

Preamble, and Amble...

This book will take you by the hand and gently lead you through a practical magical course (it is a 'Magick 101' workbook if you like) from the very beginnings, and it will give you access to lot of the background thought and debates about magic and paganism too, with much of that coming from psychology, politics, religion, philosophy, art, history, anthropology and a host of other areas of thought.

The bare bones of this book, in the original typescript pre-revised form were first published in 1995 as a very limited hand-bound signed print edition for private circulation to a mere 13 friends, under the title of *Magic for the New Millennium*ⁱ. After some years of eventually fruitless but nevertheless *lengthy* negotiations with several publishers in an attempt to have a commercial print version on sale in shops, an electronic book with the same title was experimentally released on the Internet at Hallowe'en 1999, then sadly taken down in spring 2001 when the web-domain provider had a server implode.

For various reasons the files then languished in a drawer until the touching success of, and widespread critical acclaim for the author's second book *Kaostar* (and his first mainstream magical book in print) has led to a substantial (almost total) revision of this title, and a huge expansion, for it's tenth anniversary, with considerable additional content (only some parts of which have appeared in truncated form on a lovely website: www.occultebooks.com), plus new illustrations and images with a view to physical publication. There is a far longer version of the tale of the genesis of the original text at the very end of this book, if you're interested.

So, here it is...

If this were a film and not a book, there would be doom-laden music and a loud clap of thunder on the soundtrack at this point. (So please imagine that there is...)

ⁱ If you've got one of these, it might be worth much more, or far less money, now this has been published....

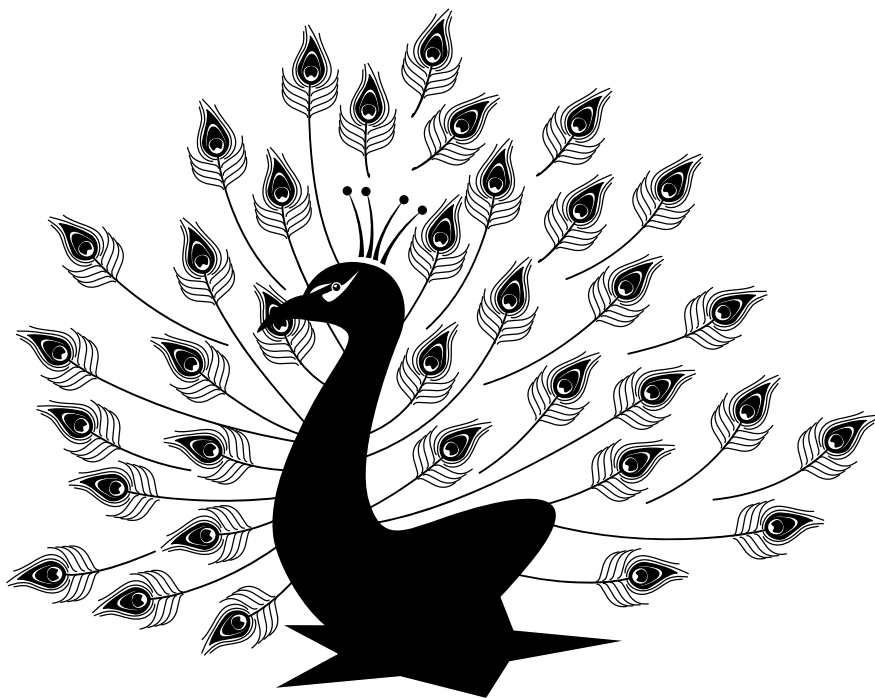
**“The Old Ones were,
the Old Ones are and
the Old Ones shall ever
be. From the dark stars
They came ‘ere man was
born, unseen and loath-
some They descended to
the primal earth...”**

Yeah, right... and then there was a long gap until we mere humans arrived on the scene... bringing with us some much more legible typefaces too.

This book was a considerable time in the germination stages, and has been even longer in the emergence process, although not taking quite so long as the Old Ones' history (above) has.

