

Temple of Ascending Flame



OPEN PROJECT

Mephisto – Sabbatic Initiator

By Asenath Mason & Temple of Ascending Flame

The following series of workings is dedicated to Mephistopheles, the spirit known from the legend of Faust and the grimoire tradition. The workings included here are derived from *The Book of Mephisto: A Left Hand Path Grimoire of the Faustian Tradition* by Asenath Mason. In medieval and Renaissance sources, Mephistopheles is one of the most popular demonic spirits. As Mephistophiel, he is one of the seven great princes of Hell. It is also said that he was one of the first four angels who rebelled against God and fell from grace. In this context he is mentioned alongside Lucifer, Belial and Leviathan. He is described in Cornelius Agrippa's writings, as well as in many sixteenth-century grimoires, where he performs many roles and is ascribed many different functions. He can help a magician make a pact with Lucifer, open the gates to the Other Side, explore the archetypes of the Adversary and the Dark Initiator, and a lot more.

In this project, we will focus on his role of the Sabbatic Initiator. For this reason, the culminating ritual is to be done on the last day of April, which is "Walpurgis Night," or Witches' Night – the time when witches traditionally met for nocturnal gatherings to perform blasphemous ceremonies. For instance, in *Faust: A Tragedy* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Mephistopheles leads Faust to the Harz Mountains where witches, demons and sorcerers gather for the Walpurgis Night Sabbat on the Brocken mountain, and they both take part in a traditional wild and orgiastic ceremony that is performed there by devils, witches and creatures of the night. This idea is reproduced here through the following series of workings. In the first one we will open the gates to the spirit's current. In the second we will meet Mephisto in his Luciferian aspect of the Dark Initiator. In the third one we will invoke him to activate our astral senses. And finally, in the last ritual we will travel with him to the astral Sabbat. All workings should be done individually, at any hour of the evening/night. The last one has to be performed on Walpurgis Night, preferably at midnight. Ideally, you should do the entire project outdoors, but if it is not possible, you can also do it in your home temple.

About Mephisto

Mephistopheles is mostly known from the myth of Faust, and in occult literature he appeared first at the close of the Middle Ages. His name is believed to be either derived from the Hebrew words

mephitz - "distributor" and *tophel* - "slanderer" or from Greek *me* as a negation, *phos* - "light," and *philis* - "loving," meaning "not loving light" or "fleeing from light." In Western occultism, he is known as Faust's attendant and the spirit of his ascent and damnation. The story of Faust is a tale of initiation in which Mephistopheles is the initiator acting on behalf of Lucifer. He ignites in Faust's heart the desire of knowledge and power and shows him the path that can make him greater than any common man. It is the initiation of the Left Hand Path - the desire of man to be a god. Mephistopheles performs to Faust the role of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden - he initiates him into the path of liberation, offers the fruits from the Tree of Knowledge, and reveals secrets of creation and destruction. In the Faustian Tradition, he is the manifestation of the Adversary, the "spirit of contradiction," who questions, reverses values, destroys old viewpoints, and plants seeds of doubt and hesitation. He turns the old world-order upside down to allow creation of a new one. The story of Faust, apart from the medieval legends, also derives from the biblical tale of Job and the ordeal of faith and will. It is the Devil, the Adversary, who invents challenges and trials to test determination of the Initiate, and without this ordeal initiation would not be possible. The world-order is not complete when it lacks the essential principle of contradiction. In this interpretation, Mephistopheles is "the spirit that denies," the Faustian equivalent of the original force of misrule, disorder and contradiction that appears in all accounts of Creation, in many forms and under many disguises. It is the same principle of misrule that was personified by the Serpent in the Garden of Eden, identified usually with Lucifer/Samael, but generally associated with the Adversary of the Left Hand Path. The Adversary initiated Adam and Eve into mysteries of knowledge and caused the fall of the angels, who descended to earth to take daughters of man as their wives. The fallen angels, known as the Watchers, taught people secrets that until that point had been the domain of the divine: knowledge about weapons, herbs, magical spells, divination, etc. This fall of the angels was necessary in the act of Creation, as it provided the descent of energy into matter, and thus allowed for all manifestation in the material world. It was the Adversary that showed man the path to Godhood and taught people how to release their hidden potential. Mephistopheles is a personification of the Adversary in the Western culture. He is the spirit of eternal progress and movement, acting against cosmic order and inspiring the desire of transcendence in the heart of man.

