

Temple of Ascending Flame



OPEN PROJECT

The Seven Heads of the Dragon, Part 2

By Asenath Mason & Temple of Ascending Flame

The Dark Goddess of Sitra Ahra is a complex and ever-changing force. She is a passive vessel into which you can pour the seed of your intent and leave it for her to nurture until it manifests in your life. She is also an active initiatrix, introducing you to the art of transcendence through transgression, freedom through sacrifice, and power through surrender and submission. She can be a gentle lover, who will take away all tension and worries of your daily life and fill your path with passion and desire. She can be a caring mother, who will protect you on the way. And she can also be a vicious enemy, who will test your skills and determination, ruthlessly showing that you are nothing and all your power is illusory. All these and many more of her faces can be encountered while working with the Qliphoth. In this project we will only focus on seven chosen archetypes, the same as in the previous workings, only approached from the feminine perspective. This experience will not and should not be the same as in the previous project. You will be tested and teased, seduced and bewitched, mocked and scorned – let it happen. These are all initiatory lessons of the Dark Feminine, and embracing them is a natural part of the process.

Books for further reading (rituals included here are part of the following books as well):

Qliphothic Meditations by Asenath Mason
Qliphothic Invocations & Evocations by Asenath Mason
Tree of Qliphoth – anthology by the Temple of Ascending Flame

Items needed for the project

- **The Qliphothic Star** (You can use the same as in the previous project or prepare a new one).
- **Seven candles** (This time the candles should be red or silver. Light all of them in each ritual. In the final working let them burn out completely).
- **Subtle and sweet incense** (Rose, sandalwood, opium, or another fragrance of your choice).
- **Symbolic representation of the archetypes** (The same as in the previous project – the skull, chalice, sword or dagger, pentagram, vessel for fire, and a piece of cloth big enough to wrap yourself).
- **A tool to draw blood** (Dagger, knife, razor, lancet, etc.)

Feel free to be creative while preparing your ritual space. On your altar, place statues or images representing Lilith and Samael/Lucifer, or Lilith alone - ancient depictions, modern images, or your personal seals or drawings. You can decorate it with flowers, jewelry, and other depictions of goddesses

and concepts associated with the Dark Feminine. Put there symbolic representations of the archetypes – all together or one at a time, depending on the workings – this is entirely up to you. Finally, you should also have the Qliphothic star on the altar – big enough to gaze at comfortably.

Day 1

The Dark Initiatrix

While in the previous project we focused on Lucifer as the Dark Initiator, in this one we will work with the female side of the archetype. The name of the first Qlipha is Lilith (Woman of the Night), or according to some sources, Nehemoth (Whisperers). The ruling force here is Naamah, Lilith's "alter ego," who holds dominion over things material and is believed to seduce the magician onto the Other Side with the promise of wealth, pleasure and power. Both Lilith and Naamah can be encountered here, as well as some other goddesses, such as Hecate, who meets the aspiring initiate at the crossroads, initiating us into mysteries of witchcraft, altered states of consciousness and soul travel. According to a Jewish legend, Lilith lives in caverns on the shore of the Red Sea. In Qliphothic symbolism these caverns form the body of the Dark Goddess of Sitra Ahra and are equivalent to the realms on the Dark Tree. For this same reason, the first Qlipha is called "the Womb of Lilith," or "the Cave of Lilith," and it is believed to be the entrance point to the Qliphoth. Here, in the first encounter with the goddess, we meet her as the Dark Initiatrix, and this encounter is always personal, reflecting our fears and desires, that which arises from our personal "underworld." In this manifestation she rules the whole Qliphothic Tree together with Samael/Lucifer. While he watches over the Initiate from his Throne in Thaumiel, Lilith appears at each level of the tree, acting as the guide and initiator on the path. Throughout this journey she also successively reveals her other faces - the harlot, the screeching owl, the tortuous serpent, the dark mother, the vampire, the end of all flesh, and many, many more. Her "masks" are countless and it may take a lifetime to know all of them.

