



An Essay of Curiosity

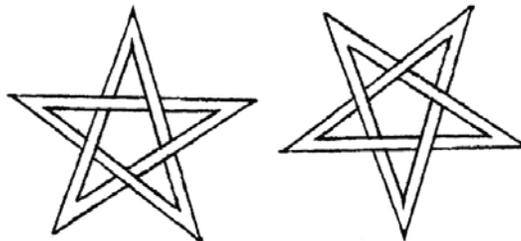
by Robert Ing, DSc, DLitt, FAPSc



Common Satanic Symbols and Their Meaning

In this essay I will discuss common Satanic symbols as it would appear there is a great deal of misinformation concerning these. This essay is one of a series I had written on Satanic subject matter out of the frustration of the proliferation of investigative articles and materials based on historical fiction, hearsay and urban legend. My motivation for writing on what some consider to be a rather 'hot' and controversial subject is to educate and inform on the basis of truth and not sensationalism.

The Pentagram



The pentagram first appeared in recorded history around 3500 B.C. in ancient Mesopotamia. The pentagram at various points throughout history has been referred to as the endless knot, the Seal of the Microcosm, the Star of Knowledge, the Wizard's Star and Satan's Footprint.

The pentagram is the base geometric core of the pentagon; the foundation of the geometric dodecahedron, believed by some to be a geometrically accurate twelve sided, three-dimensional model of the universe. The pentagram and pentagon are the only geometric forms that can mathematically reproduce themselves infinitely within the geo-mathematical dimensions of the dodecahedron model of the universe. Therefore, it can be reasonably concluded that the pentagram is a graphical representation of the mathematical fingerprint of the universe.

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The Upright Pentagram

The upright (obverse) pentagram (pictured on the left) is not used by Satanists but by practitioners of Wicca as their primary symbol. Practitioners of Wicca (Witches and Wizards and those of the first degree) will wear an upright pentagram within a circle. High Priestesses/Priests or third degree witches/wizards may wear an upright pentagram with a triangle above the pentagram, or an upright pentagram within a triangle. It must be stressed that Wicca is not Satanism. The upright pentagram is a symbol of the arcane, the spiritual realm (heaven) and the human connection to the universe. In an upright (obverse) pentagram starting at the twelve o'clock position and moving clockwise, the points of the pentagram represent the Goddess/Female or Spiritual Self (12 o'clock), Water (3 o'clock), Fire (5 o'clock), Earth (7 o'clock) and Air (9 o'clock).

The Inverted Pentagram

The inverted pentagram (pictured on the right) is not an exclusive Satanic symbol as it is used by Wiccans, occultists and pagans as a symbol of the mundane, the physical realm and dark side historically associated with chaos or evil by Abrahamic religions. Some Wiccans may wear an inverted pentagram as a symbolic representation for a Witch, Wizard or Warlock of the 2nd degree (they typically have a total of three degrees, with the 3rd being a High Priestess/Priest). Those of 2nd degree Wicca wear the inverted pentagram not only as a symbol of their earned position but also as a symbolic reminder they must learn to face the darkness within themselves so they may have mastery over it in their physical lifetime. In an inverse (inverted) pentagram starting at the six o'clock position and moving clockwise, the points of the pentagram represent Man or the Physical Self (6 o'clock), Air (9 o'clock), Earth (11 o'clock), Fire (1 o'clock) and Water (3 o'clock).

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The Satanic Inverted Pentagram

The use of the inverted pentagram as a symbol associated with Satanism did not occur until the 19th century. Prior to that it was recognized as a spiritual and alchemical symbol. In the early days of the Church of Satan, a Satanic Magister or Magistra (4th degree Satanist) wore a plain white inverted pentagram on a black disc, and a Satanic Magus or Maga (5th degree Satanist) wore a plain silver inverted pentagram. A plain silver inverted pentagram on a black disc is used to identify a Satanic Sorcerer or Sorceress.

The general meaning of the inverted pentagram in the Satanic realm focuses on the physical side of existence with the pentagram pointing down to the physical realm (earth or hell) versus the sky (heaven). Being that Satanists do not believe in a heaven (or a hell) the inverted pentagram with its three points downward also represents the denial or disbelief in the holy trinity. The most common Satanic version is an interwoven inverted pentagram without a circle around it.

To an individual Satanist the inverse pentagram with its point downward points directly to them, the individual not above or outward. It is a symbol of a personal commitment, that they take full responsibility for everything they do and that they also accept full responsibility for their words and deeds. Lex Talionis – Responsibility to the Responsible. Each of the four points (physical, intellectual, magical, judicial) of the pentagram above the single downward point represent the weight and requirement of balanced responsibility that must be borne if the Satanist is to ensure their own self-survival. No external force, deity or anyone else is to be counted upon for their existence or survival. They do not and will not live off of the benevolence of others which would leave their life open to the dictates and whims of an uncontrollable, unpredictable and unreliable external entity.