Preparations

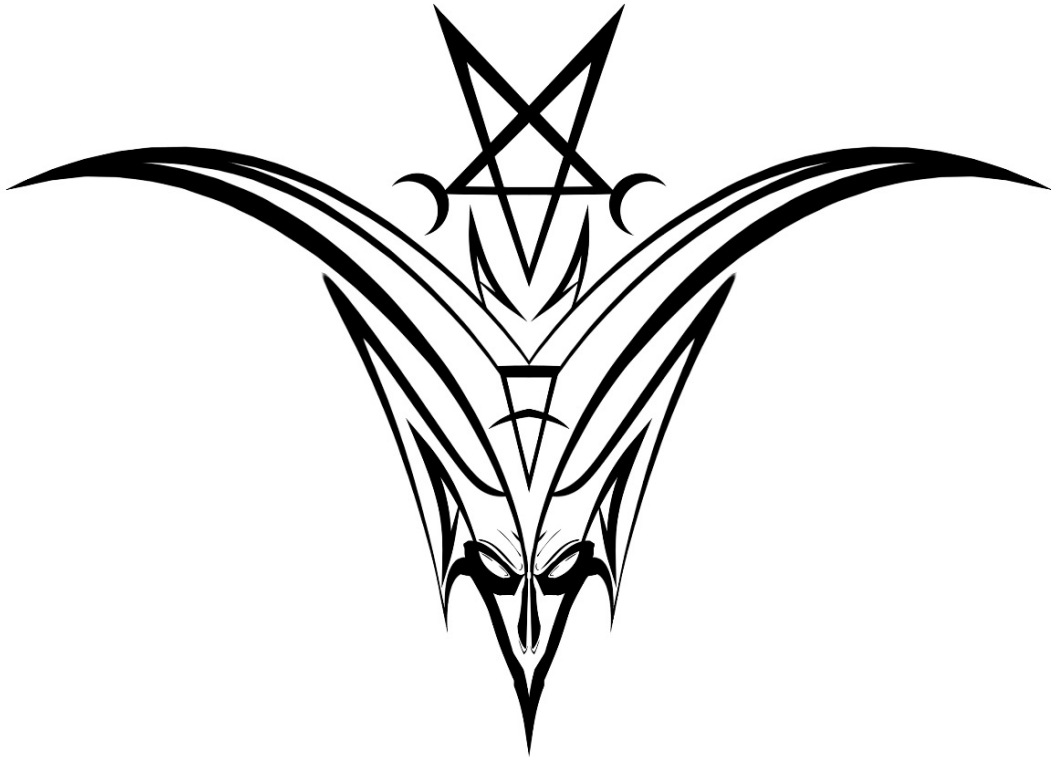
- **Prepare the sigil for the workings.** It is provided on the next page. The sigil represents Mephisto as the Left Hand Path initiator. The lower part resembles a demonic face and refers to depictions of the spirit in old books of magic. The upper part includes an inverted pentagram, symbolic of the descent of gnosis and the earthing of the current, while the crescent moons refer to the lunar nature of the spirit's energy and signify his role of the astral initiator. The sigil should be silver on black, but you can also experiment with golden or brown colors.

- **Prepare the Mask of Mephistopheles.** It is provided later in this document. It can be made from paper or another material of your choice. An alternative solution is to simply paint your face to resemble the face of the spirit. The colors recommended for it are black, red and white. Feel free to be as creative as you want. Using masks in rites of invocation has a long tradition and helps us assume the consciousness, powers and senses of spirits and deities, leaving our mundane, human consciousness aside. In this project we will work with the mask of Mephisto to experiment with this idea.

- **Prepare a potion to be drunk in the last ritual.** You can make a witch's potion by adding some magical herbs to wine or another alcohol of your choice. If you do not want to or cannot drink alcohol, this can be simply water mixed with herbs or herbal tea such as mugwort. The easiest solution is to mix some red wine with consecrated mugwort and leave it for a few hours to acquire magical qualities. Again, this is left to your choice and creativity.

- Create an altar or some kind of magic space for the workings. You will need 11 black candles, a bloodletting device (the sigil needs to be anointed with a few drops of your blood), a mirror, some incense, and any other ritual tools you want to use for this work.

