

Hidden

Living With the Uninitiated

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*Thank you for picking up this Mini-Guide in the
Modification and Practice Series of books. We hope you
find the ideas herein useful for your practice and
modification of Daemonolatry.*

INTRODUCTION

About a year ago, a friend approached me about writing a few mini-guides for people who, for whatever reason, couldn't practice Daemonolatry as outlined in *The Complete Book of Demonolatry*, or any other book for that matter. Then, as the year went on, I began getting requests for books about modification for those who could not practice with props due to disabilities, incarceration, or because they have to live with someone who either doesn't care for the practice of Deamonolatry under their roof, or doesn't know about it. Hence was born the *Daemonolatry Practice & Modification* series of mini-guides. You can get all of the guides as paperbacks, in popular eBook formats, or as eventual free PDFs through demonolatry.org. It's my hope these little guides will help teach you how to modify your practice based on your needs and help you feel closer to the Daemonic Divine.

Keeping your spiritual practice hidden from roommates and/or family is not always an easy task. Especially if your personal space, if you have any, is likely limited to a room, a corner, a basement, or even off-site.

I hope this guide inspires you and offers insight and new ideas so you can be innovative in your practice and put

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your spirituality to work for you without having to worry that you'll be caught.

With that I give you the *Daemonolatry Practice and Modification Guide, Hidden: Living With the Uninitiated*.

Warm Regards,

S. Connolly

COMING OUT

Coming out of the broom closet. That's a phrase a lot of pagans and witches, including Daemonolaters, use when it comes to telling their families that they're witches and no longer Christian, or whatever brand of religion they formerly practiced (or pretended to practice). I know all about coming out of the broom closet. Been there, done that. Having also been around for a long time I've been witness to a lot of *comings out*, too. While it's hard enough for someone to come out as a Witch or Pagan, it's even worse for Satanists and Daemonolaters. Especially when you have extremely religious relatives of the Evangelical variety. You know the type I'm talking about; the bible thumpers whose initial reaction to the news is to schedule an exorcism or gather the kindling.

I'm also the person a lot of people come to for advice when it comes to *coming out of the broom closet* because some people find themselves in impossible situations. Like they worry that their family and friends will abandon them, or they'll lose their home or job, or that their spouse will divorce them and take the children. All of these things are *valid* concerns when it comes to having *any* alternative-to-Christian belief system. Those of you reading who may be GLBT can also sympathize a great deal, I'm sure.

Some people with pagan or other-than-Judeo-Christian beliefs prefer to just keep it under wraps. It's easier than dealing with a confrontation. There's only one problem with that. While I don't promote anyone running around shouting their spiritual differences from the rooftops (especially if they have something to lose), I do think that in the case of alternative-to-Judeo-Christian spirituality sometimes it's better to just come out of the closet with those close to you. Mind you I'm not saying with everyone, just those people you share the intimate details of your life with whether it's a sister, a child, your spouse, or your best friend.

Sure everyone's situation is unique. If you stand to lose your home, your children, your job or there could be bodily harm involved, then by all means -- keep it to yourself. However this doesn't always work. At some point it's very likely that you're going to be *found out* by someone who wasn't supposed to find out. Chaos often ensues.

Those are the e-mails I don't like getting. They often start out, "Help! My [insert loved one here] just found out I was a witch (Daemonolater, Satanist, Magus, etc...) and threatened to [insert punishment for witchcraft here, usually divorce, loss of residence, loss of children, loss of friendship etc...]"

This usually happens because a family member (or friend) finds a book or an email, a picture, or some other thing that tells them that the person they thought was a God fearing Christian is actually some flavor of pagan, witch or magician and they immediately fly off the handle. That's when you find out how Christian this loved one suddenly is (even if it wasn't evident before) and the ultimatums start rolling out. If you're a teenager or you are living with family or friends or even your spouse you might even get, "You can't practice this or read about this in my house...blah, blah, blah..."

It sucks.

It happened to me and it's happened to a lot of people I know.