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To an individual Luciferian the inverse pentagram with its point downward represents the ascent of Lucifer bringing light and wisdom to the mundane (physical) world. The four upward points of the pentagram forming the wings of this Archangel represent the power, truth, knowledge and manifestation of the physical, intellectual, spiritual and magical realms. Lucifer has been referred to in many religious texts as “the morning star,” “light bringer” and “illuminator” references that are well suited to an earth-bound star.

Another version with a circle around it (the circle denotes sacred space offering protection, symbolizes spirituality and the binding of power) is not widely used by Satanists but often by others involved in what could be considered other Left Hand Path beliefs and practices (ie. black witchcraft, black magic, dark pagans, etc.) as most of these practitioners will cast a circle of protection in their rituals whereas Satanists do not.

A pentagram whether obverse or inverse with a circle around it is referred to as a pentacle. In ritual, an obverse pentagram (point up) may be used to symbolically project energy/thought and an inverse pentagram (point down) may be used to symbolically receive energy/thought (typically the force or energy of the universe). Those advanced in ritual magic capable of maintaining the required ‘harmonium’ (balance) may wear a ring or bracelet of an obverse pentagram on one hand or side, and a ring or bracelet of an inverse pentagram on the other.

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Sigillum Diabolus - Sigil of Satan - Sigil of Lucifer

A common question arises is that if the inverted pentagram only came into use by Satanists in the 19th century, what symbol was used before this time? The Sigillum Diabolus (Sigil of Satan) first appeared in the *Grimoirium Verum* in the 16th century and it is believed that this sigil was used from this time as a Satanic symbol. Prior to the 16th century, Satan was represented by a magic square or a Baphomet. It has been historically documented that magic squares are believed to have been in use since 2200 B.C.

The Sigil of Lucifer

The Sigil of Lucifer was first documented in the 16th century (1517) *Grimoirium Verum* also known as the *Grimoire of Truth*. The document was allegedly authored as a practical guide to invoking and working with Lucifer, Beelzebuth and Astaroth, and their lesser daemons but it is very much steeped in Judeo-Christian religious dogma and the rituals and invocations are not typically trusted from a Satanic or Left Hand Path perspective. However, what did come out of this work is the very powerful Sigil of Lucifer. This sigil had become synonymous with Lucifer for over half a century but was actually the third sigil of Lucifer noted in the first book of the *Grimoirium Verum*.

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This third sigil was the only one that was created on a 9 by 9 (order 9) magic square or on a three-dimensional nonagon (9 sided three-dimensional model), which no doubt explains its use and popularity over the first two sigils. Magic squares have been documented to date back as far as 2200 BC, and used to signify everything from the universe and its gods to natural cycles. The order 9 magic square that the Sigil of Lucifer is believed to be created upon represented the number 369. The number 369 would be the sum of all the numbers added together whether the numbers in the magic square were added horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Furthermore, consider the square (grid) of 9 columns, 9 rows deep and the sum of any of them added totalling 369, which when added $3 + 6 + 9 = 18$, which further reduced would be $1 + 8 = 9$, we can only suspect that there may be some significance. The sigil itself would be drawn on the 9 by 9 square with its lines connecting specific number boxes, and when totalled would also equal 369 or simply the number 9 when reduced to a single digit. The original sigil as directly “lifted” from the magic square and as represented in the *Grimoirium Verum* is a wavy version of the sigil that had been later re-drawn and cleaned up in the 18th century and is the version that is popular today.

The purpose of the Sigil of Lucifer is that of an instrument of visual invocation during ritual. By performing the appropriate ritual, the sigil acts as a gateway to invoke and bestow the power and presence of Lucifer. Contrary to popular belief, the sigil was never intended or created as an identification symbol or manor crest. However, many modern Satanists use the sigil as an emblem as well as for its original intent, as a very powerful instrument of ritual. Luciferians use this sigil as well but also have their own distinctive version that they use on a more widespread basis.

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Over many decades the graphical elements of the sigil have been identified with specific characteristics. The overall sigil appears as a chalice, which represents creation, the fertile darkness awaiting and ready for untold possibilities. It must be pointed out as this sigil is an instrument to invoke Lucifer, that Lucifer is considered to be the bearer of light and wisdom into the darkness (that has been invoked through this sigil). The 'X' over the sigil indicates the power and realm of the physical plane; its passion and sensuality that drives all entities. The inverted triangle represents water, often referred to as the original "Elixir of Ecstasy" without which physical life could not exist. The "V" at the bottom of the sigil represents the duality of all things; dark and light, male and female and the power of convergence of the two into one manifesting balance, creation and existence.

The Sigil of Lucifer is also known as the Sigillum Luciferi, Sigillum Diabolus, Sigillum Satanas, Sigil of Satan and Seal of Satan. In specific ritual when the sigil is inscribed in red or orange it is referred to as the Sigil of Satan, when it is inscribed in blue or violet it is referred to as the Sigil of Lucifer.