As the Dark Initiatrix, she approaches the initiate on the border of the mundane world and the astral plane, the waking and the dreaming realms. She lays her kiss on the Initiate's forehead to activate the Third Eye, the center of awakened consciousness, igniting the fire within - the Fiery Snake that brings forth illumination and freedom. For this reason, the Cave of Lilith is also compared to the Tantric concept of Muladhara, the root chakra at the base of the spine, the source of the Kundalini force. It is the first power zone in the subtle body of man, the Lair of Leviathan in the Draconian Tradition, and the Womb of the Queen of the Night on the Qabalistic Tree. This is the archetype explored in the following working.

Again, you can do this working outdoors, in a desolate place at night, or even at a point of three crossing roads, but if it is not possible, the ritual can also be done in your home temple. For this, prepare your ritual space, placing the skull on the altar. Like in the case of the Dark Initiator, here too it stands for transition, initiation and death as a rite of passage.

When all is ready, light the incense and candles, close your eyes and envision yourself in the center of the Qliphothic Star. It is huge and burns with red and golden flames of the Draconian Current. At the same time vibrate (or shout aloud) eleven times the Draconian word of manifestation: "VOVIN." As you vibrate it, feel the Serpent Force awakening and rising, both inside and around you. It flows through your spine, activating your chakras, and at the same time it arises through the chakras of the earth, concentrating within your ritual space to protect and empower it for the time of the ritual. With each repetition of the word, you should feel your body vibrate with force, energized and ready to proceed with further work.

At this point focus again on the Qliphothic star on your altar. Anoint it with a few drops of your blood and see how the lines of the sigil become charged and activated with your life substance. Then place a few drops of blood on the skull, visualizing it glowing with the fiery energies of the Draconian Current, eventually transforming into a gateway to the energy of the Dark Initiatrix.

At the same time, recite the following invocation:

*Lady of the Gate, I call to you this night!
Arise from caves and bowels of the earth,
Emerge from dark woods and places of desolation,
And intoxicate my dreams with your sacred and unholy wisdom!
Come to me and fill my mind with visions of terror and pleasure,
Open the Gate to the Other Side,
And teach me the secrets of the living and the dead!
Mistress of Darkness, open the Shells and tear down the veil of illusion,
Seduce and bewitch me in your trance of death and ecstasy,
And lead me through the Gate of the Nightside to the underworld of my soul!
Sleeping One, Queen of the Night, Princess of Screeching!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

Then focus on your inner sight. Take a few deep breaths and visualize the Qliphothic Star around you once again. Envision that everything disappears – the room, the building, the entire world, and finally – the Qliphothic Star as well. Visualize that you are now in a dark forest at night. There is a thick mist around you, and in the distance you can see the shape of a hooded figure. As you walk in this direction, you can sense the smell of sulfuric vapors in the air, and the mist slowly turns into clouds of black smoke which become thicker and thicker with each step. Suddenly, you notice a woman emerging from the mist - the Lady of the Gate. She is wearing a long black dress, richly ornamented but tattered. Her hair is black and windy. She has glowing yellow eyes and sharp talons like a bird of prey. On her forehead there are three crescent moons. When she opens her mouth, she releases black smoke that envelops you. Greet her and ask her to guide you through the Gate of Sitra Ahra. Tell her why you have summoned her and what you want to find behind the veil separating the world of man from the Other Side. Take a moment for this interaction, and when you state your intent, visualize that she raises her arms and sends the smoke in your direction as a vortex of black energy that turns into a portal to the Other Side. It is shaped like female genitals, pulsating and alive, beckoning you to enter. Step into the portal and open yourself for whatever you may find there. At this point let the visions flow freely. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, return to your mundane consciousness, extinguish the candles and finish the working for the day.

Once you enter her realm, the Dark Initiatrix will speak to you through your inner mind, dreams, emotions, premonitions, and perhaps also spontaneous visions. In your daily life she will lead you into situations and encounters manifesting her creative and destructive powers. Embrace her and she will embrace you as well, transforming you from within and restructuring your entire personal universe.

