

# Hermetic Masonry in the Gnostic Tradition – Notes 7

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## **The Labyrinth, the Minotaur and the “Thread of Ariadne”**

In the floor of the old gothic cathedrals, a multitude of concentric circles can be seen, forming a true labyrinth. Tradition also speaks about the labyrinth of Crete and the famous Cretan Minotaur. Obviously, one has to enter into and get out of the labyrinth. In the center there was always the Minotaur. Theseus managed to overcome it and here is the Greek tradition. We also need to overcome the Minotaur, we need to destroy the animal Ego. To do so, we need to arrive at the center of the labyrinth (where the Minotaur is) and this implies that we need to fight a lot.

When one has managed to arrive at the center of the labyrinth, one must use one's wits to get out of it. Theseus managed to leave the strange labyrinth by means of a mysterious thread (the “Thread of Ariadne”). This thread appears to us to be HIRAM (the Secret Master that Occult Masonry speaks of) and that we all must resurrect within ourselves, here and now. “Ariadne” also indicates to us the “Spider”, symbol of the Soul that incessantly weaves the loom of destiny. Therefore, brethren, the hour to reflect has arrived... So, what in fact is that “Thread of Ariadne”? That thread that saves the Soul and allows one to leave that mysterious labyrinth in order to arrive at one's Real Inner Being?

Much has been said about the subject; the great alchemists thought that it was the Philosopher's Stone. We are in agreement with that, but we go just a little bit further, and say that the Philosopher's Stone is symbolized in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris by Lucifer (now we will comprehend why the Philosopher's Stone is found in sex itself). Thus, we discover Lucifer in the sexual organs. Lucifer is, then, the “Thread of Ariadne” which leads us to the final Liberation. This seems rather paradoxical, because everyone has the concept that Lucifer (the Devil, Satan) is evil.

## **The Great Work, the Path and Lucifer**

We need evident self-reflection, if we want to penetrate deeply into the Great Arcanum. This Lucifer whom we find in sex, is the Living Stone, the Master Stone, the Cornerstone (in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris), the Stone of Truth. To penetrate a little deeper into these mysteries is indispensable when one is trying to know what the “Thread of Ariadne” is...

To realize the Great Work is only possible through a unique path which is worth all the living pain that one experiences upon it. Peter, the beloved disciple of our Lord the Christ, has as his Gospel the Great Arcanum, the Mysteries of Sex. It is for this reason that Jesus called him “Petrus” (Stone): “You are a Stone and on that Stone I will build my Church”. Sex is, therefore, the Basic Stone that we must chisel in order to transform it into the perfect Cubic Stone. **That Stone (the brute Stone, in itself) without any chiseling, is Lucifer.** When it is already chiseled, it is our INNER LOGOI, the *Arche* of the Greeks. The important thing is, then, to chisel it, to work with it, to craft it, and to give it a perfect cubical form...

The great medieval alchemist, Nicholas Flamel, had James or Santiago de Compostela as Patron Saint of the Great Work. On the ‘way of Saint James’ (or ‘el camino de Santiago de Compostela’), there is a cavern called “the cave of healing”. At the same time when people started making pilgrimages towards where the city of Santiago de Compostela is now located, the Alchemists were also meeting in that cave. Those who were working in the Great Work, those who not only admired James, but also Jacques de Molay. While the people were rendering an exoteric cult (or worship) to James, the Alchemists and Kabalists reunited in mystical assembly in order to study Kabbalah, Alchemy and all the mysteries of the Great Work. Here you can see both aspects of Christianity (the exoteric and the esoteric). Undoubtedly, all this invites us to reflection.

## Lucifer and the Psychological Gymnasium of Life

In the Psychological Gymnasium of human existence a Trainer is always needed. The Divine Daemon, the very Shadow of our individual Spirit, is the most extraordinary Psychological Trainer which each one of us carries within. He places temptation on our path with the intention of training us, of educating us; only in this way is it possible for the precious gems of Virtue to surge forth within our Psyche. If there is no temptation, there is no virtue: the stronger the temptations, the greater the Virtues; the important thing is not to fall into temptation, and for this reason we must pray to the Father saying: “Lead us not into temptation”. **Only through struggle, contrast, temptation and rigorous esoteric discipline can the flowers of Virtue form within us.**

Lucifer is an Educator, a Mentor, he is our Psychological Trainer. Lucifer (*Luci* = Light, *Fer* = Fire) is the Guardian of the door and has the keys to the Lumisial, so that only those who possess the secret of Hermes can enter. All the Masters of the Hermetic Art know the phrase: “Burn your books and whiten the brass”...

## Typhon-Baphomet, Sex and Temptation

Let's remember the famous initiation rites in the Sacred Sanctuaries of the authentic Gnostic-Rosicrucians (the esotericists of the Middle Ages): when the neophyte was led to the center of the Lumisial, he was wearing a blindfold over his eyes. Somebody pulled off the blindfold and then the astonished & perplexed neophyte contemplated an unusual figure. There he was, before its presence, the Male Goat of Mendez (that strange figure of the Devil). Horns shined upon its forehead, and on its head was a torch of fire (however, something indicates that this figure should be treated as a symbol). In the Lumisial of Initiation, the neophyte was before the figure of TYPHON-BAPHOMET, the terrible figure of Arcanum 15 of the Kabbalah (with the torch, on his head, shining brightly). Also, the Blazing Star of five points, with the superior angle upwards and both inferior angles downwards, indicates to us that this is not a tenebrous figure.



That Male Goat, that Typhon-Baphomet, that Lucifer, is quite interesting, because it is the sexual energy, the energy that one has to know how to use, if we want to realize the Great Work. Now you will understand why Typhon-Baphomet (the Male Goat of Mendez) represents the Philosopher's Stone, sex. **It is with that tremendous force that one must work.** This is because the Male Goat represents the sexual force, but also the Devil; but that Devil or Lucifer is the same virile potency which, properly transmuted, allows us the intimate Self-Realization of the Being.

Only in sex can we find that Luciferian Principle which is the very foundation for Self-Realization. But, why is Lucifer the “Thread of Ariadne”? Why is it precisely he who leads us to final Liberation, when he has practiced evil? Well, Lucifer is the reflection of the INNER LOGOI (within ourselves), he is the shadow of our intimate God in us and this is for our own good, since he is the trainer. God cannot tempt us; we have our own lust (so taught James). Then, **what is it that Lucifer does? He uses our own lusts, he makes them move across the screen of our understanding, in order to train us psychologically, to make us strong;** the more we fail his tests, the more we fail in the Great Work. Nevertheless, we can fail and we can rectify. If we rectify ourselves, we triumph in the Great Work. Anyone can fail and, by their faults, they know that they have crimes which must be corrected and egos that must be eliminated.

Therefore: Lucifer trains us, he educates us, he forms us, and through all this training he liberates us, he directs us (from sphere to sphere) until we reach our Hiram Abiff. Lucifer is, then, the “Thread of Ariadne” who takes us towards our Inner God, who removes us from this painful labyrinth of life, by means of the esoteric work.