

Temple of Ascending Flame



OPEN PROJECT

The Many Faces of Set

By Asenath Mason & Temple of Ascending Flame

This open project is centered on Set, the self-created Lord of the Left Hand Path, and his many masks and faces that are assumed by the Initiate on the Draconian Path in the process of self-deification. In this set of workings we will explore five of them, but there are many more which you will encounter, or perhaps have already encountered, through your personal work with this ancient and multifaceted god-form. All rituals and meditations included here, as well as the sigil, were written and designed by the Temple of Ascending Flame, inspired by myths and legends of Set and based on the inner work of the group. They are a continuation of the open project from 2014, *The Flaming Star of Set*, and include the concept of the pentagram as the central focus of the whole work. Therefore, if you want to explore the role of Set as a Draconian Initiator, it is recommended that you do both projects, and if you didn't participate in the previous one, you can download it from the "materials" section of our website.

The project contains 6 workings which have to be done individually on 6 days in a row, at any hour of the evening/night. As Set is the Prince of Darkness and his energies are naturally accessed at nighttime, it is not recommended to do the workings during the day. The purpose of the project is to awaken the consciousness of Set, the powerful archetype of self-deification, by assuming his chosen masks and exploring the role he performs for the Initiate on the Path of the Dragon. This is a self-initiatory work of inner transformation and self-empowerment. The first working will open the gate to the current of Set, attuning your consciousness to his energies. The following five workings will invoke the consciousness of the god in his chosen forms and aspects, i.e. The Isolator, Lord of the Desert, Initiator of the Inner Flame, God of Storms, and the Watcher, allowing the practitioner to experience and absorb his powers and qualities in the process of self-deification.

About Set

Set is an archetype of the Adversary, the God of Storm and Change, the principle of dynamic transformation. He is an ancient Egyptian deity, originally the god of the desert, the scorching rays of the sun and the patron of outlanders. The exact meaning of his name is unknown, but it is often translated as "the one who dazzles," "pillar of stability" or "one who is below." As a god of the desert, Set was related to sand storms and deadly powers of the sun. Because of the extreme desert climate, he was considered a very powerful deity, one of the main gods in the entire pantheon, and he was also the patron deity of the Hyksos dynasty who worshipped him as the chief god. His other names were e.g. Setesh, Sutekh, Setekh, Seti, Suti, Set-Hen, and Smai. Because of the word "Teshherit," which in Egyptian means "desert" and is very close to the word "Teshher," meaning the red color, Set came to be associated with all that was red - red desert, red sun, red flames, and red hair with which he was often depicted in art. His most familiar depiction, however, is an unknown animal or a Typhonic beast with a curved snout, square ears, forked tail, and canine body, which bears no resemblance to any known animal.

In the Egyptian myths of the Underworld, Set was the defender of Ra during the journey through the realm of the dead, slaying the enemies of the Sun God every day while travelling with him in the Barque of Millions of Years. Apart from being a powerful and dangerous deity, Set was also a benevolent god, often associated with sexuality and virility. He was also a friend of the dead, the crowner of pharaohs and the patron god of soldiers and warriors. With the appearance of the well-known story of Osiris and Isis (he killed Osiris and dismembered him so that he could not be resurrected) Set came to be associated with violence and disorder and became the Adversary. The Greeks identified Set with Typhon, the primordial dragon-monster and attributed to him such events as eclipses,

thunderstorms and earthquakes. In this sense, he embodied the forces of chaos as opposed to forces of natural order. For this reason he was also often identified with Apep (Apophis), another primordial serpent. But in other myths, Set himself fights the Serpent together with other gods who assist the Sun God in his journey to the Underworld. As the opponent of Osiris, he is a symbol of strife and dynamism, as opposed to comfort and stagnation. As the one who defeats Apep, he is the emblem of triumph over blind chaos. One of his names is Set-Heh, meaning "God of Infinite Future." This represents his function as the Initiator of the Path to Infinity, the one who awakens the Dragon force within and lifts it to the stars, so that man could become one's own Creator. Therefore, he is one of the most powerful archetypes of the Lords of the Left Hand Path. He is not born in a natural way but he rips himself violently out of his mother's womb - tearing out his way to manifestation as a self-created being. He slays Osiris, which is symbolic of the defeat of stasis and shattering of old thought patterns, the triumph over Death itself. His fiery nature represents lust, fury and passion - the force of desire which is the driving force on the path. His Black Flame is the Divine Fire, the inner spark of Godhood that through the work of the Left Hand Path becomes the fiery pillar of ascent and the center of awakened consciousness. Some of these roles of Set will be explored in this project, others are left for you to discover and work with on your own.

