

The Scroll of Set

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[1] Setward Evolution

- by Robert Menschel II°

All life on Earth is undergoing continual evolution.

Mankind's most notable physical evolution to date has been his brain. Man first used his brain to simply survive. He learned to use tools, then to construct tools, and then to shape his environment.

Man has learned universal laws. We understand thermodynamics, and **use** thermodynamics. We continue to learn; we continue to use what we learn.

Man also evolves socially. Man is learning ethics. Discrimination is lessening. People are being given the chance to fulfill their potential as never before. More and more, people are permitted to follow [or not follow] their religions as they individually desire.

The animal kingdom evolves [mostly] physically. Man appears to evolve [primarily] mentally. All our above processes are continuing, still evolving, just as other species continue to evolve. Further, because our mental evolution does not require concurrent physical change, it apparently happens faster than physical evolution would.

Two hundred years ago there was a white moth, as white as the trees upon which it rested. Colored mutations of the moth were spied, and eaten by predators. These moths live in industrial England. The birches are now speckled, as is the species. White mutations are now the ones that get seen - and eaten.

Evolution is continual, and occurs in many directions. The moth is still with us, evolved. The dodo didn't make it - the first known case of evolutionary failure: extinction.

Man has learned/is learning universal laws. We are now, finally, scientifically studying psychic phenomena. We are applying scientific methods to examine the statistics, possible causes, and possible effects of psychic powers. This is yet another direction of mankind's evolution.

I see four lines of evolution into our development and use of psychic powers.

- There are the traditional magicians, who explore the unknown, blindly pushing in all directions, superstitiously grabbing at any method that works, jealously hiding their advances from competitors.

- There are the psychics, who simply do what they do. They may use their gift or fear it. They generally do not attempt to study it.

- There are the scientists, who study the unknown carefully, precisely, seeing and recording what happens [if it happens]. They are proving that, yes, something is happening.

- The fourth and newest group is the Temple of Set. We follow the dark, blind paths of the magicians, using the bright lights of the scientists. **Yes**, this works! Reduce it to the working minimum and use it, study it, improve on it, and continue past it to the next discovery, to the next use of our powers.

We combine science and magic as has never been done before. The Temple is evolving quickly, successfully. The Elect are also evolving. I feel that this indicates our pathway of evolution is a successful one.

But then our path is the one that Set would have us travel. "For mankind now hastens toward an annihilation which none but the Elect may hope to avoid." Ours is apparently the strongest evolutionary path open.

There is evolution as a species. Is there evolution as an individual?

There is a theory of "karmic" evolution: that souls progress and evolve through a succession of lives and deaths towards perfection (*nirvana*, sainthood, etc.).

I personally do not [yet] believe in reincarnation. However if reincarnation does take place, then I believe in the evolution of the soul. This evolution of the soul may not be the cause of the social evolutions noted above.

If the soul evolves, it is reasonable to assume that the individual involved evolves during his/her lifetime, I happen to believe that the individual does evolve within a lifetime. I see these individual evolutions. Whether this growth is limited to one lifetime or covers many is immaterial.

Further this individual evolution seems to match mankind's social evolution. There are scientists, academicians, magicians, slaves, dictators, slave owners, democrats, and Setians. Each individual has reached that given point [or points] in an individual evolution.

If the soul evolves across lifetimes, then it is reasonable to assume that those souls which have evolved the farthest are inhabiting the individuals that are at the head of their evolutionary path. If this is the only life we get, then the individuals who have evolved the most in this lifetime are the leaders in their respective paths.

When the slaves and/or slaveowners evolve away from their current state [as the moth above evolved], or die out [as did the dodo], then those evolutionary conditions will be at an end.

As indicated above, Setians are the leading wave of the strongest [in potential, not numbers]

evolutionary trend today. [In their *Morning of the Magicians* Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier hint at others who trod this path before us, but Set apparently makes no mention of these.] Where might our future evolution lead?

Man has the power to alter his environment, and this power becomes stronger every day. Man can evolve so that the environment is totally controlled by man, so that the environment centers upon man, so that the environment **becomes** man and man the environment.

But even Set “cannot destroy the Cosmic Inertia without having to assume its place”. Set “could achieve identity only by becoming what the Cosmic order was not”.

Setians, therefore, must lead in the other direction. It is imperative for each of us to keep the “I” separate and distinct from the “not-I”. Just as “HarWer must exist while Set exists”, we should each define the “not-I” so that we may better define the “I”, better **be** the “I”.

Our evolutionary path includes this definition of the “not-I”, the definition of the “I”. As the “I” and the “not-I” become more distinct, we will know the “I” better, will know better what is required to evolve, and will evolve, will *Xeper*.

This is one path an individual might choose for evolution, and every evolutionary path has its dangers. Indeed it seems that the higher the evolutionary path, the greater (more dramatic, more disastrous) the dangers may be.

Every path has the danger of being a weak path. Note the dodo. These paths face the simple danger of being surpassed by other, more successful, stronger paths.

Mankind treads the highest evolutionary pathways we see on Earth. Yet mankind is headed for catastrophe.

Setians tread the foremost point of mankind’s path, and magic is dangerous. It is repeatedly stated in the Temple that the danger from White Magic is minimal. However it is there. Magus Aquino reports that Black Magic is more dangerous than White. Magister Seago has confirmed to me that the results of magical imbalance at the IV° are more dangerous than at the III°. I imagine greater dangers yet upon becoming a Magus.