The Sigil of Mephisto



Day 1

Opening the Gates to Mephisto's Current

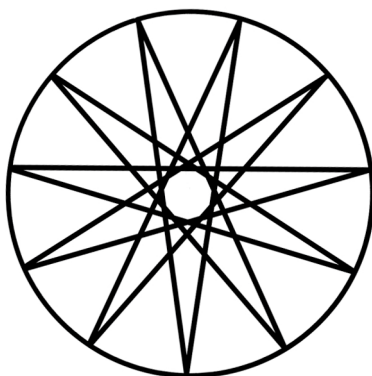
In this working, we will open the gateways to the current of Mephistopheles and call him to be our guide and teacher in our explorations of the Other Side.

Prepare 11 black candles and put them on the altar. Place the sigil of the spirit in front of you or hold it in your hand. It needs to be big enough so you can gaze at it comfortably, without straining your eyes. Burn some strong incense on charcoal (preferably musk or opium), light the candles, and begin the ritual.

Start by casting a circle of transformation and manifestation. The circle does not protect you from the dark forces, though. On the contrary, it serves as a point of focus for the energies of the Other Side. You can do it by rotating or walking, holding the censer in your hand to mark your ritual space with the sacred smoke, and chanting:

Zazas, Zazas, Nasatanada Zazas!

As you do that, feel the temple being filled by the shadow energies of the Other Side rising around you and enclosing your ritual space by a circle of living darkness. Then face your altar and with your ritual blade draw an inverted pentagram or the eleven-pointed Qliphothic Star in front of you and visualize it burning fiercely with dark amber-colored flames.



The Qliphoth Star

Then recite the following words:

**May the powers of the Above and the Below enter this temple
And illuminate the obscurity of my being!
May the gates of the night unlock for me
And the womb of darkness open up to receive me
As I seek to enter the infernal kingdom.
I call the guardian of the doorway, Mephistopheles,
To grant me passage into the Nightside of Creation.
I seek to pass through the door,
To taste the communion of life and death,
And to emerge reborn and baptized in the light of the Black Sun!**

Focus now on the sigil of Mephistopheles, the infernal messenger, who will guide you into realms of darkness. Place a few drops of your own blood on the sigil to activate it as a gateway, and feel the darkness within you stir and rise forth from the depth of your inner mind. Keep gazing at the sigil until you can easily memorize and visualize its shape. It is not only the gate to the Other Side but also connects you with the other participants of the project, performing the same working in different parts of the world. Visualize them as standing/sitting in the circle around you, as black shadows with dark faces.

Then visualize the black figure of Mephistopheles standing in front of a huge flaming gate. The gate is in the shape of the pentagram or the eleven pointed Qliphothic star, depending on what you choose to work with. Envision it growing in front of you and call Mephistopheles to guide you through the portal:

Mephisto, I call you to be my guide and initiator into the mysteries of the night!

You can expand this calling and add some personal words. Then let the temple sink into absolute darkness. Extinguish the candles and breathe in the shadow energy that surrounds you. Let it merge with your mind and fill your body from the feet to the top of your head. Let go of light and become one with the living darkness around you. In this form visualize that you pass the gate following Mephistopheles. As this happens, say the following words:

**In the name of Mephistopheles, the Dark Initiator,
I sacrifice myself as I enter the Other Side,
Stripped from my mundane form,
And ready to be transformed in the womb of darkness!**

Then open yourself for whatever may happen. At this point do not force any visualizations but let go and flow with the experience. Pay attention to your thoughts, emotions, visions, and whatever may come to you in this meditation. Let yourself be transformed by the darkness inside you and embrace the transformation, no matter what form it will take for you. When you feel ready to end the meditation, open your eyes, take a few deep breaths and close the working for the day.

Day 2

Meeting the Dark Initiator

For this working you will need the mask and a mirror – it can be a black mirror or a regular one. The black mirror is better, because it gives a different kind of reflection. The choice is up to you, though. Do not put the mask on yet. At first, you will only consecrate it and meditate on its attributes, trying to evoke the spirit through it. Prepare everything as you did on the previous day. Light the candles, burn some incense, and begin the ritual. Connect yourself to the other participants by focusing on the sigil. Then proceed to the actual working.

Focus for a moment on the mask. Anoint it with a few drops of your blood, just like the sigil on the previous day, and gaze at it, visualizing that the mask is no longer just an object but the living face of the spirit. See how it becomes alive and begins to morph into the actual spirit face. If you have chosen to paint your own face instead of creating a mask, do the same consecration and visualization while gazing at the mirror.