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The Baphomet

The Baphomet, is a symbol that has been associated with Satanism particularly in the 20th century as a result of its identification by Oswald Wirth in his 1931 “La Franc-Maçonnerie Rendue Intelligible a ces Adeptes, Deuxieme Partie: Le Compagnon”; by Maurice Bessy in 1964 in his “A Pictorial History of Magic and the Supernatural” and in 1966 by Anton Szandor LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan when it became an integral symbol of the Church of Satan. The term Baphomet first appeared in 12th century French recorded history chronicling the Roman Catholic Inquisition and the Knights Templar. It must be stated that in the middle ages the Baphomet was a representative idol of a pagan god / force of nature; not specifically Satan. Over the centuries the term Baphomet has been used to describe a specially prepared skull or animal head for ritual, a statue or graphic depiction of the Goat of Mendes, and in the 19th century a symbol consisting of an inverted pentagram with the head of the Goat of Mendes superimposed over it. It is this 19th century version that is popular amongst Satanists. The Baphomet may or may not have a circular border around it with characters or symbols opposite each point of the pentagram.

The Church of Satan created their own unique trademarked Baphomet, which many Satanists identify with, in the form of pendants, rings and banners. The Church of Satan Baphomet features the head of a goat within an inverted pentagram inside a perimeter of two circles with the word “Leviathan” written between the inner and outer circle in Hebrew. In the early days of the Church of Satan, a 1st degree Satanist would wear a baphomet on a red disc, a Satanic Warlock (2nd degree Satanist) would wear a baphomet on a white disc, and a Satanic Priest (3rd degree Satanist) wore a baphomet on a black disc. However, you do not have to be a card carrying member of the Church of Satan to wear one.

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To make matters even more confusing, there are a lot of design knock-offs and original versions that look very close to the Church's trademarked Baphomet. So don't automatically think that anyone who wears a Baphomet is a Satanist or even knows what Satanism really is all about. The only sure thing is that the Baphomet is not used by pagans, Wiccans or masons.



Above is an example of a Traditional Baphomet representing the harmony and balance between dark and light. The two horns of the goat represent this duality and the lotus flame that burns between them represents the flame that binds and balances the two. The goat represents the physical world and its indulgences. The pentagram on the forehead of the goat represents the elements of earth (Belial), air (Lucifer), fire (Satan), water (Leviathan), and the spirit (The Celebrant). The inverted pentagram on which the goat sits with its two upper points represents individuality and intelligence, the middle two points represent the Adamantine Gates of Hell held open by two opposing yet balanced forces, and the lower point represents the manifestation and power of the physical, and the resolution and singular balance of the opposing forces of existence. The word Baphomet comes from the Greek words 'Baphe' and 'Metis' which when combined mean "Baptism of Wisdom."

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Pictured above is an example of a Contemporary Baphomet. This is not the trademarked Church of Satan version. However, all versions share the common element of the appearance of the inverted pentagram with the superimposed head of the Goat of Mendes; the only differentiation being the depiction and detailing of the goat, lettering or symbols around the points of the inverted pentagram and in many versions the absence of a flame or torch between the horns of the goat.

The Inverted or Upside Down Cross

Another symbol used mostly by people who call themselves Satanists as a form of rebellion or follow the evil fictional literature definition, particularly literature that detailed *Le Messe Noir* Satanic of the 15th century is the upside down or inverted cross. In the minds of many the inverted cross is a sign of blasphemy and disrespect against Christianity. However, the symbol known as the cross has mystical origins that date back to around 4700 B.C. and it therefore predates Christianity. The original cross was one of arms of equal length and represented balance, harmony and integration. Many mystical symbols would be inverted to represent their opposite attribute in the pre-Judeo-Christian period when they were used in the worship of nature, gods and goddesses, and in the case of the original equal armed cross, its inverse form would be that of an 'X' representing imbalance, disharmony and disintegration. As a matter of practicality, the cross had its vertical arm extended so it could be securely anchored in the earth or in structures.

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Recorded history has documented the use of the cross as an execution device in the Roman Republic around 500 B.C. Centuries before Christ. According to Christian Doctrine when it came time for Peter to be crucified he asked that he be crucified on an upside down (inverted) cross for he considered himself not worthy to be crucified on the same upright cross as Jesus. As a result of Peter's humility, the inverted cross became known as St. Peter's cross and is a symbol of humility, not a true symbol of the Satanist or Satanism. However, inverted crosses are, and have been used in Satanic psychodrama and used primarily by those with very little real knowledge of Satanism to portray things Satanic.

Satanic Jewels

Satanic Jewels (ie. rings, pendants, pins, etc.) are only made in silver as this is the Satanic metal of the earth, the physical and intellectual realms. Gold is never used as the predominant or primary metal in Satanic jewels as it is the metal of heaven and the spiritual realms. It is interesting to note that whether the pentagram be upright or inverse, yellow gold pentagrams are rarely worn by active Wiccan, Occult or Pagan practitioners. Gemstones associated as having a Satanic influence but not exclusively associated with Satanism are diamond, ruby, amber, jet and black agate with a vein of white.

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