“To make of man a Daimon, then, may be to break his Self-reference to the bounds in which his semblance must exist.” Magus LaVey was “raised to the Will of a Daimon”. This was a growth, a danger, for which he was neither prepared nor ready.

Where does our evolution lead? It may lead to Daimonhood and insanity. It may be a blind path, doomed to eventual extinction.

It may lead to Sethood.

My goal is not to attain Sethood, not Priesthood, nor even to become Adept. My personal goal is to *Xeper*, through all the means I can discover, consciously, willfully, to evolve, to *Xeper*.

I expect Sethood as I evolve, and then whatever comes after Sethood; these are but names to temporary steps in a continuing evolution. My goal is to consciously find, and willfully follow, the path of successful, ever higher, ever greater evolution.

[2] The Subjective Universe and Life After Death

- by Richard D. Murad II°

“Death” is a word which stirs many ideas in our minds, most of which do not sit very comfortably with us. The thought that from non-existence we have come, and in a relatively short period of time to non-existence we may perhaps again return, is a thought which digs deep into the very nature of our being. The Temple of Set does not officially concern itself with life after death, as indeed it should not. This does not mean, however, that we cannot speculate on it. What follows is such a speculation.

Before I present my ideas, it is important to consider objective and subjective reality, and the universes in which each dwells.

What is objective reality? It is “God”. It is the universe [out there] and all the laws which apply therein. It is matter and energy, and all the relationships which apply to either or both. It is not our perceptions of them, but the things in and of themselves.

What is subjective reality? It is our many various and diverse perceptions of “God” in all its aspects.

It is also much, much more. It is our dreams and our fantasies. It is our own personal and private universe. “God”’s laws need not apply in our universe if we so choose. Our universe can be filled with whatever creatures or beings we wish. In it, one day we can be hunters, the next day we can be kings. There are no holes barred. We are supreme in it. In our subjective universe **we** are “God”, and only **we** rule.

It is here where astral projection must be brought into the picture. The astral universe has no objective existence. [Cf. “Rituals Without Chambers” by Magister L. Dale Seago, in *Scroll #II-11*.] It is completely a subjective creation. It exists only in the mind.

This does not make the astral world less valid, however. To the magician, the astral world is just as valid, if not more valid than the objective one. [Of course, as long as our bodies, which unfortunately are of “God”, must exist in objective reality, we cannot lose touch with that reality.]

So what does all this have to do with life, or more precisely, existence after physical death? When a person enters into the astral world, objective reality is left behind. Of course, while the body is still functioning, one can return to objective reality. Now if the physical body stops functioning, perhaps all that is left is the astral universe.

What am I saying? Perhaps when a person dies, that person enters into his own completely subjective universe, completely detached from objective existence. The characteristics and appearances of this astral world would be determined either knowingly by the conscious mind, unknowingly by the subconscious mind, or by a combination of both parts of the mind in varying degrees. This theory could explain the many different reports given by people with experiences similar to that of Adept Knaust [*Scroll #III-2*].

Of course this would raise a few questions. One would be: How long would this state last? Another and more important question would be: Could we ever contact or influence objective reality from our astral universe?

In reference to the first question, the stronger and more developed wills would probably last longer and the entirely underdeveloped wills would probably experience nothing at all and dissolve into nonexistence. [Of course the concept of "how long" would be meaningless, because time is nothing more than a relation of events. In our astral universe, we control all events and that makes us, in our astral world, among other things, masters of time.]

And in reference to the second question my answer is as follows: Perhaps reaching out of our subjective universe and touching objective reality is what magic is all about.

[3] **Goals/Challenges**

- by Janet Menschel II°

Since I have decided to live by my will and not according to the whims and beliefs of those around me, I have set certain goals in my mundane life.

Some problems which have come up in recent months concerning my reactions to various events on my job were very puzzling to me. The problems involved my over-emotional reaction to what was, in reality, hostile questioning of my ability to perform my duties properly.

I had taken the job specifically as a challenge, the next step up in responsibility and salary. When circumstances beyond my control caused me to fall behind in my work, I found myself becoming emotionally out of control as well.

It was as though I were trapped in a vicious circle. The new manager did not like my personality, which in turn made him question my work very closely, looking for something wrong. My emotional reaction to this was to become very paranoid and to begin to make mistakes. My inability to control my behavior, combined with his hostile attitude toward me, cost me my job.

I soon accepted another job, which was honestly presented to me as a great challenge, because the entire staff was new in the office. I confidentially felt that this employer, with whom I felt a strong positive attraction, would encourage my growth, rather than inhibit it.

However I was soon disappointed, not with the employer, but with myself. I worked very hard at the tasks given me, and yet failed to get ahead of the back-log which had been given to me. I reacted to the challenge by becoming increasingly unable to complete my work, and to make more mistakes. I became very anxious and nervous, to the point that my employer found it necessary to replace me.

I became concerned with what seemed to be to be un-Setian-like behavior on my part. As I reflected on what was happening to me, I happened to read the words of my favorite philosopher, Ashleigh Brilliant: "Even when it's your own song, you still have to learn how to sing it."

I remembered that I had taken both jobs as a challenge, a test. What I learned from them was that I'm not quite ready for that level. I will now pause, take another lower-level job, until I have learned "how to sing it" and then move forward to meet the new challenges that come my way.