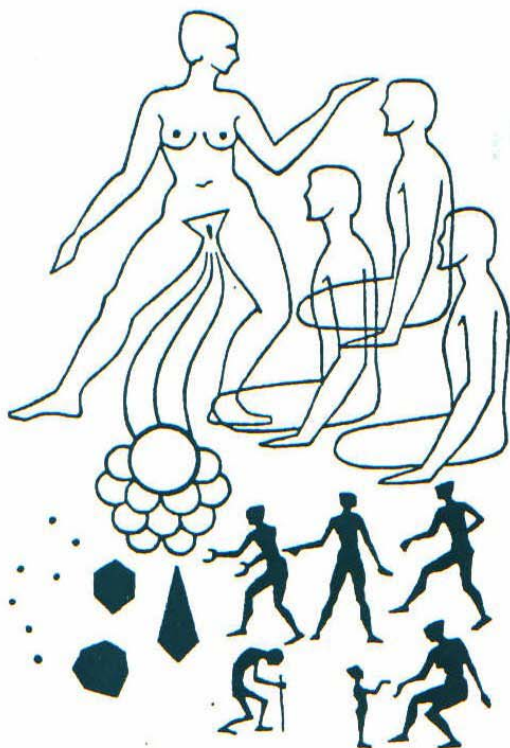


The Red Witch talks about

THE RIGHT OF THE LEFT



Shakti performs her Dance of Illusion, persuading Shiva that he is not one but many and generating from her womb the world of multiplied objects in what seems to be a sequence of Time

TRUTH can only exist in the gap between two contradictions. Reality is circular and holistic. Division is a convenience of the mind, not a fact of life.

The Left Hand Path? Well! It was like this. In Tantric Yoga, among couples who practised those techniques for enlightenment that included physical sexual union as goddess and god, the Shakti [the female partner] sat on the left hand side of her Shiva [the male partner]. Their systems became known as the Left Hand Path of Yoga.

Among those couples who practised only symbolic, ritual techniques for enlightenment that included considerable emphasis on celibacy and abstinence from certain foods, the female partner [if any] sat on the right hand side of her male partner. This approach became known as the Right Hand Path of Yoga.

The Left Hand Path seen as a threat

Naturally, among those puritanical Hindus who advocated celibacy as the supreme mode of life, Left Hand Path couples were seen as threats to their political power structure. They did not want the orgasmic nature of existence to be available and knowable for all.

Relaxed, happy people, at one with themselves and their environment, are hard to coerce and control. People need to be full of tension, anxiety and fear to be useful to politico-religious power structures. Left Hand Path Tantra was outlawed in, much of India, particularly in southern India. The Tantric temples of the Left Hand Path were allowed to fall into decay; that is, they were, until it was found that a lot of money could be made by the religious establishment through exhibiting them to Western tourists. But the Tantric

By Anae, the Red Witch.

The Right of the Left

philosophy on which those temples were based was still suppressed.

A systematic science

Left Hand Path Tantra survived in a few areas in northern India and among a number of sects of Tibetan Buddhism. Yoga itself is a systematic science, where the experimenters and the subjects of the experiment are the same people. You do it yourself, and you yourself experience the results.

Much exploration of the mind was done with drugs, poisons and various techniques for getting in and out of bodies. Patanjali, the founder of Yoga and Tantra, even describes how to enter a fresh corpse, among other interesting but odd experiments. You should remember that many of these experiments were exceedingly dangerous.

It was a strong part of the Tantric Yogis' and Buddhists' belief structure that death only means being immediately born into a new body, so you can start over again. Having an experiment kill them did not mean as much as it does to those of us who believe that our principal growth towards enlightenment is in this life through this body. We prefer not to have to go back and start all over again any more often than we must. Tantric Yogis and yoginis often meditated in graveyards, as a reminder of the nearness of death for us all.

The experience of free being

One objective of Patanjali's exercises was the existential experiencing of free being, unqualified by conditioning or culture. "I am everywhere and nowhere." Gautama Buddha also sent his disciples to the graveyard to meditate, as do many Sufi Sheikhs [spiritual teachers].

The various techniques practised by Tantric Yogis and Buddhists were also taught and



The female and the male, though separate, seek union.

practised by the initiates and adepts of most Western Mystery traditions, including the Mysteries of Persia and Greece, certain medieval Cabalistic traditions, and the Cathar religion of 12th and 13th century Europe.

Both in India and in the West, suppression of those teachings based on what the Tantrists had known as the "Left Hand Path" led to perversions and misunderstandings of Tantra, because the continuity of reliable teaching was sometimes broken. For example, meditation on death in a graveyard was perverted to acts of killing, usually of animals, but sometimes, as in the case of the Hindu Thuggee sect, of people.

