

The Rite of the Spider Goddess

The ritual was a part of the Open Project in April 2015

The workings can be performed separately, on six days in a row, or as one ritual. They are designed to attune your consciousness to the Spider Current of the Void by assuming the god-form of Arachne - the Weaver of the Web that connects all manifestations of the Void, bridging the Tree of Life and the Tree of Death, Darkness and Light, the conscious and the unconscious. The first working opens the gateways for the energies of the Goddess to enter your consciousness, allowing you to assume the spider form and place yourself in the center of the Web. The following four practices are dedicated to self-reflection and analysis of your personal path through meditation on the Four Magical Axioms, also known as the Four Powers of the Sphinx, and their shadow counterparts. The last ritual combines the previous workings into a powerful invocation of the Spider Current. The purpose of the ritual is to introduce the practitioner to the gnosis of Arachne, the Spider Goddess of the Void, through the concepts of Ophidian Venom and Spider Consciousness that are used in this work as self-initiatory tools within the magic of the Left Hand Path.

Prepare your ritual space in the way you feel it is suitable for this work. Place the sigil of the Spider Goddess on the altar. The sigil is provided further in this text - you can print or draw it yourself and it has to be big enough to gaze into comfortably. If you wish to paint it, the recommended colors are black, silver and toxic green - a black sigil on a green background or silver on black will work best for this ritual. On your altar you may also put statues or images that represent the Spider Goddess or spider symbolism - these can be depictions of Arachne, diagrams of spider webs, or simply your personal seals or drawings that are somehow connected to this work. You may also choose to focus on the sigil alone, without any other decorations - this choice is entirely up to you. Apart from the sigil, you will need two candles - one red and one black. You may use more candles to light up the room, if you wish, but these two are perfectly enough. You may also decorate your altar by placing offerings - flowers and poisonous plants representing the venomous nature of the Goddess, a chalice filled with a liquid that has toxic qualities such as absinthe, obsidian skulls, spider jewelry, or other offerings reflecting the spider symbolism or associated with the Ophidian Current. Finally, you will need a wormwood oil to be used in the workings. If you cannot obtain it, feel free to replace it with another oil with similar bitter qualities.

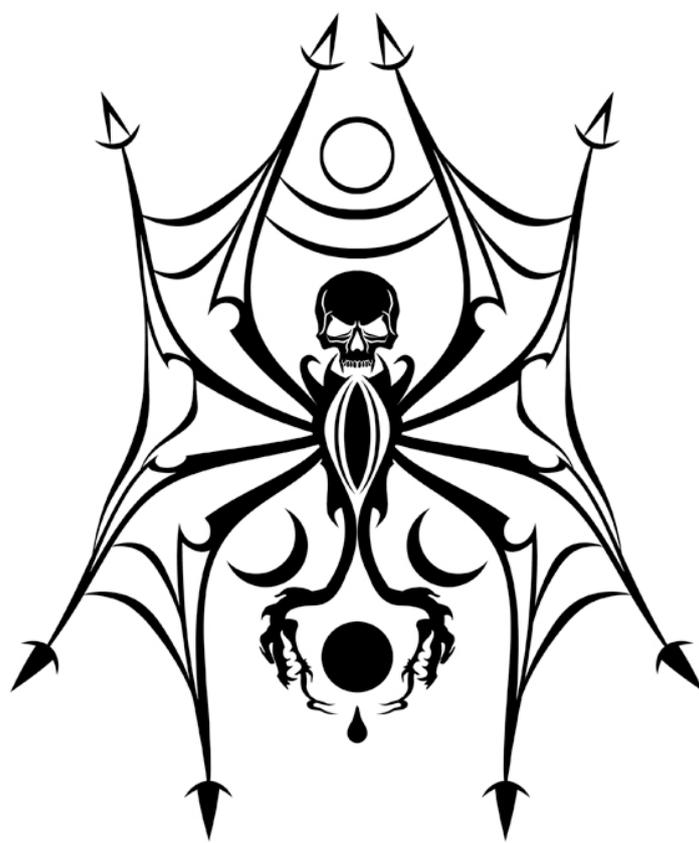
Light the black candle. If possible, this should be the only source of light in the room. Burn a strong incense - Dragon's Blood or the Nile Temple are the best for this work but you may also use your favorite fragrance. Anoint your forehead with the wormwood oil, tracing the shape of an eye. Then sit in a comfortable position and put the sigil of the Spider Goddess in front of you. Do not look at the sigil yet. Instead, focus on the candle. See the flame and the darkness around it. Breathe deeply and each time you exhale, visualize your inner fire, warmth and light leaving your body and merging with the flame. At the same time, visualize that when you inhale, the darkness that surrounds you enters your lungs and spreads throughout the whole body, making it vibrate slightly. Continue this meditation until you become one with this dark essence, losing the sense of everything around.