The pentagram of Set



The pentagram of Set is the primary symbol of the Lord of Darkness. The pentagram itself has a wide symbolism and many associations within various cultures, magical traditions and ritual systems. While the upright symbol traditionally represents the triumph of spirit over matter, the inverted star is associated with "evil," the Left Hand Path, the dark and sinister magic, and the reversal of "the proper order of things." It is a symbol of Baphomet, the goat of black magic, whose horns are represented by the two upper points of the pentagram, the ears by those on the right and left, and the beard by the lowest point at the bottom. It is the symbol of "the Devil," the Adversary and the antinomian path "against the natural order." Also, its five points have been attributed to many different concepts corresponding to the number five and its symbolism. In our previous open project, we explored the five points of the pentagram as representing the five psychic senses in the "Dragon" body of the practitioner, corresponding to the five senses in the physical body. Awakened and activated, they formed the sixth flame, which is the Inner Flame that within the Setian tradition is known as the Black Flame, the symbol of isolated consciousness on the path of self-deification. The pentagram itself is also a symbol of the soul entering the Underworld, or in a metaphorical sense, the descent into the subconscious, the very core of the Self, where the Inner Flame is ignited in the self-initiatory process on the Path of the Dragon. In this project, we will use the pentagram as a focal point of the rituals as well, this time placing the chosen masks of Set in its five points and the practitioner in the center. This will set up the ritual space and provide a sort of a magic circle for the communion of energies, establishing the magician as the central point of the whole operation.

The sigil of Set

The sigil used in this project refers to Set as the Adversary, the God of Storm and Change, the principle of dynamic transformation, and one of the most powerful archetypes of the Lords of the Left Hand Path. It shows him rising in flames from an inverted pentagram, which refers to the Initiate on the path of fire using the Serpent Force as a vehicle of ascent. The eye in the center of the sigil represents the Eye of the Dragon, the center of awakened and self-deified consciousness.



Items needed for the project

- **The sigil of Set** (It should be printed or drawn on paper or another material of your choice, preferably in black color on a red background or in red on black. Make it big enough to gaze into comfortably, without straining your eyes.)
- **The pentagram** (You need to perform the workings within the pentagram, therefore you can either draw it on the ground or on a piece of cloth or another material that you can put on the floor and sit comfortably within. If you have experience in astral magic, you can simply create the pentagram around you on the astral plane.)
- **Five black candles** (Each one represents a different mask/face of Set. Light only one in each ritual, except for the first working when you will need all five. Place them around you in five points of the pentagram.)
- **Strong, aromatic incense** (Dragon's Blood, the Nile Temple, Frankincense, Myrrh, or another fragrance of your choice.)
- **A tool to draw blood** (This can be a dagger, knife, razor, lancet, etc., and it is enough to draw a few drops only, no larger amounts are needed. The blood of the practitioner is a vital component of this work, as it opens inner gateways within your consciousness and serves as a symbolic act of self-sacrifice, leaving place for initiation and transformation.)

Feel free to prepare the ritual space in the way you feel is suitable for this work. On your altar you can place statues or images representing Set - these can be ancient depictions, modern images, or simply your personal seals or drawings. You may also choose to focus on the sigil alone, without any other decorations - this choice is entirely up to you. Other tools that you use in your daily work or in your personal work with Set can be included as well.

Day 1

Opening Gates to the Current of Set

Light all five candles and stand or sit in the center of the pentagram. Put the sigil of Set in front of you and gaze at it for a while. If you use music for meditation, the recommended choice is Emme Ya *Hau-Hra - Hymns of Adoration to Seth-Apep*. Anoint the sigil with a few drops of your blood and focus all your attention on it. See how the lines of the sigil become charged and activated with your life substance. Visualize it glowing and flashing with the fiery energies of Set, morphing into a gate for the current of Set to enter your temple. At the same time chant the word: **"Setnakt"** (Set is mighty) as a mantra, silently or aloud.