Day 2

The Harlot

The Harlot is the feminine archetype associated with Gamaliel – The Obscene One. In the first part of the project we explored the concept of the Sabbat and the Sabbatic Devil as the initiator of the path of transgression through sex and pleasure. Here we will focus on the mysteries of the feminine, which manifest through dreams, visions, subconscious impulses, and are experienced through various levels of sexual energy. Therefore, you can be extra charged and aroused in many unusual ways, or you may feel withdrawn from your body and exposed to a dream-like state of comatose lucidity, in which you will not know what is real and what is your imagination. Feel free to explore whichever of these manifestations occurs for you.

The ruling force of Gamaliel is Lilith, who is seen here as a succubus and the mother of other succubi, who haunt the dreams of the sleeping, triggering erotic visions and feeding off their sexual energy, which is then directed into the further realms and tunnels of the Qliphothic tree to nourish the denizens of Sitra Ahra. First encountered in ancient Mesopotamian lore, Lilith appears naked in most of her depictions, with prominent breasts and unbound hair, symbolizing her untamed sexual force which is the key to her gnosis. As the Harlot, she does not have one form, but manifests through many masks and disguises. She is beautiful and can arouse the desire of every practitioner, appearing as the manifestation of their lust. Therefore, she changes shape from a girl to boy, young to old, beautiful to deformed – there is not a mask that she cannot wear. She works through dreams which are her domain, but she can also empower imagination, day-dreaming and fantasies, enhancing the magician's imaginative skills, visualization and inspiration. There's a lot of creative energy released through this work that can be channeled and directed into various forms of creation, and this is also what you can experience by working with this archetype.

Start in a similar way as the day before: prepare the temple, light the candles and burn the incense. Then focus again on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you. Use the same procedure – chant “VOVIN,” raise the Serpent Force and anoint the sigil on the altar with your blood. This time, the representation of the archetype is the chalice filled with red wine or a sweet non-alcoholic drink of red color and rich taste. This is symbolic of the menstrual blood of the Harlot, who is never pregnant and always open-legged and inviting for those who seek her gnosis. Female practitioners can add some menstrual blood to the sacrament if it is possible, but it is not necessary.

When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

*Scarlet Goddess, Eternal Seducer, I call to you this night!
Open your black womb and release the fire that shall consume the world
Embrace me as your lover and devour me in the act of ultimate ecstasy!
Awaken the lust that shall not be quenched
And let me rise in the pillar of force
Forever burning with the flames of desire!
Penetrate my soul with your serpent tongue
That drips poison and the elixir of immortality
And make me a vessel for your primal sorcery!
Queen of Harlots, Alien Woman, Mistress of the Red Moon!
Enter this flesh and transform it through your sacred and unholy alchemy!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

Then drink the sacrament, sit in a comfortable position and close your eyes. Again, visualize that everything around you disappears, leaving you alone in empty black space. Then, after a while, the darkness around you begins to crystalize into a scenery. You are in the Cave of Lilith. The whole scenery looks like a normal cave at first, but after a while it responds to your calling, and as you move forward, it becomes alive and transforms into the body of the goddess. It moves as you breathe, pulsates to your heartbeat, and the walls are no longer cold stone, but they become the warm, soft flesh of a female womb. They are moist with blood and the sexual fluids of the goddess, and the metallic smell of blood in the air is mixed with a strong fragrance of incense and the bitter-sweet smell of sexual fluids.

Finally, you can see the goddess herself, forming from the shadows and taking shape in front of you. Visualize her as a beautiful, sensual woman with red or black hair, milk white skin, wearing a red dress, or naked, shamelessly exposing her sexuality and beckoning you to give yourself to her and partake in her initiatory mysteries. She may shift into other shapes as you commune with her - let it happen. The Harlot represents the primal sexual energy that is free of shame, guilt, inhibitions, and any other form of mental programming. You may see a glimpse of this force, or perhaps you'll experience it in its totality - this depends on how much you are able, or willing, to open yourself to her transforming essence.