Sure - I know people who have been practicing for years who have somehow managed to keep their religion and practices secret. How I'll never know. But I always wonder for how long. How long before you leave your *Complete Book of Witchcraft, Satanic Bible, Goetia*, or Crowley's *Magick in Theory and Practice* sitting casually on your coffee table the same day Aunt Martha and Cousin Janet show up unexpectedly for a visit after Sunday mass?

Or you have your family over for dinner one night and decide to let the answering machine pick up only to have the High Priestess of your coven leave a message about the next Full Moon Ritual.

I've known people this has happened to.

Over the years I started telling people to come out to their loved ones as soon as they safely could. Now in some instances it may be in your best interest *not* to tell certain family members. As a matter of fact sometimes leaving grandpa or grandma in the dark is in everyone's best interest. But your spouse -- you have to tell them. They need to know. For a good relationship there can't be secrets and if they find out they're going to feel betrayed - even lied to. Then they'll wonder what other secrets you've been keeping.

My husband and I started our relationship with him knowing exactly what I was before we even went out on our first date. Why? Because when I was dating I'd tried it the other way where I kept my religion to myself only to discover that the guy I was dating was a Christian and me being a Daemonolater was the deal-breaker. That is... unless I came back to Jesus. I'm sorry, but my spiritual path was not something *I* was willing to compromise. Not to mention it should never *have to be* something you compromise.

A person who cares about you -- truly cares -- will love you no matter what your beliefs are. That goes for siblings, parents, spouses, children, friends etc... If that love is conditional (i.e. you better change your religion or I'm divorcing your ass, disowning you, won't be your friend) then

I'd re-evaluate that relationship and whether or not it's worth continuing.

Luckily my own experience with coming out happened when I was a teenager. I had enough opportunity to explain my religion to my mother and we have an understanding now. Nowadays she and my siblings collect my Demonolatry books right alongside my fiction even though they're all happily Christian or Agnostic.

It's certain members of the extended family who have chosen to pray for me and hope my Atheist husband and I eventually find God.

Sadly a lot of Christians just don't understand that those of us who have pagan and/or magickal inclinations have them for a reason. We've generally converted from Christianity (or a Judeo-Christian religion) for a reason. It didn't work for us, we explored other options and found something better (for us individually).

So if you're struggling with coming out - know that you're not alone. Oftentimes these things work themselves out. It may take time and a lot of talking. There may be some fighting and tears and all that, but in the end it's worth it to not have to worry about hiding your beliefs or practices as if they're some dirty secret.

It's nice to be able to hang *your* pentagram Yule wreath on *your* front door or leave your books out on *your* coffee table in *your* house if people drop by unexpectedly. It's nice to be able to leave your altars up and keep your ritual implements within reach and out in the open instead of hidden in some back bedroom closet. It's nice not having to lie about where you'll be, what you're doing, who your friends are, and who *you* are. Being able to be yourself with those you love will facilitate spiritual growth. Having to lie and hide and sneak around can be stifling. Not to mention it's hard to integrate your spirituality into your life completely when it becomes a separate, secret part of your life.

Now – all of that said, I am going to teach you how to not only modify your practice so you can practice right under the nose of even the most stringent Christian, but also how to potentially decorate, so your ritual implements can be in plain sight and no one will be suspicious in the least.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

What kind of practice can you have?

The type of practice you can have depends on the level of ignorance of those around you and just how far you want to take it. Do you want to be a little risky? Or are you scared shitless you'll be homeless the second they find out? Hopefully you're in a temporary situation and will soon be able to move. But in the meantime, let's assess your situation.

First, if for any reason you fear you'll find yourself in harm's way or that you'll end up homeless for coming out, start out by keeping your practice in the Astral Temple. Your thoughts are your own and no one can access your astral temple. Keep your books as PDFs or as eBooks in your eReader or tablet. I've even designed this book with an inconspicuous cover without the word Daemon anywhere on it, just in case.