Keep gazing at the sigil until you can easily memorize and visualize its shape. It is not only the gate to the current of the god, but it 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. At the same time visualize that the pentagram around you burns with fire, protecting you from all that does not belong in the ritual space and making the mundane world fade and drift away. When you feel that the atmosphere in your ritual space has changed and is charged with the energies of Set's fiery current, speak the following invocation:

**"In the name of the Dragon,
Primal Source of All Creation,
And by blood and fire,
I open the gates to the Current of Set,
And I invoke the great Sut-Hek,
The Red One,
The Furious One,
Lord of Storm and Change,
The Isolator and the Watcher,
Lord of the Desert,
And Initiator of the Inner Flame.
Answer my calling and enter my being!
Guide me on the path of isolation and power!
And dwell here in this place that is the temple of my mind!
For I am your son/daughter.
I have wandered through the night to find you in the depths.
I am Erbeth and I walk the path of earthquakes and thunder,
I am Bolchosedh and I dwell within the Seven Stars,
I am Pakerbeth and I order my own Becoming,
And I am Set-Heh - eternal, isolated and mighty in magic!
Set dwells in my heart,
And I am Set.
XEPER-I-SET!
In Nomine Draconis,
Ho Drakon Ho Megas!"**

Then, close your eyes and focus on your inner sight. Breathe deeply and visualize that the pentagram burning around you moves and morphs as you breathe - the flames move toward you as you inhale and move away when you exhale, each time becoming higher and brighter. And finally, you are surrounded by a fiery wall that moves and breathes with you. Envision that from this fire emerges Set, the self-created god. He is black and dressed in gold garments, with the bestial mask covering his true face. In his hand he is holding the Was scepter, the symbol of power and dominion, and he hands it to you, inviting you to embrace his power. Ask him to guide you on the path of self-initiation and open yourself to whatever he may show or tell you. 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.

Day 2 The Isolator

The purpose of this working is to experience the consciousness of Set as the Isolator – the primary initiator on the Left Hand Path, the path of self-creation. This mask of Set refers to the myth in which Set does not wait to be born in a natural way, but tears himself violently from his mother's womb. In this tale, Set is the third of the five children of Nut, the goddess of the sky and the mother of the gods. Instead of being born in the normal manner, as his siblings were born, he rips his mother's womb and emerges to the world as a self-created being. From the LHP perspective, this provides a powerful model of self-initiation. This mask is represented by the first flame of the pentagram, and symbolically, by the black candle at the first point (see the image of the pentagram).

Begin this working in a similar way as the day before: prepare the temple and light the candle – this time only one - at the left upper point of the pentagram. Keep the sigil of Set close as well, and if you wish, anoint it with your blood to strengthen the connection. This is not necessary, though, because the sigil is already active, but you may do so if you choose. Again, envision yourself in the center of the burning pentagram. Breathe deeply and slowly. For a while focus on how the flames move and grow with your breath and feel the fire rising inside you - from the soles of your feet, through the spine, up to the top of your head.

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

**"Mighty Sut-Hek,
First among the gods,
Isolator and Initiator,
Enter my being and become one with me,
For I seek to become one with you.
Guide me on the path of self-creation,
And teach me the mysteries of Becoming!
Make my Will strong and fill my heart with Desire!
Setnakt!
Set is Mighty!"**

Then sit in a comfortable position and focus all your attention on the flame of the candle. Envision that it grows and morphs, eventually forming into the shape of Set himself. He steps forward and hands you a knife, *Pesh-Khent*, which is one of his symbols. The Pesh-Khent knife in ancient Egypt was used to cut the umbilical cord and to open the mouth during the Opening of the Mouth Ceremony. Therefore, it is connected with mysteries of both birth and death, which are a part of the initiatory process on the Left Hand Path. It is a symbol of birth and rebirth, destiny and isolation. Use it to cut the ties to all that binds you to the mundane world so that you can enter the Night of Set pure and liberated from what confines you in your life. Take as much time as you need for this meditation. At the same time, envision yourself as Set - let his energy become your energy, his senses become your senses, and his power become your power. Feel this force flowing through your veins and his thoughts filling your mind until you feel that you are one with him. At this point let the vision flow freely and open yourself to whatever may come. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candle, and finish the working for the day.

Observe how this consciousness may affect you after the ritual as well – your thoughts, emotions, the way you see the world around you, and so on. The very purpose of this work is to initiate a change in your consciousness, so keep an open mind and let the consciousness of the Isolator transform you as you should be transformed. Write down all that you may experience during and after the working and keep it in your records.