Once the goddess manifests to you, do not force any visions. Let them come spontaneously and end in a natural way. You can empower this working by a sexual trance - feel free to do so if you want to, and offer your sexual fluids to the goddess, directing the energy released through orgasm into a personal intent or simply to empower your personal path. Write down all that goes through your mind - during or after the working - all thoughts, emotions, reflections, and insights. Meditate on them and think what they may mean to you. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candles, and finish the working for the day.

You can use the energy released through this working for some form of artistic creation, or channel it to charge an intent to manifest. It will work well for charging sigils, talismans, ritual items, etc. It can also be used to empower your dream work and trigger lucid dreams.

Day 3

The Lady of Discord

The realm of Samael is rarely associated with the feminine force. Usually, it is the Peacock King or the Angel of Death himself seen as a ruling principle and the embodiment of the "Poison of God." Very little is known about the feminine influence within this Qlipha. However, in mythologies we encounter both male and female tricksters and adversaries, and there are goddesses who destroy the order and introduce chaos and insanity into the world as well. Lilith is one of the characters commonly associated with all kinds of mischief, reversal of laws, and poisoning the mind to expose the Initiate to the irrationality of the Other Side. However, here we also encounter other goddesses of chaos, such as e.g. Eris (Discordia), and the archetype we will explore in this working is the Lady of Discord. This force appears whenever the world's order becomes too rigid, sowing strife and turmoil to disrupt its social and natural principles and to expose the universe to madness and chaos. Eris is known from ancient Greek myths and legends as a vicious and ruthless goddess of strife. For instance, it is she who throws the apple with the inscription "for the fairest" among the beautiful and vain goddesses of the Olympus, which leads to the long and devastating Trojan War. Her children are Anarchy, Ruin, Dispute, Quarrels, Murders, Pain, Forgetfulness, and Starvation. At the same time, she is believed to be a trickster goddess, whose ruthless actions are aimed at a change and transformation that is needed in the universe, showing that laws and order are illusory and the only way to true gnosis is through chaos and irrationality. These are the qualities of the Poison of God as well.

Begin this ritual by preparing your ritual space. This time, on the altar place the chalice filled with something representing poison - absinth, vermouth, angelica tea, wormwood brew, or something similar. When all is prepared, focus again on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you. Chant "VOVIN," raise the Serpent Force, and anoint the sigil on the altar with your blood. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

*Goddess of Disorder and Anarchy, I call to you this night!
Let me drink the poison of the gods
And release my mind from the shackles of sanity and reason!
Show me how to shatter the illusions of the world,
And guide me on the path between order and misrule,
For there are no laws and everything is permitted!
Initiate me into the mysteries of your beautiful chaos,
And transform my senses so I may see the true face of the universe!
Guide me to wisdom through confusion,
And let me dance with you on the ashes of the world!
Lady of Discord, Sacred Chaos, Mother of Strife!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

When you finish the invocation, close your eyes and focus again on your inner sight. Let the whole world around you be consumed by the blackness of the Void. Then visualize yourself standing in a dark desolate landscape. It is empty, except for an old well which is filled with a black substance. Visualize that you are reaching into the well and fill a small stone vessel which you find there with this strange liquid. Then drink it and feel how the poison courses through your veins, setting your whole body on fire and transforming your senses. Then visualize yourself in your daily reality. See the mechanisms behind it – the patterns, habits, daily rituals, etc. See its structures and foundations. And when you become aware of all that, let the poison in your mind transform it into the opposite – envision what it would be like if everything in your daily reality became reversed. Feel free to focus on whatever you want – you can imagine it upside down, people walking backward or on their hands or speaking backward, day becoming night, etc. Here, everything depends on your imagination. Then, when you build the new reality in your mind, let it dissolve in the Poison of God. Focus on the realization that everything is illusion and it can be shaped and molded as you want because everything is the matter of perceptions. This realization makes you feel free and powerful, like a deity playing with reality to create worlds and destroy them. Open yourself to whatever may come to you now and go wherever the vision takes you. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candles, and finish the working for the day.

