

THE PILLARS

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Throughout the Satanic Community, there seems to be some confusion as to what Satanism truly is. Now, before I continue, Satanism is not about taking what you can get from the people around you. It also does not mean that we are to be arrogant. Arrogance is something that is all too often associated with our path, and in my own personal opinion, it should not be such.

As with any path, or sect, there will be someone trying to control and dominate it. This is the archaic devolved sense of supremacy that has plagued humanity for its entire existence. This however, does not need to be the case, as one can have leadership, without being controlled. I am presenting, an idea, formed out of the experiences I have had, the beliefs I hold, and the values I feel should be important to every Satanist.

Whether or not you wish to apply them is of course, always up to you, the reader, and it is not my place to judge you for not doing so.

PILLAR OF FAITH

This Pillar, I see as one of the greatest of them all. Some may see faith as blind obedience to an invisible entity, however I contend it is merely an exercise of the Spirit. Faith is a powerful tie to Satan, in whatever aspect you see Him as, and binds you in spirit to His power and might. By having the uttermost faith in Satan, one can truly be able to traverse the paths of life, wading into any philosophy or magick, pulling what they are led to and moving on. Faith doesn't grant you the immense power of invulnerability. Satan is not one to do anything and everything for you, for what would be the point of strengthening the self, and enlightening the mind, if we had someone or something that would do whatever we wanted?

This is not to say He doesn't help us, however, I believe He does, at times, expect us to use the faculties we have been gifted with to solve our own issues. Faith in Satan, can easily be tied into many other deities of the LHP as the Ancients had faith in many deities and spirits that completed their lives, so can we. Not only do we have the power of Satan to aid us, we also have the power of the many ancient gods and goddesses to help us.

Something that faith does in this aspect, is it makes our workings more potent, for when we stop visualizing and start truly conceptualizing, we have stepped closer to the thresh hold of true power and enlightenment. The Deities mentioned in ancient culture, literature and even seen in the modern ritual chamber are just as real as ever before. The faith of the people is what has caused them to prosper. The faith of the followers of their paths, is what sustains the spiritual realm around us, separating what I have seen to be the false spiritual from the true spiritual. The false spiritual may be easy to discern as one of oppression and hate, versus the true spiritual, which is of enlightenment and freedom.

The false is sometimes easier to place faith in, as it promises immediate power and gratification. This is something that snares many a fresh Satanist, as it strokes the human ego. The more detailed and sometimes difficult to have faith in, is the one that works against the social conditioning we have been subjected to, with or without any conscious effort on our part.

Faith will not be the end all be all of any ones personal path, nor will it be the answer to all of your spiritual troubles. This is a theory that was started by Christian philosophies in its early inception. Faith is merely a tool, and a source, for great power of the individual through their aspect of Satan, and any other deity that they follow.

PILLAR OF HONOR

Honor, is something that is held high, in most circles, as a root component of a powerful group or person. Honor is not only a form of loyalty, although it can be at times. It is mainly a part of the personal life path, that should in my view, be vital. Honor encompasses the attitude, actions, and movements of the person. It is not something that can be bought, sold, or given it must be earned. It is in no way tied to personal self respect, as it is an action, not a feeling.

Those who have honor, typically exhibit some of the other Pillars that will be covered here, not limited to honesty and respect. The actions of one who holds firm to this Pillar, are not easily questionable, nor are they generally something that the person would be ashamed of. Father Satan, in His many forms, is one who to my personal experience, functions through this Himself.

Father Satan, who stands for Human Advancement, is not going to accomplish such through neither underhanded tactics, nor tearing down of His own people. He accomplishes this through the honoring of those who truly put forth His ideals. For a Satanist to be able to have honor, should be a top priority. Without such, they will be relegated to the exterior of the Path, and even worse, stain the rest of it with their dishonorable actions.

One cannot have a positive impact on Satanism, or any other branch of the Left Hand Path, by claiming themselves to be anything more than what they are. This is honor, as well as humility. Humility is not being weak, as it is a showing of ones ability to accomplish whatever they are capable of, without attempting to control others or make themselves more important than others.

Honor is also closely tied to respect something that seems to be lacking in the current day. When one has no respect for others beliefs, regardless of how different they may be, they have no real honor. While this may be confused by some, into thinking that we must embrace the criminal fringe, this is not the meaning. Respecting ones beliefs is only effective in my view, when their beliefs are not counterproductive to the overall goal of the LHP or Satanism.

