



TEMPLE VESPERITAS

UBI OPUS DIABOLI FACIMUS

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The Thorny Gate Pathworking

Before we move on to the third introductory rite of Vesperianism, it is important to introduce a practice that will be central to the Undertaking: the pathworking ritual.

In modern occultism, *pathworking* refers to a form of guided inner journeying, often carried out through meditation or visualization. The practitioner enters a visionary state and “walks” a symbolic path—sometimes through the landscapes of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, sometimes through mythic or imaginal realms—encountering figures, symbols, and trials that convey spiritual knowledge. Pathworking thus functions as a bridge between conscious and unconscious, between ritual imagination and esoteric cosmology.

Israel Regardie described pathworking as a way of “using imagination as a magical tool, creating a sequence of inner experiences that, though visionary, imprint themselves on the psyche as though they were real”. Gareth Knight later emphasized that this practice allows one to explore “the inner dimensions of the symbols of the Western esoteric tradition” in a participatory way..

In Vesperian practice, pathworking is more than guided meditation. It is a way we work magick and reach “into” the Other Side, so to speak. The practitioner enters, experiences, and returns bearing gnosis.

The following is a simple pathworking meditation that can be done during meditation/ritual and requires nothing but your mind (I will provide some optional physical recommendations, of course). This pathworking is meant to put you in contact with Samael for the purpose of receiving gnosis or communications from him. It is an exceedingly simple method.

Of course, this method will not bear results as strongly or as often as, say, a full summoning of His spirit. Still, if you practice it consistently (daily preferably, or at least multiple times a week) you will get the results you seek.

The psychic senses are not unlike our physical muscles in that they need to be consistently stimulated and challenged in order to grow and become more capable.

For this pathworking meditation, you will need to find a space you can be alone for a while.

Recommended Embellishments (Optional)

- Burn a black or red candle during the meditation. It is best if the candle is black or red, but any candle will do. It is also preferred that the Mark of the Devil sigil is either inscribed on the candle or drawn on a paper beneath it.
- Burn incense associated with Samael (dragon's blood resin, storax, myrrh, rose).

Step One – Breathing Exercises

Get comfortable and settle into your usual meditative stance—or lie on the ground. Ensure your legs are not crossed, and your spine is straight. Loosen your shoulders, breathe deeply with your diaphragm (make sure your stomach expands completely with each breath). Once you are settled, close your eyes and begin deep breathing exercises. If you need help framing your breathwork, you can use the following optional guide:

4-7-8 BREATHING RHYTHM

- Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 7 seconds, exhale for 8 seconds.
- Breathe through the nose the entire time if possible.
- Do this for about 5-10 minutes or until you feel a trance. Focus on rooting your awareness into your body and space.
- Let your breath soften naturally.

Step Two – Preparatory Alignment

- Perform the normal visualizations for the Infernal Alignment Rite.
- After you feel you have “sunk” to the deepest point of the void during the final visualization of the IAR, imagine a parched earthy ground forming beneath you.

Step Three – The Crooked & Thorny Path

- You find yourself in the desert. The sky is gone, with only blackness above. Scorched earth is under your feet. Darkness surrounds.
- Before you is a winding, crooked pathway lined with sharp thorns and roots. You walk down this path alone, stepping slowly over roots and thorns and stones.
- **With each step, breathe deeply** as you feel yourself slipping further and further into Samael's realm.

Step Four – The Thorny Gates

- You find a great towering black gate made of a substance that looks like obsidian. It is covered in thorns and serpent coils, with poisonous purple flowers sprouting from vines and roots around its edges.
- Marvel at this gate for a few moments.
- A golden chalice appears on the ground before you, filled with a bitter dark fluid.
- You raise the glass and drink every drop, the taste bitter in your mouth.
- The gates tick open slowly, and the path continues ahead.

Step Five – Meeting the Devil

- You step through the gate, feeling a coldness waft over you.
- Before you is Samael. Let Him appear intuitively, and do not refuse any images that come to mind. Just know that Samael is present in whatever form He takes.
- Say unto Him: *“Father Samael, Lord Satan, I your servant have come to hear you. Please, speak to me.”*
- Additionally you may ask Him any questions. Allow whatever answers come to be. **Do not try to think about them in the moment.** If you are able to jot them down on a notepad without breaking the vision or trance, do so to the best of your ability.
- Ultimately, do not try to use logic during this time. That will very quickly take you out of the trance or dampen the experience. You can rationalize as you may later, when you've had time to think. But in there here and now, suspend all disbelief.

Step Six - Departure

- When you have finished speaking to Samael, thank Him sincerely and in your own words.
- Next, visualize yourself walking back out of the gate.
- Return your attention to your chest, where the dark eclipse sphere still resides. Imagine it growing lighter, like a balloon, and thereby raising you off the ground.

- The scene fades into darkness as you are lifted back up, as if by an elevator, to where you started.
- Take a moment to bring your awareness to your body. Wiggle your fingers or toes if need be and open your eyes when ready. Return to mundane life. The Pathworking is complete.