Working Without Props (Modification)

Perhaps the easiest thing to modify in any practice is to learn to work without props. While I personally enjoy the tangible feeling of actually doing magick with props, there are

a lot of instances where props may be impractical. Clearly living with someone who either doesn't allow your practice, or people who don't know is one of the better reasons that props are impractical.

So here is a list of props, their substitutes, and how you can work without them:

Athames, Swords, or Staves: For the ritual blade, you can use your middle finger and forefinger, and you can use your arm for staves and/or swords. In the ancient Egyptian practice, blades were not used. It was considered more respectful to use the middle and forefinger. You can use butter and steak knives in a pinch. Regular hunting or army knives will work, too. One of my first Athame's was an army knife because it didn't raise a lot of suspicion. Of course there's always the astral temple if none of this is plausible.

Cups/Chalices: Any glass or cup will do. You can even use plastic or paper cups if necessary. Whatever doesn't raise suspicion. When I was a teenager I was really into fantasy novels, swords, dragons etc... so chalices could be kept as décor, as could knives and swords. See The Astral Temple for working without a cup or chalice at all.

Offering Bowls: Just like cups/chalices, any bowl will do. That is unless you plan on using it to burn requests, in which case I recommend metal (stainless steel or cast iron seem to work best). See the Astral Temple for working without a bowl.

Incenses/Oils: You can use commercially prepared incenses and oils as needed, or you can skip them. Incenses and oils help create the right atmosphere and tend to manifest certain energy patterns conducive to the work, but they can be left out.

Other Items: Look at each ritual item and decide whether or not it's necessary for your work. If you can get away with skipping it, go without. If you can modify it to your needs, do that. If all else fails you can take literally anything your mind can conjure into the astral temple, and work with it there.

I CAN'T:

Use Candles – Candles are used to illuminate and create atmosphere. A dim lamp, different color light bulbs, and even faux candles made with LEDs can be used as substitutes. If you do your work in the astral temple, a comfortable place to sit or lie down and a small light should be just fine. For what it's worth, light is completely unnecessary.

Use Incense – then don't. It's perfectly okay to skip the incenses and oils. That isn't to say these things don't add to the experience and energy in ritual, but rituals can be done without them. If you can use incense but you just can't make your own – find a standard frankincense and/or sandalwood blend (both are usually sold just about everywhere) in a stick. Use that.

Burn Offerings – this is okay. The symbolic act of burning an offering is basically an act of solidifying intent and letting it out into the universe through the smoke. It's a symbolic alchemical transformation from the physical to the spiritual. There are several alternatives here. The first is heartfelt prayer. By saying or thinking your request aloud and imagining the daemonic seal, you are still solidifying your intent and letting it out into the universe. You're simply using a different method.

Use Blood – While bloodletting is an integral part of a physical Daemonolatry practice, a lot of people don't use blood. Some use saliva, hair or skin instead, or even sexual fluids. However, this can all be left out of one's practice. Instead, imagine the act of blood-letting and giving of yourself to the Daemonic in offering. There is a great deal of emotion in that visual.

Drink Alcohol – No worries. You can substitute juice or water for wine in any ritual except the Rite of Imbibement. For that you do need alcohol if you are practicing it with others since the alcohol will kill any blood-borne pathogens. However, if you are practicing the rite on your own, just use water or juice.

Work Inside the House – For some people it might be an option to find a place outside the home to perform ritual. Such places might include a coven member's home or a remote outdoor location where you can practice regularly. If none of these are options, working astrally is going to be your best bet.

Use Herbs or Oils – Remember that basic culinary herbs can serve double duty for all kinds of magickal purposes. Culinary herbs in the kitchen won't raise suspicion. Also, for oils substitute some blessed olive oil in your rituals. Olive oil in the kitchen won't be suspicious at all. It is also commonly used as a skin moisturizer, folks. If you keep some in a bottle in your bedroom and you're questioned about it, say you use it as a facial or hand moisturizer. People may think you're a little weird, but they certainly won't be thinking Daemonolater.