The person, who masters honor, will never be born, as there will never be a perfect person. However, it is something that can be worked for throughout the person's life, as they are travelling their own path. To attain this, one must not perform some secret ritual, nor must they accomplish some impossible task. Honor is something that takes time and effort to earn, however once earned, it is easily destroyed, as with one slip of the tongue, or one shameful action, you may be thrown into the realm of cockroaches and parasites.

Being truthful, respectful, understanding, caring, humble, loyal to those loyal to you, and doing your best in all that you do is key to attaining honor. Of course, one is never perfect, but if you do your best and work hard you will eventually have honor, and stand among those who actually move forward.

PILLAR OF KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is power, the old saying goes, and today is no different. Having knowledge is not only having the book learning on certain subjects, but also some form of a working knowledge of the subject at issue. Some can say that if you don't know who Satan is, then you are worthless. This is not true knowledge, as some people search their entire life for Satan, following each aspect of him they find. This does not mean they have no knowledge, simply it means their own path is taking them where they need to go for themselves.

There are others though, that claim there is only one true knowledge, and only one true set of information. This is something that cannot be as such, especially within Satanism. The ideation of 'one way and one truth' as I call it, is rooted heavily in Zoroastrianism, and Judaio-Christianity. Satanism is a many faceted path, with typically one common goal advancement. This may be considered advancement of the person, or a group but it is advancement in one way shape or form nonetheless.

Advancement however, does not come simply because you read some Wikipedia pages, although it can be a start. There is vast knowledge available online that can be taken advantage of freely, and it is recommended highly to do so. Knowledge however, is something that will take time to acquire, through personal study, and spiritual exploration one can attain it readily. Someone who is in possession of such knowledge is able to share it in an honorable way. It is not something that should be used over people, but rather used to lift people up, and freely given to those who need it. There is no need for only one set of books to be read, or one person's writings to be used, as this is dogmatic and cult style programming.

When one writes, even someone like me, there is always a piece of that person in the writing. It is never completely unbiased, and leans to their own interpretations. This is why what someone writes must be taken merely as a suggestion, as the reader is able to formulate their own understanding. This is the foundation of knowledge, taking a variety of sources and compositing them together in a way that enlightens the individual.

Should a group have a strict set of doctrines and beliefs? I think not, as there is not 2 people in this world that would agree on completely everything, or that can claim that they are right and everyone else is wrong. Knowledge is free, and its implications are endless. It is powerful and enlightening, spreading far back into the ages of old. There is new works and new works. Some are similar, and others radically different. Understanding what is pure knowledge and pure opinion, is something that is difficult to do at times as well, however, with a little effort, and an open mind, it is something worth the work. For to be able to understand the past, and present, in all its aspects, is something that will help you discern the future because as the world changes, so does its knowledge of the paths, new and old.

Ancient knowledge is good, and modern knowledge is good, mixing them together into something that works, is even better. Thus comprising the Pillar of Knowledge, as something that is attainable by all who pass this way.

PILLAR OF STRENGTH

The final Pillar in my ongoing search at this time is that of Strength. Strength, not of useless arrogance, but security in Father Satan. This is something that cannot be falsified, or forced. No amount of posturing or faking will provide any true strength either. As one brings together the other pillars I have listed here, one can see the strength begin to take form. It is also a character trait for some people, who have the ability to be strong in the face of adversity. It is however, able to be cultivated and grown in the weakest person.

Real strength is not something that needs not be proven, nor does it require some strange test. It is a ever present faculty stemming from the many aspects of the person, and their relationship to Father. As the Pillars come together in the person's spiritual path, and the pillar of Strength is erected, it forms a basic temple within the person.

Strength gives one the ability to withstand attacks from wide varieties of people, regardless of the community. It is not some magic invincibility tower, that shields one from the emotions or pain of some attacks, but it does help one through those times. There is a wide range of things that happens when one gains strength, one of which is an ability to stand above the childish games of some of the people around them.

Whether they are religious, political, social or otherwise, the strength to stand on the side of Satan, and the other Pillars, sets one apart, and brings a sense of pride. Thusly, strength is easily tied to the advancement of the personal ego, or better yet, self respect. Something that works well when one has Satanic Honor and something that should be desired above almost anything else.

This strength, as with any other characteristic, can be an exceedingly powerful tool in ones magical arsenal. The magical abilities of strength, is evident in the swiftness of workings, and sometimes in the size or impact of them. It is a massive boost to ones abilities, however, it must also be used wisely, else it turn into a weakness. Honor comes into play, in my opinion, as a high value counter and companion to Strength. It makes it stronger, yet prevents it from taking over persons processes, thereby corrupting them.

Power, while being something that is striven for by most Satanists, is also something that must be kept balanced with all of our other abilities and Pillars. If one is able to do this, they are one large step closer to the pillar of Strength.