the earth this month. Just be prepared for encounters with ancient, tentaded horrors that no guidebook can prepare you for. Sometimes it's best to stay home and watch a nature documentary.

Nyarlahotep,
Your charisma will be otherworldly this month, drawing admirers like moths to a flame. Just be careful not to attract the wrong kind of attention from eldritch entities. You might end up with a stalker from the Outer Realms. A restraining order won't work on Cthulhu.

Shub-Niggurath,
Your psychic abilities are off the charts this month, allowing you to peer into the void and glimpse the unspeakable horrors that lie beyond. Don't let this newfound power go to your head; you'll still need to pay the bills in this dimension.

Yog-Sothoth,
Your indecisiveness will summon forth an ancient, cosmic scale. The balance of the universe hangs in the precarious hands of your choices. Should you choose soy or almond milk in your latte? Think carefully or bear the soul rending consequences.