At the same time chant the following words of calling:

**Dark Initiator, swift and cunning Mephistopheles,
I call upon your name this night!
Come into this sacred space and witness my transformation!
Let me see through your eyes,
And fill my dreams with the visions of knowledge and power!
Come, Mephisto, and be my guide and companion as I discover the secrets of the universe!
I call you by fire and blood, and in the name of Lucifer!
Hail Mephistopheles!
Fiat Nox!**

When you speak these words, put the mask on your face. As you do it, feel how your awareness immediately shifts, and you are no longer the same person as before. The spirit's senses are overriding yours now, consuming the rest of your mundane consciousness. Focus on how it feels to be one who walks between darkness and light, being neither and both at the same time – neither a spirit nor human any more, yet both at the same time.

Then face the mirror. Focus on your eyes and see the essence of light and darkness existing simultaneously within you. Feel your intimate connection to the dark spirits that dwell beyond the gate of the Other Side. Meditate on what it is like to look through the eyes of Mephistopheles and open yourself to whatever may come to you now. When you feel ready, speak the following words:

**I am as Mephistopheles - the essence of darkness embodied.
As (your magical name), I am the living essence of light and darkness.**

**I am the Adversary and the Dark Initiator.
My will has become flesh through my self-sacrifice at the gate of the Other Side.
The seeds of wisdom I have found in the dark shall be the fruits of my illumination!
So it is done!**

Take off the mask, extinguish the candles and close the ritual with a few personal words.



The Mask of Mephistopheles

Day 3

Invocation of Mephisto

In this ritual, we will invoke Mephistopheles as a Luciferian initiator and focus on activating the astral senses by assuming his consciousness. For this working you will also need the chalice filled with the sacrament. Red wine or water will work best. If you want, you can already create a magic potion for this ritual – the same that will be used on the next day.

When all is prepared, light the candles, burn the incense, and begin the working.

Focus again on the sigil of Mephisto to connect yourself to the other participants. At the same time, repeat the following calling several times, like a mantra:

**Mephisto, spirit of liberation and destroyer of illusions,
Open for me the gates of the night!**

The expression “the gates of the night” refers both to astral gateways and to the inner “gates” – i.e. the astral senses. As you chant, feel his energies flowing through the sigil and his presence manifesting in the ritual space, awaiting invitation to enter your consciousness. When you feel ready to continue, put on the mask of Mephistopheles and speak the following invocation. It is spoken as if you were already him – it is a powerful technique allowing for identification with the spirit on the subconscious level.

**I am Mephistopheles,
Spirit of Misrule,
Lord of Darkness.**

**I am the Adversary who opens the eyes of man for the secrets of forbidden wisdom.
I am the Black Dragon who devours light.
I am the Trickster who tests and challenges man on the path of Lucifer.
I am the Initiator and guide on the pathways of the Nightside,
Spirit of denial and contradiction,
He who acts against law and order
And inspires the longing for knowledge and power.
I am the shadow of man and companion in joy and misery,
The jester and the bringer of melancholy,
Faithful friend and sworn enemy.
I am the spirit of pacts and the agent of salvation and damnation.
I am the Devil of the legends of man,
And the spirit of trickery and mischief.
I extinguish the light that blinds man and hinders the true vision of the universe.
I appear at the crossroads of desire and despair.
I tempt man with the promise of transcendence,
And with the vision of pleasure, glory and wealth.
I have many names, masks and guises.
I am the Truth and I am the Lie.
I am the destroyer of the false and the hypocrite,
And the ally to those who walk the path between light and shadow.
I am the spirit of enlightenment,
And I support all learning, arts and sciences.
I am as quick as a thought.
I ignite the desire of freedom in the heart of man,
I seduce and tempt to seek treasures of knowledge in the darkness of the soul.
I am the lord of the material world.
I am the serpent in the garden of innocence.
I am Wisdom, Power and Will.
I am Mephistopheles.**

When you finish the words of the invocation, drink the sacrament and begin to gaze into the mirror. Envision that the mask is no longer a separate object but a part of you, and imagine that you are merging with Mephisto and become one with him – his senses are your senses and his powers are yours to explore now. Then visualize yourself as Mephisto – feel free to imagine your astral form as you wish: it can be a human body with demonic features, a living shadow, your dark twin, or maybe something else – a black dragon or a classical representation of the Devil. Mephisto can assume all these forms, and so can you under the influence of his consciousness. Look at the room around you through the eyes of the spirit and see how your perception has changed. Forget about your mundane identity and fully identify with the astral form you have created. You will need it to travel to the astral Sabbat in the next ritual. Embrace any thoughts or emotions that may come with this experience and let your instincts guide you through it. When the transformation is complete, remember this feeling so you can easily recall it in your further work with the spirit.