Then anoint the sigil with your blood to open and activate the gateway to Arachne's Current and focus all your attention on the image. See how the lines become charged and activated with your life substance. Visualize the sigil glowing and flashing with the toxic-green energy of the Spider Goddess. At the same time chant the mantra:

"ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN"

Keep gazing at the sigil until you can easily memorize and visualize its shape. Then blow out the candle and close your eyes. Recall the image in your inner mind and see it crystallizing into the shape

of the Spider Goddess. She is a beautiful woman but Her energy feels savage and predatory, as if She was only wearing a human skin. Her eyes are emerald, She has the forked tongue of a snake and Her hair is made of ghastly serpents, writhing and hissing. She is naked and snakes are coiling around Her. Their venom drips on the ground and turns into smoke - poisonous, toxic and suffocating. It forms into other serpentine shapes and ghastly spiders that swarm around you. In Her hands She is holding a chalice filled with Venom. As you drink the essence of Her Current, you can feel yourself transforming and assuming the form of a spider. For a moment everything disappears you are now alone in the black space, inside a huge spider Web made of threads of silver light. Explore how it feels to be the Spider in the center of the Web, let the visions flow freely and open yourself for the experience. You may also ask the Goddess to teach you how to move through the Web and manipulate the particular threads. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, you may close the working or continue with the next part of the ritual.



The Sigil of the Spider Goddess

The First Power of the Sphinx

The purpose of this working is to invoke the Spider Current and assume the god-form of Arachne to meditate on the first magical axiom - "To Know," and its shadow counterpart - "To Know Not." This concept is associated with the element of Air and mental faculties. It represents intellect, mentality and learning. It is the drive to pursue knowledge, contemplate the universe and our place in it, seek answers to our questions, and evolve through study and experience. It is also associated with seership and vision of things unknown, hidden, existing beyond the scope of mundane perception. The symbolism of this axiom includes the direction of East, youth and the formative years in the life of

man, dawn, and spring in the earth's cycle. Its shadow counterpart, "To Know Not," is usually interpreted in a negative way, but on the other hand, it represents innocence found in the mind of a child that is yet about to explore the world. It is spontaneity and the bliss of discovery, knowledge not subjected to any form of conditioning. This interpretation is especially vital in the magic of the Qliphoth, where we continuously reevaluate what we have learned, often facing the necessity to reject all that we know and learn to look at the universe from completely new angles and perspectives. This possibility appears when we assume the "spider" consciousness - and this is what we will explore in this and the other workings that follow.

If you perform this working as a separate ritual, follow the same procedure as before. Light the black candle and/or burn incense. Anoint your forehead with the wormwood oil, tracing the shape of an eye. Focus on the breathing cycle combined with the candle flame meditation and fill yourself with the essence of darkness. When you are ready to continue, speak the words of invocation. If the working is done as a continuation of the previous practice, simply proceed to the invocation:

**"Arachne, Weaver of the Web,
Open the Gates to the Nightside and lead me into the Womb of the Dragon.
Let me see the world with the Eyes of the Spider,
And show me what it means To Know and To Know Not!"**

Then move your focus to the sigil. Again, chant the mantra of calling: "ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN" until you feel the energies of the Void flowing through the sigil into the room, connecting you with the Goddess and Her Current. Visualize the sigil growing bigger and bigger, until it becomes a huge spider Web around you, and at the same time envision yourself transforming into the Spider. Then stop chanting, blow out the candle and continue the meditation in darkness and silence.