Day 3

Lord of the Desert

In this working we will invoke the Lord of the Desert. The word “desert” in the mysteries of Set has many meanings and can be interpreted in a number of ways. In ancient myths, Set is the lord of all that is alien, hostile and threatening. The desert in this sense is seen as a place of the scorching sun and sandstorms that bring death to humans and animals as opposed to the fertile soil and waters of the Nile represented by such deities as e.g. Osiris. In the Qabalah, “the Desert of Set” is a term associated with the Abyss, and in this interpretation it is a place of desolation, emptiness, the void. It is also connected with absence of all that is considered as safe and familiar, which puts the Initiate through harsh tests of Will, integrity and persistence. All this and much more can manifest while working with Set as the Lord of the Desert.

Again, begin this working by preparing your ritual space, and light the second black candle – at the lowest point of the pentagram. Focus for a while on the sigil of Set, connecting with his current, and visualize yourself in the center of the burning pentagram. See how it moves and grows with each breath you take, and feel the heat rising within you as well. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

**"Great Sutuach,
Lord of the scorching sun and the red desert sands,
God of outlanders and all that lies beyond the world as we know it,
Powerful and isolated,
Enter my being and become one with me,
For I seek to become one with you.
Guide me through the desert into the core of your inner sanctum,
Overcome my weakness with your strength!
Fill my heart with courage and my mind with persistence!
And let me find my true self as I come into being!
Setnakt!
Set is Mighty!"**

When you finish the invocation, sit in a comfortable position and focus all your attention on the flame of the candle. Again, envision it growing and morphing, eventually forming into the shape of Set – the red Lord of the Desert. He steps forward, opens his mouth and devours everything around you – the temple, the surroundings, and finally the whole universe. You are now alone in a dark and empty space, where nothing exists and all comes into being. This is the Desert of Set, the Void, the Womb of the Dragon. Think of all that stands in your way to achieving what you want on your magical path. Let it form into shapes in front of you and then dissipate in the blackness that surrounds you. Think of all that you want to achieve and give it form, manifesting it in front of you on the black canvas of the void and embracing as part of your newly created world. Take as much time as you need for this meditation. At the same time, envision yourself as Set and feel this force flowing through your veins and his thoughts filling your mind until you feel that you are one with him. Open yourself to whatever he may show you and go wherever the vision takes you. When you feel it is time to end the meditation, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candle, and finish the working for the day. Again, pay attention to any manifestations of this consciousness in your day-to-day life following the ritual. Write down all that you think is important and keep it in your records.

Day 4

Initiator of the Inner Flame

This working is focused on Set as the Initiator of the Inner Flame. This is a modern interpretation of his role in the initiatory process on the Left Hand Path. The inner flame, or the black flame, is the center of consciousness within the Initiate, and it is also the source of power and god-like potential within each human being. This corresponds to the Dragon's Fire or the Serpent Force in the Draconian Tradition and Kundalini in Tantra. In this mask, Set is viewed as he who ignites the spark of self-awareness and awakened consciousness, successively testing the Initiate to develop it into the flame of self-deification. As the Serpent Force awakens and becomes active, the inner flame becomes the source of illumination and liberation from illusions of the material world, and it eventually transforms the Initiate into a god-like being.

Like on the previous days, begin this working by preparing your ritual space. Then light the third black candle – at the right upper point of the pentagram. Again, proceed as before: focus on the sigil of Set and connect with his current, and then visualize the burning pentagram around you. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

**"Invincible Set-Heh,
Great-In-Magic,
Eternal Set,
He who ignites the flame of godhood in the heart of man,
Enter my being and become one with me,
For I seek to become one with you.
Guide me through the darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom,
Illuminate my way with your everlasting blaze,
Destroy my weakness with your strength,
And fill my entire being with your living fire!
Setnakt!
Set is Mighty!"**

When this is done, sit in a comfortable position and focus all your attention on the flame representing the third mask of Set – Initiator of the Inner Flame. See how it grows and morphs, eventually forming in front of you into the shape of Set. He steps forward, opens his mouth and breathes out a fiery snake, and you open your mouth as well and receive it. Envision the snake coiling around your spine, generating heat that rises in waves, successively spreading over your whole body and transforming it – burning all that is weak in you and forging what remains into a powerful structure. Focus on the center of this fire – perhaps it is the heart, the head, or another part of the body – or maybe the center is somewhere else. When you find it, focus all your attention on it. Meditate on the power radiating from your inner center and feel how it makes you strong, invincible on your path, persistent and determined in your actions, and successful in your projects. Envision yourself as Set and feel how his consciousness empowers the inner flame even more. Embrace all that may come to you with this experience and take as much time as you need for this meditation. When you feel ready to end the working, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candle, and close it. Like with the other masks, pay attention to how this consciousness manifests in your day-to-day life following the ritual. Write down all that is relevant to this work and keep it in your records.