The original seed of a concept of a basic hope for what it has finally become was sown long ago, and now, it finally emerges on publicly-available print, blinking into daylight and shaking out a tail-feather to form a wing-ful of eyes, all of them staring outwards.

Squawk. We have *hatched*...



It was my earnest hope that I could produce an entry-level work of wide scope, but in sufficient brevity to make it readily accessible to all without leaving out too much important detail. This led to a book that will perhaps be unsatisfying in content to those readers who already have a broad knowledge of occultism, but on a practical level it is pretty much entirely aimed at those new to the field whose current assumed 'knowledge' of all things magical (if they actually have any at all) is based upon misconceptions, tawdry occult-themed horror movies (whether that be 1960s Hammer films derived from Dennis Wheatley's books, or something like the much more recent abomination about Aleister Crowley; *Chemical Wedding*), tabloid-press nonsense and general fabricated gossip.

I have never found a stand-alone book that both covers the very basics of magic and gives a lot of pointers for further study; and so I trust that with this book I have filled a vital early gap in the learning curve of those new to the subject.

The process of the original writing and then updating this book has

involved much re-drafting and agonising over exactly what to include, what to leave out, and what to put back in again.

My own personal changes during the writing process have, of necessity, heavily influenced the content and style. There was a great deal of re-evaluation of exactly what I was attempting to achieve both personally and with this volume. To a large extent I have evolved in tandem with the size, scope and organisation of the manuscript.

One aspect of this process was that the writing was almost abandoned entirely several times as different changes occurred in me and the book, but I think that the finished volume (and my current personal state) are both now pretty satisfactory.

As a working occultist I am uninterested in personal notoriety or the dubious concept of 'fame', and so this book is published under the necessary vanity of a pen name; within which process only a very few extremely perceptive folk have guessed the hidden joke(s). Well done, you! There are other hidden jokes for your entertainment in the text that follows.

I hope that the reader gains half as much from working with this book as I have from writing it.

Francis Breakspear,

Near to a Signifier of Great Liberty,

Bristol, England,

2008



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Temporal Positioning

Now that as a species we have almost completed our stumbling progress through the 'noughties' (2000-2009) of the most technologically advanced and materialistic century yet known, many searching questions about magic must be raised. When science can achieve the wonderful, terrible, glorious and obscene things witnessed last century, can magic do anything more, anything better, or anything differently? If so, *what* more and what else can magic do?

Hasn't hoary old stuff like magic been swept away along with such 'contemporary technologies' as the horse plough, thatching and flint knapping? Hasn't the relevance of magic been drowned in the seemingly relentless incoming tide of one of the greatest 21st Century destructive Demons: 'Scientific Progress?'

We even have new 'industrial' injuries to go with all the changes- repetitive strain injury instead of blacksmith's wrist, 'game console thumb' instead of callouses from wielding a harvesting scythe, and those mysterious small scorch-marks on the upper thigh derived from laptop computer heat sinks, instead of blisters gained from stoking the boilers of steam engines which used to run the cotton mills.

Tides (and times) change...

Can systems of magic which are (in principle at least) hundreds if not thousands of years old really still be relevant in our era of nuclear power, space travel, genetic engineering, cloning, quantum physics, nanotechnology, the internet, virtual reality and the microchip revolution? If indeed there *is* still a need for magic, just how can this need best be served?

The purposes of this book are manifold, but two are vitally important; firstly to address these above points, and more, in order to propose a coherent, cohesive system of magical activity suitable for general use by those new to the subject, for beyond the year 2010, hopefully having the time to make a worthwhile impact on the group consciousness before

the possible end of the world on or around 22nd December 2012.ⁱⁱ

Well, at least that's a Saturday; so we can all have a lie-in...

Secondly this book will give a brief sample of many of the relevant subjects that you will encounter, and to give pointers for your further research and work.

You will find other subjects that interest you, this book cannot cover them all, nor indeed anticipate them all, since individual interests and circumstances provide a multitude, if not an infinity of variables, so investigate those too. I provide a selective Glossary-*cum*-Who's Who section at the end, which explains a lot of the material that might arise.

ii As ancient Mayans and various modern doom-mongers seem to think