Visualize yourself as the Spider in the center of the Web. It has eight outer points and at the end of each there is a pyramid. There are four bright pyramids shining with silver light and four black pyramids absorbing all light. The bright pyramids represent the four magical axioms in their positive meaning, the black ones - their shadow counterparts. These pyramids stand for the pillars/foundations of your magical path. The purpose of the meditation is to identify them, explore their meaning and understand how they influence your life. Visualize the magical axiom "To Know" on the doors of one of the bright pyramids and "To Know Not" on one of the black ones. Then enter both and explore what this axiom means to you - how it empowers or weakens your personal development. Do not try to feel or live it - *see it* as if you were watching a movie in which you are the main character. Ask yourself questions - Do you put enough time and attention in the process of learning? Do you keep records of what you have learned so that your knowledge will not be lost? What prevents you from learning? What drives you to seek knowledge? What kind of knowledge makes you grow and what is redundant on your personal path? Visualize these questions taking shapes. Observe how they are interconnected and learn to understand these interactions and influence them. Take as much time as you need for this meditation. Close the working or continue with the next part of the ritual.

The Second Power of the Sphinx

The second magical axiom is "To Will" and its shadow counterpart is "To Will Not." This concept corresponds to the element of Fire and represents inspiration and passion. It is enthusiasm that prompts us to action, impulse to create, desire to act. It is the flame behind our intentions and pursuits - the driving force on the magical path. Symbolically, it is associated with the direction of South, adolescence and young adulthood, midday, and summer. Its dark counterpart represents inaction and passive existence in its negative meaning, but it may also be viewed as a mastery of passions and wisdom of how to rule our desires and not to be enslaved by them. Fire itself is ambivalent and its symbolism is interpreted in many ways. Passions can drive us to action and burn obstacles on our way, or they can consume us if we cannot control them. They can make us grow or they can be a tool

of self-destruction. In the Draconian magic, fire is used to purge our intentions, inspire our actions, and destroy that which prevents us from growing, often leaving the landscape of our world bare and black - the empty canvas of the Void on which we can rebuild our personal universe, like a spider spinning its web across empty space.

Start the working as before (black candle meditation, wormwood oil, and so on) or proceed straight to the invocation:

**"Arachne, Seducer and Devourer,
Guide me through the Web of Desires into the Heart of the Void.
Show me the world through the Eyes of the Spider,
And reveal to me what it means To Will and To Will Not!"**

Move your focus to the sigil and start chanting the mantra "ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN." Feel the energies of the Void flowing through the sigil into the room, connecting you with the Goddess and Her Current. Envision that it grows and expands into the huge Web around you, while you are the Spider in the center of the Void. Take as much time as you need to build this image in your mind. Then stop chanting, blow out the candle and continue the meditation in darkness and silence.

Again, envision the eight pyramids at the outer points of the Web. This time focus on the axiom "To Will" visualizing it on the doors of one of the bright pyramids and "To Will Not" on one of the black ones. Then enter both and explore what this axiom means to you and how it empowers or weakens your personal development. Meditate on your passions and desires and ask yourself questions - Are you strong-willed? What inspires you on your path and what puts you off? Are you in control of your desires or do they control you? What drives you to action and magical practice? Do you use your inner fire to overcome obstacles on your path? Can you use it to fight laziness and fatigue? Are you a creative person? Visualize these questions taking shapes and observe how they are interconnected. Learn to understand these interactions, influence them and use them as tools of your personal growth. Let the experience flow freely and take as much time as you need for this meditation. Close the working or continue with the next part of the ritual.