THE ASTRAL TEMPLE

Astral magick requires the magician to know how to effectively perform astral travel. That is, to leave the body and ascend to the astral plane. In the astral world, time has no meaning. The physical no longer matters because there, the universe is mental. This is why so many people will erroneously mistake magick done in the astral temple for imagining or daydreaming about the work. While imagination is a wonderful ingredient, you do have to ascend the soul and mind. Hand in hand with Astral work is Dream Work, wherein you learn to leave your body and travel to the astral during sleep. You can even meet up with other magicians in this manner. Learning to ascend to the astral plane, let alone dream walking (which takes a great deal more skill) requires meditation skills and the ability to concentrate. Sadly, these are not skills the magician can learn from reading a book. You need to perform meditation exercises to learn how to ascend to the astral plane.

Once there, you can create your own temple, including all of your tools, and perform any magickal work necessary. The beauty of this is that you will always have the tools you need and want at your disposal. Your astral temple can be as simple or as elaborate as you make it. While I do often recommend magick in the physical when and if possible (because I do think magicians who only practice in

the astral miss out when it comes to the physical interaction with the metaphysical world), if you are unable to practice physical magick for any number of reasons, this really is the perfect solution for you.

Learning to use your imagination as a tool for magick is essential for both focus and to bring realism to the work. This includes methods of communication with the Daemonic including Ascension. It is vital the magician can close his/her eyes and actually see the object of their desire or the desired outcome of the magick. Being able to focus and imagine will strengthen intent, thus you'll find you are able to manifest your true will more often. You will also find that the sharper your imagination, the higher your success rate at astral temple work. Remember, astral travel is the practice of actually leaving your body behind and ascending to another plane of existence. It's not just imagining -- but the imagination does help considerably.

To exercise your imagination, I suggest practicing guided meditations. Meditation is such a vital skill for any magician because it teaches us so many useful skills like being present, observing emotion, being still, how to breathe, connecting ourselves to all that is, focus, and how to imagine. Any guided meditation will do. There are many CD's and websites available to help you in this department. Or – if you have friends who share your spiritual leanings, guide each other through meditations you create yourselves. This can be a rewarding and relaxing exercise and great for magickal study groups.

Once you've mastered ascending to the astral plane, then it's time to build the temple. Fill it with permanent altars that reside in your mind. Fill it with elaborate tools, pleasing scents, and things pleasing to yourself and the Daemonic. Fill it with statues of your Patron/Matron and paint/carve sigils

on the walls. Take care and time to create your personal temple. Once you've created every aspect of it, you can use it to work. When you've ascended to the astral, you simply visit your temple and perform the ritual. When the ritual is done, you simply return to your body.

RIUAL WITHOUT IMPLEMENTS OR WITH MODIFICATION

Ritual can be modified to accommodate your personal needs. If your mother thinks incense is the work of the devil, simply remove incense from your practice. For any part of the ritual you cannot perform, you can perform symbolic gestures instead. So instead of bloodletting, for example, try touching your middle and forefinger to your third eye, your throat chakra, and then your heart (in that order). Perform any gestures of initiation you may have been given. Or, say a simple prayer. For bloodletting the traditional prayer, “The Blood is the Life, Praise be Sobek” might resonate with you. If it doesn’t, create your own.

Rituals can also be performed entirely in the astral temple where physical space limitations and getting caught are not an issue, and you can do whatever you need to do.

PRAYER

Prayer is one of those practices that everyone, despite their situation, can manage to incorporate into their practices. I believe that heartfelt prayers, even unscripted, work just as well as pulling out a prayer book and reciting a prayer. You may find you have a knack for coming up with your own prayers. But if not, never fear. How eloquent you are matters not to the Daemonic Divine. What does matter is that your prayers are heartfelt and they mean something to you. It's great to recite something, but without the emotion behind it, it becomes meaningless. As long as your emotions are always true, your prayers will always be heard, and often answered if, in fact, you are petitioning deity for help in a matter. It's okay to pray just to offer thanks. Prayer isn't simply a means to "get stuff". It's also not synonymous with groveling. A daily practice usually includes daily prayer, offerings and devotions, so this might be something to consider if you've been looking for a way to incorporate your spirituality into your daily life.