You can invoke the Lady of Discord whenever you want to change your perception of reality or if you become stuck in a certain mindset and need a fresh perspective. This can be a maddening and confusing experience at first, but it will eventually lead you to self-knowledge that is normally inaccessible to reason-based patterns of thinking.

Day 4 **Goddess of Love and War**

In this working we will focus on the Goddess of Love and War, Passion and Battle. In the previous project we explored the masculine archetype of the Path of the Warrior, and here we will take a closer look at the feminine force that powers up the Path of the Lover. This archetype is associated with A'arab Zaraq and the Dark Venus (Venus Illegitima) as its ruling force. Initiatory process ignited in this realm is the mixture of these two forces entwined and conjoined in the dynamic union of passion and violence, lust and bloodshed, fear of death and ecstatic affirmation of life and its carnal delights.

Venus Illegitima is a highly ambivalent force. In her positive aspect she is the yielding, watery, feminine principle that is balanced through the current of her male consort. She absorbs his fiery force and unites the opposites of the masculine and the feminine, providing balance for these two currents. In the realm of A'arab Zaraq, however, the force of Venus is unbalanced and unbridled, manifesting in all extremes, from ecstasy and heights of sensual delight, to lowest obsessions, covetousness and abuse. Venus can be tender and loving, and at the same time she is fierce and ruthless. She presides over rites of female magic, seduction, manipulation, sexual temptation, and she is the patroness of love and affairs of the heart, sex and marriage. At the same time she is the proud goddess of war who bestows military victory, good fortune and success in battle.

Like on the previous days, begin this working by preparing your ritual space. This time, the symbolic representation of the archetype is the sword or dagger – the weapons of war. However, since we are dealing here with the feminine force, you can also have the chalice on your altar. Like the day before, fill it with red wine or another red drink, but this time it is not menstrual blood but the blood of the enemies slain by the Goddess of War. Again, proceed as before: focus on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you, chant “VOVIN” to raise the Serpent Force, and anoint the sigil with your blood. When you are ready to continue, take the dagger and the chalice into your hands, and holding them, speak the following invocation:

*Lady of Passion and Battle, Love and War, I call to you this night!
Come to me with sweet perfume and sharp weapons of war!
Awaken me to love and passion which creates and sustains all life,
Ignite rage and fury within my heart,
And teach me how to conquer and seduce the world,
So I may walk victorious and untamed,
Invincible in the mastery of war,
And unsurpassed in the arts of love!
Incite the rage of battle and charge me with your passion and strength!
Mistress of the pleasures of the flesh!
Leader of armies, who arrives on the wings of terror!
Fill the whole world with your terrible doom and your sweet delights!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

When this is done, focus again on your inner sight. If you have chosen to use the sacrament, drink it and feel how it courses through your body, charging it with the energy of the goddess. Visualize that for a moment everything around you disappears, consumed by blackness, and then a new scenery unfolds before you. Like in your encounter with the Lord of War, you are standing on the shore of the sea. This time, however, the water is calm and the waves are gently rolling. It is also a beautiful and sunny evening, and the sun is low on the horizon, coloring the water with a mystical golden-copper radiance. In the air you can smell a subtle fragrance of roses, and after a while you notice the goddess emerging from the water and taking shape in front of you. She is surrounded by white doves and white roses. She has a white dress and copper-colored hair. Her skin has a shining coppery tint as well. She is beautiful and pure at first glance. But as she comes closer, the whole scenery begins to change and you notice the true face of the goddess. The roses are stained with blood which is dripping from them into the water, dying it red. The doves change into ravens. The goddess' dress is no longer pure but stained with blood and semen – the worn garment of a courtesan. In her hand she holds a golden spear and she thrusts it into your forehead, piercing your Third Eye, which explodes, opening you for her mystical current. This feels painful and erotic in a strange way, filling your mind with visions of war and sex, seduction and domination, ecstasy and agony. Let yourself flow with this experience. Explore the visions and meditate on what they mean to you on a personal level. Open yourself for whatever may come and let the goddess guide you through your conscious and unconscious instincts and emotions. When you feel ready to end the working, extinguish the candles and close the ritual.