The Third Power of the Sphinx

The third magical axiom is "To Dare" and its dark counterpart is "To Dare Not." It corresponds to the element of Water and the realm of emotions, intuition and psychic faculties such as clairvoyance or clairaudience. It is the mystical and the elusive, dreams and visions, the mystery of what lies beyond the mundane senses. It is also the feminine, as water is the symbol of the Lunar Goddess - the womb, the concept of birth-death-rebirth, the ability to regenerate. Its symbolism is associated with the direction of West, older adulthood and the onset of being elderly, dusk/sunset, and autumn as a season. Magical practices that correspond to the element of Water are those of intuition, scrying, divination, and connection with the Other Side. Magical powers associated with it are those of letting go and floating with the current, or the opposite - directing the energies of the current to manifest our Will. Water can be still and calm, as well as fierce and roaring, ruthlessly taking all that stands in the way. This reflects the idea of "daring," which is also connected with courage, stepping out of our safety zone and confronting our Shadow Self - demons and monsters that lurk in depths of the unconscious. Lack of this audacity may prevent our progress on the path, but "To Dare Not" also means being cautious and taking our steps with consideration and responsibility. It is the wisdom of when to move and when to wait, using our intuition for self-judgment and taking advantage of the best opportunities offered to us by the universe.

Again, start the working as before (black candle meditation, wormwood oil, etc.) or proceed straight to the invocation:

**"Arachne, Spinner of Fates,
Teach me how to weave the Web across the Ocean of Time.**

**Let me gaze through the Eyes of the Spider,
And show me what it means To Dare and To Dare Not!"**

Move your focus to the sigil and start chanting the mantra "ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN." Feel the energies of the Void flowing through the sigil into the room, connecting you with the Goddess and Her Current. Again, envision that it grows and expands into the huge Web around you and visualize yourself as the Spider in the center of the Void. Take as much time as you need to build this image in your mind. Then stop chanting, blow out the candle and continue the meditation in darkness and silence.

Visualize the eight pyramids at the outer points of the Web and the axiom "To Dare" on the doors of one of the bright pyramids and "To Dare Not" on one of the black ones. Then enter both and explore what this axiom means to you and how it empowers or weakens your personal development. Recall situations in which you stood up to confront your personal issues and those when you stepped back from the fight. Did it make you feel strong or weak? What issues are still waiting to be faced? Are you ready to step out of your comfort zone and face the challenges of the path, even if they come with risk? Meditate on your psychic skills and ask yourself questions - Can you use your intuition as a magical tool? Can you gaze into the Other Side and communicate with its denizens? Visualize these questions taking shapes and observe how they are interconnected. Learn to understand these interactions, influence them and use them for your personal growth. Let the experience flow freely and take as much time as you need for this meditation. Close the working or continue with the next part of the ritual.

The Fourth Power of the Sphinx

The fourth magical axiom is "To Keep Silent" and its negative counterpart is "To Speak." This concept is associated with the element of Earth and the symbolism that represents the underworld, the unconscious, or the "buried," repressed parts of the Self. It signifies things solid, material, secure - those foundations of your magical path that are tangible and manifested in your mundane life. It also corresponds to the direction of North, elderly and old age, midnight, and winter. In magical practice the power of the Earth is associated with patience, endurance, inner stillness, grounding, centering, shielding, and the ability to channel energies of other dimensions onto the physical plane. It is the power of manifestation that binds and integrates the other powers into a coherent whole. It is also wisdom and maturity on the path that allows us to recognize situations in which we should keep silent and those that require us to speak. In old magical traditions, boasting about success in magical operations was believed to draw jealous spirits, the evil eye, or other forms of malediction, be it from another magician or the world of spirits. Silence was a virtue also for many other reasons. On the other hand, speech is a power in itself - as a magical tool it can bless or curse. It is also the tool of the teacher that passes secrets of magic to a student. Sharing what we have learned on our path may help others who have not progressed that far yet. It is also a token of gratitude to the universe for revealing its mysteries to us up to this point. Word made flesh is a powerful manifestation of our personal Will, Knowledge and Courage, an important pillar of our personal ascent.

Start the working as before (black candle meditation, wormwood oil, etc.) or proceed straight to the invocation:

**"Arachne, Black Womb of the Universe,
Guide me on the pathways of the Underworld of my Soul,
Let me gaze through illusions of the world with your Spider eyes,
And show me what it means To Keep Silent and To Speak!"**

Again, move your focus to the sigil and start chanting the mantra "ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN." Feel the energies of the Void flowing through the sigil into the room, connecting you with the Goddess and Her Current. Visualize that it grows and expands into the huge Web around you and envision

yourself as the Spider in the center of the Void. Take as much time as you need to build this image in your mind. Then stop chanting, blow out the candle and continue the meditation in darkness and silence.