If you are in need of prayers, you can get a free PDF copy of *Ater Votum: Daemonolatry Prayer* from demonolatry.org or you can buy it in paperback or for your Kindle or Nook (or any tablet that can download the free Kindle or Nook eReader apps).

OFFERINGS

Offerings are another one of the simple things one can do to incorporate their spiritual leanings into their daily life. I have a friend who keeps a planter filled with dirt on the apartment balcony. She uses it to pour libation offerings into. Water, wine, fruit, and flowers are common offerings that people give to the Daemonic. Having a simple planter outside, or area of the yard that you can use for leaving offerings is one method. I have another friend who has dedicated her house plants as offerings to the divine. As she cares for the plants by watering them and trimming back dead leaves, she views it as time spent in devotion and offering to the Gods. So consider simple ways of leaving offerings. Usually offerings require little physical exertion, little space, and you can limit them to once a week or even once a month depending on your situation. You can also draw sigils in the dirt. This is a relatively simple thing to do that no one will ever catch if you do it right.

FASTING

Fasting is a simple way of showing one's devotion to their intent, the deities of their choice, or as an act of self-cleansing. The first rule of fasting is don't do it unless you've been cleared, by your doctor, to do it. Fasting can be dangerous for people with specific medical conditions like diabetes, anorexia, or bulimia. You may consider doing a juice or liquid diet fast where you're at least getting some nutrients if not eating is not an option. I don't recommend fasting for longer than twenty-four hours and you should be sure to remain well-hydrated. If a ritual calls for a fast, you may simply substitute with a self-cleansing, and drinking a large glass of water as a symbolic internal cleansing. The latter is a practice often employed by certain magickal orders before energy and/or astral work anyway. Again, this is relatively easy to pull off around non-Daemonolaters.

CLEANSING

Cleansing can happen in a number of ways. The cleansing or purification of the self can take the form of an Epsom salt bath in conjunction with visualizations of self-purification, or it can be as simple as anointing oneself with blessed olive oil, or burning frankincense. To purify a space, if you can't use incense or oil, mix some salt and water in a spray bottle and spray it around the space while visualizing a bright white light clearing anything negative from the space. Or mix the salt and water in a bowl and sprinkle it around the space with your fingers. In instances where “props” just aren't an option, a strong visualization, like the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram, can be used to clear yourself and your space. No props necessarily required.

MAGICK

Every magickal ritual can be modified to work as you need it. If you need altars that can be hidden, for example, consider keeping a square piece of wood under your dresser or in the back of your closet. If a nine foot circle is not possible, work in your astral temple. If you cannot make noise but you can move around in your room, do it, but say everything inside your head. If you can't use the props the magick requires, either find a substitution, use visualization, or do the work in the astral temple. Remember that the most important thing in magick is the intent.

MEDITATION

Meditation can be an integral part of your work. Like I mentioned earlier, ascension and divination as well as astral work all begin with a strong meditation practice. Start with 5 minutes a day and work your way up to longer durations. Walking or moving meditations may also be an option, such as yoga. Yoga can build a bridge from the body and mind to the spirit by way of the breath.

IN PLAIN SIGHT

A very clever practitioner with undereducated roommates can easily hide ritual implements in plain sight. Most people wouldn't question a knife or sword collection if you love the *Game of Thrones* books or enjoy fantasy art, or have been collecting knives and swords forever. They may even look past a few well placed "decorative" chalices, ornate candle holders, or a wood staff. Just be sure you don't keep any of these things together. A small box of ritual items can also be hidden in the back of a closet or under a bed. Make-shift altars can take the form of an old wood shelf (i.e. square piece of wood) that you keep in your closet or at the bottom of a drawer and only pull it out when you need it. Decorative jars or perfume bottles can hide oils, herbs, incenses. Bookshelves with cupboards can hide books you don't want wandering eyes to see. Of course nowadays we have ebooks. Hiding books with obscure titles within a Kindle or Nook library is exceedingly easy. Making plain paper book covers is also an option if you want to hide your books in plain sight. Just a hint: the more boring the cover, the less likely anyone is to pick it up.