Day 4

Journey to the Astral Sabbat

This working has to be performed at night, preferably at midnight, to honor the Walpurgis Night tradition. It refers to the description of the Sabbat in Goethe's *Faust*, and the pathworking is also designed on the basis of the scene from the book. Here you will need the magic potion, the sigil of the spirit, and the mask of Mephistopheles.

Begin this ritual as before – light the candles, burn the incense, and focus for a moment on the sigil to connect with the other participants. When you feel ready, stand in front of the altar, and recite the following calling:

**Spirits of darkness and astral shades!
I summon you, phantoms and creatures of the night!
Guide me to the place of the Unholy Sabbat!
Mephistopheles, spirit of the air, lead me between the realms of dreaming and waking!
Hecate, Lady of the Crossroads, let me enter the gate and find my way through the night!
On wings of rapture I seek to face the ecstasy enfleshed!
Dark familiars, let me fly with you to the place of the nocturnal gathering!**

Then put on the mask of Mephistopheles and for a moment gaze at the mirror. Recall what it felt like to be him and see through his eyes. Evoke that feeling in you and become one with the spirit, assuming his astral form, like you did on the previous day. At this point drink the potion from the chalice and sit or lie down in a comfortable position. Take a few deep breaths, leave the mundane reality behind you, and focus on the following visualization.

Visualize that you are alone in the forest. It is dark and the midnight hour approaches. Suddenly a will-o'-the-wisp appears in front of you, flickering with bright light. It seems to be inviting you to follow, and you let it guide you through the forest. The atmosphere of the place is magical, but there is something ominous in the air. It is the night of witchcraft.

The will-o'-the-wisp leads you to the crossroads. It suddenly disappears, but you feel someone's presence nearby. A dark figure of a black-haired woman emerges from the shadows and presents you with a small vial with a green liquid in it. You open the vial and drink the potion. At first, you feel as if you have drunk poison. Waves of pain and heat flow through your body, and you fall on the ground. Lying on your back you gaze at the sky above. The clouds move away and the pale face of the full moon appears in the sky. It is beautiful and enchanting, but suddenly it turns red as if it was dripping blood. At the same time you lose control over your body. You are transforming into a beast of the forest and your whole body is pulsating. You rise up from the ground and feel that a pair of wings is growing suddenly out of your back. The transformation is complete.

The moon turns black now and the will-o'-the-wisp returns to light up your way. It is now flying high above the trees. You spread your wings and follow your guide through the air. You see hundreds of flickering lights around you and you hear wild calls and sounds of strange music coming from the distance. You fly above forests, rivers, meadows, and through thick mist. You pass witches on their brooms and warlocks on black steeds. They are all flying to a meadow on a high mountain where hundreds of bonfires are burning, and those who are already there, are dancing to the rhythm of the strange, non-human music. You enter a circle of celebrants and notice a black horned figure in the center and the black-haired woman, the same that gave you the potion. She takes you by the hand and invites to join the infernal ceremony. You approach the circle and feel how your human instincts disappear and are replaced by wild bestial impulses. Follow the Black Man and his witch consort, enter the circle and join the savage, orgiastic celebration.

When all is over, go to the silver lake and wash yourself. As you do that, you are immediately transported to the forest, to the place where you started the journey. The night is over and you see the red blaze of the rising sun at the horizon.

Take a while to meditate on all you have experienced throughout the project. Let this final meditation be a time of reflections and perhaps new inspirations in your spiritual journey on the Path of the Dragon.

When you feel ready to finish the ritual, close it with the words:

And so it is done!

Materials in this project were derived from *Draconian Ritual Book* and *The Book of Mephisto* by Asenath Mason

<https://www.becomealivinggod.com/asenathmason/mephisto/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Draconian-Ritual-Book-Asenath-Mason/dp/1535272384/>