This energy can be used in a practical way to enhance your self-confidence, personal magnetism and the ability to seduce and manipulate others. You can invoke the Lady of Love and War whenever you want to influence someone – by flirting or seduction, as well as assertiveness and dominance. She will help you overcome your personal barriers in situations where you have to deal with other people or when you simply need to be confident and assertive in order to win a “battle.”

Day 5

The Adversary

One of the oldest and most famous mythological figures representing the archetype of rebellion and the way of isolation is Lilith. According to Jewish legends, she was the first wife of Adam, and they were created together, at the same time, from the soil of the earth. But while she wanted equality, Adam wanted to dominate the relationship. As a result, Lilith flew up to heaven with fury, screaming the secret name of God, and left the Garden of Eden. After that, she settled in caverns on the shores of the Red Sea, where she lives alone and independent, coupling with demons and giving birth to hundreds of other demonic entities every day. Due to her refusal to “lie beneath,” Lilith became one of the favorite symbols in the early twentieth-century feminist movements, and even today she is still seen as a

powerful archetype of a liberated woman - rebellious, independent, choosing partners on her own, aware of the power of her sexuality. Her adversarial role is usually seen as connected with sexuality - patriarchal cultures tend to see female sexuality as a demonic force, which is why they consider Lilith as a demon - an embodiment of transgression. Female sexuality kept under male control guarantees the stability of families, legitimacy of heirs, and ensures the continuity of patriarchal structures. Unleashed, it is a threat to the established order. However, Lilith's role as the Adversary is much greater, and it is believed that it was she who assumed the form of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden and liberated the first human couple from the shackles of mindless ignorance. This is also what we will explore in this working.

Start by preparing your ritual space as you did on the previous days. Again, as the symbol of the Adversary use the pentagram and place it in the central part of the altar. Then proceed as before: focus on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you, chant "VOVIN" to raise the Serpent Force, and anoint the sigil on the altar with your blood. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

*Serpent in the Garden of Eden, I call to you this night!
Lady of Rebellion and Misrule, ignite the desire of freedom in my heart!
Fill me with your passion, pride and force,
And destroy what binds me on the path to autonomy and power!
Liberate me from fear, shame and guilt,
Open my eyes and clear my thoughts,
And give me the courage to face whatever may stand in my way!
Let me taste the Fruits of Knowledge,
So that the Serpent's Promise may be fulfilled,
And I shall become as God - knowing good and evil!
Eternal Seductress, Queen of Sitra Ahra, Mother of Abominations,
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

Then close your eyes and focus on your inner sight. Again, visualize that the whole world around you disappears, and then the darkness crystallizes into different scenery. You are standing on an empty plateau, with no trees or vegetation, and no life seen anywhere around. It is dark and all you see is the sun above you, but it is not the sun as you know it - this one is black and cold, swirling like a whirlpool and shooting out tendrils and rays of black energy that suck all life from the landscape and absorb it into the Other Side. As you walk toward it, the desolation around you begins to change - you can see grass growing from the ground and single trees appearing in the distance. The grass is black and the trees are withered, but you feel that you are slowly approaching your destination. Finally, you arrive at the base of a huge black tree. It does not look like any other tree you have ever seen in your life. Its leaves are black and the fruits hanging from the branches are shining with a faint silver glow. You cannot reach them because they grow too high, but as you approach, you can see a serpent coming down from the tree, morphing into a half-woman half-snake as she touches the ground. She hands you one of the dark fruits. At this point you realize that if you choose to eat it, there will be no turning back - your life will change, for better or worse, and you will never be the same. If you are willing to accept the consequences of this choice, take the fruit and eat it. At the same time, visualize that the whole scene disappears again and in front of you there is a huge burning pentagram that will take you back to your temple. When you feel ready, step into the portal and end the meditation.

The invocation of the Adversary is meant to trigger a change in your life - this change can be seen as positive or negative, but it always leads you where you need to be. Sometimes it triggers a sacrifice in your life. Other times it may change your perception of the world to the point that will make you realize what you really need and give you the courage to face the risk, no matter the consequences. While the masculine aspect of this archetype will manifest the change and clear the way, whether you want it or not, the Dark Feminine will change you from the inside, affecting your feelings, beliefs, perceptions, etc., and making you realize what you want and how to manifest your desires.