Visualize the eight pyramids at the outer points of the Web and the axiom "To Keep Silent" on the doors of one of the bright pyramids and "To Speak" on one of the black ones. Then enter both and explore what this axiom means to you and how it empowers or weakens your personal development. Ask yourself questions - Can you use the power of Speech to manifest your Will? Are you grounded and balanced in your magical practice? When do you speak about your work and when do you keep silent? Can you earth what you have learned through this work? Are you patient in your practice? Visualize these questions taking shapes and observe how they are interconnected. Learn to understand these interactions, influence them and use them as tools of your personal growth. Let the experience flow freely and take as much time as you need for this meditation. Close the working or continue with the next part of the ritual.

Invocation of the Spider Goddess

Prepare your temple like in the previous workings. This time you may also choose to include the Sacrament - pour a strong alcohol with toxic/hallucinogenic qualities, possibly absinthe, into the chalice and put it on the altar to represent the Venom of the Spider Goddess. The Sacrament, however, is optional and not absolutely necessary in this ritual.

Anoint your forehead with the wormwood oil. Light the black candle and stand or sit in a comfortable position. Again, begin this practice with the candle meditation to absorb the energies of the Void, and then focus on the sigil and for a moment chant the words of calling: "ARACHNIDIA-KA-RA-AN." Feel the energies flowing through the sigil and Arachne's presence in the temple, awaiting invitation to enter your consciousness and transform it into the Spider. When you feel ready to perform the ritual, begin the invocation:

**In the name of the Dragon,
Primal Source of All Creation,
I open the Gates to the Void to weave the Web of Infinity.
For I am Arachne, the Spider Goddess,
She who opens secret gateways in-between dimensions
And teaches the art of travelling through the pathways of the Spider.
I am Arachnidia,
I am Ka-Ra-An,
She who rises to consume the world in Her Venom.
I am the goddess of a thousand names and a thousand faces.
She who holds all gifts and powers of life and death,
Who weaves Chaos from Order and Order from Chaos.
I am the chalice of Venom and divine Nectar, the source of wisdom and inspiration.
I am the Queen of the Dead and I bring death and rebirth in the Womb of the Dragon.
I am the mother and the destroyer.
I am the black elixir of transformation, change and becoming.
I am the black womb of the universe,
She who delivers all life and devours it when mortal flesh crumbles into dust.
I am the Queen of the Night who wakes the dead and puts the living to eternal sleep.
I am the mother of shadows.
I am the Seducer of Souls and the Devourer of Gods.
I am the Spider that spins the Web across all worlds and dimensions.
I am the mistress of dreams and I guide the soul through realms of nightmares and fantasies.
I am the Serpent, the Spider and the Moon.
Those who seek my knowledge I guide in-between spaces and angles.
Those who do not dare to face me I trap in my Web and devour.**

**I am the mystery of life and death, Light and Darkness, Day and Night.
I spin my Web of Destiny and create my own path to Infinity.
I am the Spinner, the Weaver and the Cutter.
I am Arachne!**

When you finish the words of invocation, blow out the candle and sit or lie down. If you have chosen to include the Sacrament, let it absorb the energies of the ritual and drink it, thus absorbing the essence of the Spider Current. Focus again on the image of the Web and envision yourself as the Spider in the center of the Void. Visualize the eight pyramids, as well, and all eight magical axioms. This time, however, take a step further - visualize that the outer points of the Web move towards you from all around, merging into one pyramid in the center. At first, envision yourself inside of it, then visualize that the pyramid disappears, too, and you are alone in the black space. For a moment everything disappears and then you *become* the Web yourself. Your aura shines with silver light, shooting out countless silvery threads, forming the Web that extends in all directions, no longer limited to eight, but expanding to hundreds or more. These threads connect you to each single moment of your life - past, present and future; each person and object that is a part of it; every step on your path that you have taken so far and are yet about to take. With your multiple spider eyes you can see how they are interconnected, explore the "karmic lessons" behind events and things happening in your life, and you can also influence these events, taking the reins of destiny in your hands. Ask yourself questions about your goals and choices - How are they affecting your life? Are they improving your personal development? How can you make your path more effective, more inspiring, more powerful? Ask the Goddess to guide you through labyrinths of your soul and let Her manifest and speak to you through your inner mind, showing you your personal powers and weaknesses. Open yourself for the experience and let it flow freely.