Corrupted by puritanical attitudes

The mutually satisfying and enlightening sexual techniques practised by the ancient Tantrists of both East and West, were corrupted by the puritanical and patriarchal notions of the politico-religious power structures. Even today, reprints of old [sometimes 19th century] books on sexual mysticism and magic advocate emotional control or 'detachment' as a prerequisite for enlightenment through sex, or teach the inhibition of the natural flows of essences and energies that accompany the heights of enlightening and liberating orgasm possible through skilful use of Tantric sexual techniques.

by Anae the Red Witch. Shamanic witch initiator and a teacher of Jean. Primary influence for Boucca Wicca

The Right of the Left



Even worse, there are teachers and students of sexual magic who believe that they can achieve tantric enlightenment by engaging in sexual activities with a partner who is ignorant of the purpose of the act or of tantric techniques. This sort of thing is most often taught and practised by men, who use prostitutes or 'one night stands' for tantric or magical purposes.

Such perversions of the Left Hand Path are doomed to failure. They might clothe their lust in fancy mystical words, but true enlightenment through sex is achieved only when both partners fully understand the purpose of the sexual act, and fully and freely participate in it.

In the West, the determined destruction of personal freedom by the Roman Christian politico-religious complex [the first multinational corporation, actually] was so ferocious that only rumours of the Western Mysteries and their equivalents of Tantric Yoga remained. Continuity of tradition within the Mysteries was virtually lost. Spiritual impulse, the birthright of everyone was tortured into convoluted and distorted religious ideas. Fear became the ground of being.

"Divide and rule," said Machiavelli, quoting an ancient Imperial Roman political maxim, and the real magicians of destruction, whatever their camouflage at any time, have followed this tried and true formula.

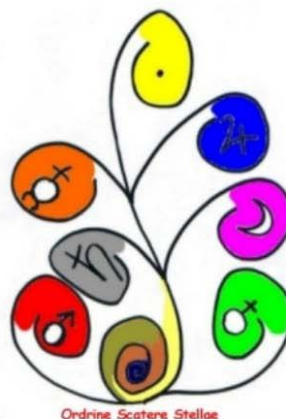
A long line of power addicts have said: "Let there be day and night, love and power, man and woman, the left and the right hand paths; and let them stand at odds with one another.

While they fight among themselves, we shall rule according to our whims."

Yes, there is a Right Hand Path and a Left Hand Path. But who now knows what they really are? Or who cares? Enjoy your own experience of life and grow. For some of us, "The Middle Path" slipped out of the gap that had been forced between Right and Left.

"Join and Heal"

The right path is "join and heal." The Middle Path has been succinctly described by Osho Rajneesh, "Dance on two legs. Don't try to hop on one foot."



•Illustrations are from "Tantra," by Philip Rawson, Thames and Hudson, London, 1973.

ONCE EMPRESS

Jean de Cabilis

ONCE EMPRESS

(For ANAE, THE RED WITCH)

When I was younger,
so happy in my virgin drunkenness,
to receive they seeds of pleasure.

I became the goddess harlot,
and opened the Fleshly dividing door,
through those to pleasure enter.

And I in defiance of Zeus,
now Lord over the Morning Star,
freely giving wine to earth below.

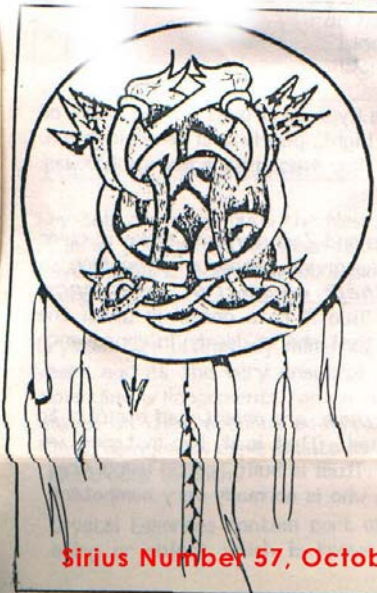
For I have baptised heroes,
and showered upon them,
the Moon's own tears.

Yet it was I who mixed,
the fresh air and running water,
to passion Mars for my keep.

But now I am older,
and would not exchange,
a single day nor eternity.

For Aphrodite has grown unto Hekate,
where Hades and she love alone,
in abundance a million organisms.

With love always,
Now we both lead onto,
The 'Star'.



Sirius Number 57, October 1990.

Deosil Dance

The Specialist New-Age Publishers

We are a small publishing house specialising in Wicca, Shamanism & Paganism. Below are just a few of our titles.

Aradia, Gospel of the Witches; C.G. Leland; £5.95; Essential historical work on the Old Religion

Wicca Awakens; Keith Morgan; £4.50; A beginner's manual in Practical Wicca, how to start correctly, all that you need to know to begin.

The Deosil Dance; £1.25; A regular Journal of Wicca, Shamanism, Paganism & New Age philosophies. High quality, forthright & informative journal.

Catalogue available upon request

Please send all orders payable to:

DEOSIL DANCE

Noddfa, Llithfaen,

Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 6NN