Day 6

The Lady of Retribution

The Lady of Retribution is the feminine aspect of the ruling force of Golachab. Like in the case of the Bringer of the Apocalypse, this is a fiery and violent archetype, associated with extreme emotions, destruction and dramatic ordeals and initiations. It is connected with sex and lust as well, and the ruling force, alongside Asmodeus, is Nemesis. While Asmodeus opens the gates to the Qlipha and guards the way further into the Tree of Night, Nemesis holds the mysteries of becoming one with its essence, thus presiding over the actual initiatory experience of the Burning One. Known mostly from Greek mythology, she is portrayed as the daughter of the goddess Nyx (personification of the night) who emerged from the primeval ocean that encircles the world. In the Nightside interpretation, this makes her a manifestation of the Primordial Night, an old and powerful mask of the Dark Goddess of Sitra Ahra. At the same time, she is a beautiful and sensual goddess of lust and passion, often associated with Aphrodite, the goddess of love, who sometimes bears the name of Nemesis as an epithet.

The summoning of the Lady of Retribution is the invocation of the Wrath and Fury of Golachab, the fiery essence of this Qliphothic realm. It is the force of the apocalypse, the Rage of the Gods, the ultimate destruction of the world through the cycle of death and rebirth in the initiatory process of Becoming. She is the one who "gives what is due," mercilessly severing that which binds you in your progress on the path. Her actions may seem cruel and ruthless, but they are necessary for further growth. Once invoked, she has to be accepted with whatever she brings as she is "the one from whom there is no escape" and her work is irreversible. She is the Goddess with the Sword, the Avenger and Punisher, the severe and separating force of Golachab.

Begin this working by following the same pattern. Again, to represent this archetype we will use fire. Like in the previous project, prepare a vessel and pour a flammable substance into it. When this is done, proceed as usual: focus on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you, chant "VOVIN" to raise the Serpent Force, and anoint the sigil on the altar with your blood. When you are ready to continue, burn the liquid in the vessel, at the same time speaking the following invocation:

*Lady of Retribution, I call to you this night!
Come with your flaming blade that brings balance to the world,
And cut the cords that bind me on my way!
Give me the power to defeat my enemies,
And those who want to stop me on my path,
And let me dance on their rotting corpses and rejoice in revenge!
Lead me into your kingdom of darkness and flames,
Awaken the fire and fury within me,
And enflame my soul with your fierce ecstasy!
Queen of the Blade, Lady with the Sword, Avenger and Punisher!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

Focus now on your inner sight and leave the mundane reality behind. Let everything around you dissolve in darkness, and then visualize yourself in a new scenery. You are standing on top of a mountain, facing a path that leads to a rocky cliff. The rocks are dark, almost black, and there is no vegetation apart from thorny vines that mark the path and show you the way. As you follow the path, you notice that the air around you becomes hot and is filled with smoke, making it hard to breathe. When you finally stand on the edge of the cliff, you realize that you are standing on a lonely mountain surrounded by a lake of fire. Envision the goddess emerging from the fiery lava – she is dressed in a warrior's armor, holding the blade of retribution. Her hair is red and flaming, and she has a piercing, fiery gaze. She is also winged, surrounded by a fiery aura, and when she opens her mouth she releases a fiery serpent that enters your mouth as you are trying to breathe in this toxic environment. This feels painful and erotic at the same time, filling your body both with lust and anger. Explore this feeling -

this energy manifests through visions of lust, dreams of adultery and fornication, an increased level of sexual desire (often manifesting as violent and aggressive urges), tendencies to raise conflicts and fights, and so on. You can experience these manifestations both in ritual and in your daily life. In the ritual, let go and follow the vision – imagine the obstacles on your path being set on fire, your enemies melting in the fiery lava, your weaknesses being burned and destroyed. When you feel ready to end the working, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candles, and close the ritual. In your day-to-day life the Lady of Retribution may confront you with situations that will require some sort of action from you, teaching you when to fight and when to wait, how to pass judgment and when to take revenge. It is also possible that these situations will have to do with passion, lust, jealousy, possessiveness, and all sorts of violent emotions having to do with sex and desire.