When you feel it is time to end the meditation, open your eyes and light the red candle. Focus again on the flame, this time reversing the flow of energies - when you exhale, visualize the darkness leaving your body and the fiery energy entering your lungs when you breathe in. Observe your dreams after this meditation - they are a natural vehicle for the Spider Current to manifest - and keep records of your visions, thoughts and observations, especially if the workings are performed separately.

Notes

The name "Arachne" is derived from Greek mythology. According to the famous legend, she was a mortal woman, a weaver proud of her skills, who angered the goddess Athena by challenging her to a weaving contest and was cursed by the goddess to weave for all time. Since that moment Arachne's name has become ascribed to spiders (*Arachnida*), and all spider-like creatures are believed to be her children. The myth, however, has a much greater significance from the esoteric perspective. Her magical image is derived from the Ophidian cults and the Draconian/Typhonian tradition as described, for example, by Kenneth Grant in his *Typhonian Trilogies*. In this tradition, She is a primal Qliphothic goddess, the Queen of Space and the Weaver of the Web in the Void. The Web of Arachne should not be mistaken for a normal spider's web structured upon a plane surface. Extending across the Void, it has an intricate symmetry that links all existing planes and dimensions with infinitely tenuous threads of light, manifesting to a Nightside traveler as a network of tunnels and vortices. It bridges the gulf between the Dayside and the Nightside, waking and dreaming, the conscious and the unconscious.

The Four Powers of the Sphinx are derived from *Transcendental Magic* by the 19th-century French occultist Eliphas Lévi. They are: "To Know," "To Will," "To Dare," and "To Keep Silent." According to Lévi, these are indispensable conditions that a student of occult arts must include in their study. This view was highly influential in various magical philosophies in the previous centuries and incorporated in many occult systems. The Sphinx itself is a mystical and composite symbol - it has the head of a man, the torso and front legs of a lion, the rear end of a bull, and the wings of an eagle. These four creatures, combined into one, represent the union of elements and are associated with the symbolism of the number 4. This symbolism includes the four cardinal directions, the four seasons, the four ages of man, and many others. Within the Sphinx all these elements are balanced, representing the image of the perfected man to which the student of occult arts should aspire, as they constitute the foundations and four pillars of the individual's ascent. On the other hand, the Draconian Initiate perceives the universe in all its aspects, including both the light and the shadow side of all things. Therefore each magical axiom, or power, is also viewed from its negative perspective, thus constituting eight pillars on the Wheel of Fortune instead of four. This view is also discussed in *Time, Fate and Spider Magic* by Orryelle Defenestrade-Basculé, where the author speaks of four negative powers that are equally vital to attaining balance as the four magical axioms. These negative powers are: "To Know Not," "To Will Not," "To Dare Not," and "To Speak." Their meaning and value on the Path of the Dragon are contemplated in this ritual through the "spider" perspective.

The sigil used in the workings represents both the Spider Goddess and the Web of Fates. It includes the symbolism of the number 8, which signifies the eight legs of the spider, the number of the spider's eyes and the eight focal points in the work of the project. The central part of the sigil is symbolic of the lunar nature of the Goddess and represents Her womb out of which She spins Her Web. The feminine character of Her Current is emphasized by the image of the Moon in the four phases of the lunar cycle. The skull represents the aggressive and deadly aspects of the Spider, and the snakes are symbolic of Her Venom that is both the potion of immortality and lethal poison. The thorns in the outer points of the Web signify the number 8 as manifested through the polarity of 4, in this work symbolizing the Four Magical Axioms, or the Four Powers of the Sphinx.