FINDING TIME FOR RITUAL

Finding time for ritual can be a bit of a pain when you're in hiding. If you're working in the astral temple, you might simply go to bed a half hour early and perform your ritual then. For other rituals, planning is key. Knowing roommate schedules can give you an idea of how long you might have to perform a ritual. Always be cautious and have a plan just in case someone comes home early. If you have no privacy whatsoever, choose a place outside the home to work. If you're restricted from being able to leave the home due to lack of transportation or age (as young people don't always have freedom to come and go), the astral temple is your best bet. Ultimately you'll need to learn to be flexible with your timing for magick or ritual. You'll have to make do with what you have, and if you're serious about it – you will. Where there's a will, there's a way.

I'VE BEEN CAUGHT – NOW WHAT?

I hate to say this, but eventually even the most careful and clandestine practitioner is bound to get caught if there is any physical evidence of magickal practice under the roof. I managed to practice Satanism and Daemonolatry under my parents' roof from ages 12-17 without being caught. However, *I was eventually caught*. I used to put brown bag book covers over all of my books to hide the titles. We didn't have eBooks back then. But I got cocky and left a copy of the *Satanic Bible* out, my little sister got ahold of it, and next thing I know – the entire family knew. It's not fun to be outed when you weren't expecting it. I got lazy and careless. So if you can't risk getting caught under any circumstance – go astral and eBook all the way.

This is why you need to start making an *out* plan now. If you're an adult the *out* plan could be as simple as finding new roommates or a new place to live, which you probably ought to be doing anyway even if your financial situation is dire. It might be easier to find pagan or occult practicing roommates than you think. Check your local pagan/witchy shops and online advertising for *roommates wanted*. If you're still living under your parents' roof, unfortunately you're under their control and will likely have to bide their wishes. Depending on level of religiosity, you either risk being

mocked and ridiculed, or worse – sent for additional religious education or counseling.

You know your roommates better than I or anyone else. Only you can decide what your *out* plan will be. You might check with sympathetic friends or family members to make sure you have a place you can go if you find yourself suddenly kicked out of your shared apartment and all of your belongings tossed onto the front stoop. If you're a teenager, be careful. You may have to play along with whatever your parents want until you're of age and can legally leave home. I would suggest keeping the number of a teen counseling center or teen shelter with you, but most of those are ran by very religious groups and I'm afraid many of them would not be sympathetic to your situation. Their response would be to intervene and try to help you find your way back to Jesus.

No, open-minded, forward thinking progressive people who don't harbor religious prejudices are your best bet for finding shelter or a helping hand in a pinch.

Please know that I am in no way advocating anyone under the age of eighteen run away or defy their parental units. Instead, I'm saying play it safe. If you're an adult, do what you will and what you need to do to make sure you are happy, healthy, and spiritually fulfilled. Sometimes that means kicking zealots who won't accept your religious beliefs out of your life.

RESOURCES

To learn astral work I recommend Christopher Penczak's *Inner Temple of Witchcraft* which covers, step by step, how to meditate and develop your psychic senses in order to work in the astral. If you are wholly appalled by anything seemingly RHP, you can read my *Daemonolater's Guide to Daemonic Magick* for information on meditation and building your astral temple, or my *Complete Book of Demonolatry* for lessons in meditation, or simply seek out other books to teach you how to work in the astral.

Additionally, most Daemonolatry titles are also available as eBooks and can be easily downloaded to your tablet or eReader. Also see our full range of free PDFs and resources at demonolatry.org.