Day 7

The End of All Flesh

The feminine aspect of Gha'agheblah is connected to earth and the underworld. While the manifestation of the Dark God of Sitra Ahra within this realm destroys the world and leaves the practitioner stripped of all that formed your life until now, the Dark Goddess receives the initiate into her womb, which is represented by the grave and the Underworld. The allegory of Inanna's journey is relevant in both cases, and while the process of stripping her of clothing and jewelry is the work of the masculine aspect of the Smiter, the feminine force ruling this realm is the Underworld itself, step by step absorbing the life force of the goddess until there is nothing left and she is ready to be reborn in a new form. This is the fertile earth and the tomb in which the body is laid to putrefy – the beginning and the end.

The End of Flesh is one of the titles of Lilith. This is a dark form of the goddess, one that we will encounter after the physical death. She ultimately destroys the body and releases the soul, pushing us into the cycle of birth-death-rebirth. By working with her however, we can prepare for this ultimate rite of passage. We can also use this archetype when we need to put a definite end to something in our life, making place for something new to fill that space. She is neither terrifying nor beautiful, good nor evil, fearsome nor gentle – she simply is. She is older than time and all gods known to man, and she presides over all rites of passage and all cycles of the universe.

Begin this working by following the same pattern. Like in the previous project, you will need a piece of cloth that will serve as a "burial shroud." This is connected with the mysteries of the End of Flesh as well – in this manifestation the goddess appears holding a cloth in her hands, which can be both a swaddle for a newborn and a burial shroud for the deceased. When this is prepared, focus on visualizing the Qliphothic Star around you, chant "VOVIN" to raise the Serpent Force, and anoint the sigil on the altar with your blood. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

*Lady of the Underworld, I call to you this night!
Come to me in your terrible beauty and splendor,
And wrap me in your shroud
So I may die to the world of mortals
And awaken to the realm of those who live for eternity.
Show me how to cross the threshold of life and death,
To become All and Nothing,
And receive my sacrifice into your womb that devours everything!
Make me flawless, powerful and unbound by laws of both men and gods!
Destroyer, Primordial One, End of All Flesh!
I call you by the Blood of the Dragon,
And in the name of the Dragon!
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!*

Again, before you start the meditation, wrap yourself in the "burial shroud" and lie down for the meditation, assuming the "coffin position." Close your eyes and let the whole world around you

dissolve in darkness. Then visualize that you are standing on top of stairs leading down, into the underworld – the womb of the Dark Goddess. This time you will not be facing seven gates, but only one. However, what you leave behind will not be collected back. Think of a sacrifice for the Dark Goddess – something in your life that has to be left behind so that something new can arise to take its place. It can be a habit, addiction, something that is a part of your daily life and means a lot to you. Again, this is not about getting rid of what you no longer want, but what you value in your life – it has to be a “sacrifice” – an ultimate rite of passage. The End of All Flesh does not give back what she reaps. It is not a symbolic act, either – what you decide to leave behind has to be removed from your life when you are done with the working. The goddess will create the conditions for you to put your decision into practice and show you that each act of sacrifice releases power and knowledge that is worth the effort. Think about it as you descend down, with each step letting these thoughts come to you and manifest as images or simply insights, and continue the journey until you clearly see what you need to do and how to do it. When you get to the gate, state your intent, declaring your decision to the Lady of the Underworld, and step into her realm. At this point, let the vision flow freely and open yourself for whatever the goddess chooses to show you. When you feel ready to end the working, visualize that you ascend back, free and unbound, ready to face whatever may come to you following your sacrifice.

Take a while to look back at your visions and experiences from all seven days and meditate on what they mean to you, how they affect your life, and how they empower your magical path. Notice the differences and similarities between this work and the masculine aspects of the Seven Heads of the Dragon.