Day 5

God of Storms

In ancient Egypt Set was thought to be the god who created strange, unexplained and terrifying phenomena of nature, such as earthquakes, eclipses, and heavy thunderstorms. His hieroglyph was used in such words as “confusion,” “turmoil” or “rage.” In later times he was identified with the Greek dragon/serpent Typhon and in many spells included in the Greek Magical Papyri he appears as Set-Typhon. In modern interpretation, his ability to send storms and create earthquakes can be used by the Initiate to create a change in one’s environment. In this sense, Set is the enemy of stagnation – he who sets things in motion. This is also connected with the myth of Set slaying Osiris, which in Setian mysteries is interpreted as a destruction of stasis for the sake of progress and change. In this working we will invoke the God of Storms for the same purpose: to shake the world around us and create a change for something new to manifest.

Again, start by preparing your ritual space. This time light the fourth black candle – at the left lower point of the Pentagram. Then proceed as before: focus on the sigil of Set, connect with his current, and visualize the burning pentagram around you. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

**"Mighty Set-Typhon,
Sender of storms,
Bringer of thunder,
Boiler of the waters,
He who stirs the depths to motion,
Enter my being and become one with me,
For I seek to become one with you.
Shake my world and set it on fire so I can burn what no longer serves me!
Show me how to create and destroy!
Give me the victory over my enemies!
And teach me how to devour both men and gods!
Setnakt!
Set is Mighty!"**

Then sit in a comfortable position and focus all your attention on the flame representing the fourth mask of Set – God of Storm and Change. Envision it growing and morphing, eventually forming into the shape of Set. He emerges from the flames with the Was scepter and hits the ground beneath your feet, making it tremble. At this moment the fire around you ceases and the whole world shakes and starts falling apart. Nothing can withstand this force and only those things that truly empower your path remain. Think of what it means to you and take as much time as you need for this meditation. Envision yourself as Set and feel the power to create and destroy anything you want, change your life and shape it as you wish. When you feel ready to end the working, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candle, and close the ritual. Again, pay attention to how this consciousness manifests in your day-to-day life following the ritual. The current of the God of Storms is violent and dynamic and it can manifest as such in your life – be prepared for it and willing to embrace what it may bring. Write down all that is relevant to this work and keep it in your records.

Day 6

The Watcher

This mask of Set is connected with the myth in which he appears as the watcher and defender of the barque in which the Sun God Ra travels through the underworld each night from sunset to sunrise. On its passage through the realms of darkness the barque is stopped and threatened by the serpent Apep who tries to swallow it. Among all companions of Ra, Set is the only deity powerful enough to kill the serpent and ensure the safe passage of the barque. In the same role he appears to the Initiate on the Left Hand Path – he is the remover of obstacles and protector of those who travel through the night. The slaying of Apep is also symbolic of the destruction of blind ignorance, delusional thinking and overcoming inner chaos for the sake of clarity and understanding.

Begin this working by following the same pattern - prepare the temple, light the black candle (at the right lower point of the pentagram) and focus on the sigil of Set. Gaze at it for a while to connect with his current and visualize the burning pentagram around you. When you are ready to continue, speak the following invocation:

**"Fearsome Set,
Protector of the Barque of Millions of Years,
Slayer of Apep,
Enemy of blindness and delusion
Strongest among the gods,
Enter my being and become one with me,
For I seek to become one with you.
Take me to your sanctuary of confusion and let me find clarity,
Bestow on my your sight so I may gaze through the night,
Open my eyes to truth and annihilate that which is not real,
And guide me on the way through the underworld of my soul!
Setnakt!
Set is Mighty!"**

Again, sit in a comfortable position and focus all your attention on the flame of the candle. This one represents the fifth mask of Set – the Watcher. Envision it growing and morphing, eventually forming into the shape of Set. He stands in front of you with his forked knife in his hand, surrounded by flames. Think of any issues you might have right now in your life and ask him to assist you in the process of resolving them. Visualize yourself as Set and let his consciousness guide you through this meditation. When you feel ready to end the working, take a few deep breaths, extinguish the candle, and close the ritual. Take a while to look back at your visions and experiences from the previous days and meditate on what they mean to you, how they affect your life, and how they empower your magical path.