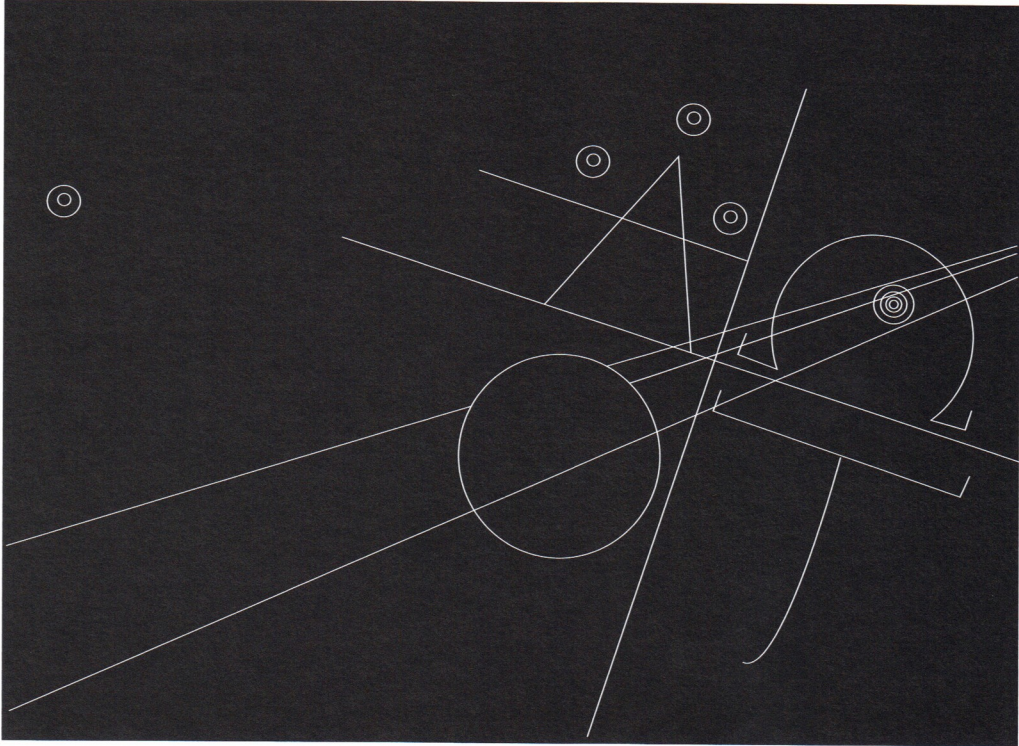


Grid Sigil Magick

At the onset of considering the composition of this essay I kept returning to the declaration of William Butler Yeats: “Where there is nothing, there is God.” Written in 1902, ‘Where There is Nothing’ is one of Yeats’ early literary plays that broaches a variety of issues that many aspirants are forced to wrestle with, including the dissolution of the ego, paradoxical truths, and the shortcomings of pre-established systems of attainment. Crowley himself, had he not been at such odds with Yeats, would have undoubtedly found this drama’s overall thelemic message appealing, with its vivid portrayal of the neophyte striving to overturn and subvert the very system into which he was initiated. Yeats’ message of less is more — or rather, least is most — conveys a very pertinent implication for contemporary occultists. This minimalist approach was foisted upon me as I received glimpses of a system of magick that would form the core of my tome, *The Sacred Alignments and Dark Side of Sigils* (forthcoming from Mandrake Press Limited). A magickal tool, hereafter referred to as the Grid Sigil, was revealed to me that has served as a multi-valent implement, linking high-magick with more fundamental forms of folk shamanism as well as thelemic, and even chthonic currents. This interlocking keystone mechanism is a magickal engine: not of my own fabrication, but one that I was granted access to while in a heightened state of awareness following a series of psychical purges and initiations.

According to the *Zohar*, on the fourth day of creation when the sun and the moon were fashioned: “The letters were arrayed and formed ... in their wheels by the expanding scribal matrix of the nexus.”¹ The

1. Page 155, Daniel C. Matt trans, *The Zohar*.



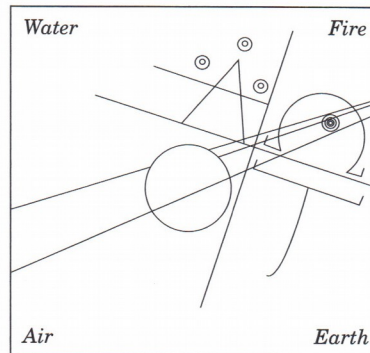
The Grid Sigil

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letters referred to in this passage are those that comprise the Tetragrammaton. The notion of a “scribal matrix” is what concerns us most here. In the *Zohar* and the *Sepher Yetzirah* there are several references to the letters of creation forming a weave or web. This concept of a reticulated text of creation bears directly upon the significance of the Grid Sigil that was originally sighted by me on July 17, 1979. Through a very rigorous magickal regimen of daily ritual, meditation and yoga, I was able to recall this sigil from lucid explorations in *sushupti* or delta-wave deep-sleep. This sigil was presented to me under the aegis of “Uriel”. Through the archangel’s guidance I sensed that the sigil’s origins were of a pre-human and stellar nature. So while it is safe to assume that this device has an Enochian underpinning, its potential and ramifications extends far beyond any one specific system of magick extant. Initially I intuited that this sigil was related to the root forces of creation as they intertwine to form the fabric of the *prima materia*.

I believe it noteworthy that the redactors of the *Zohar* did not specify exactly what type of letters they were considering. The *Zohar*, after all, is considered a didactic work, meant to stimulate thought and meditation upon not just *halakah* and *aggadah* or various legal and moral aspects of Judaism, but also the more mystical aspects of the Cabala. This ‘array’ of letters we can assume alludes to Hebrew as an onto-theological script, in that it is the original and originating generative set of letters administered by the divine according to Judaic Lore. However, one need not look far to discover a whole range of Adamic tongues or alphabets that were espoused and disseminated during the Middle Ages. Cornelius Agrippa, Guilliame Postell and others wrote at length on the topic, and they in part inspired John Dee’s quest to discover and explore what he believed to be the first language God delivered to Adam. Dee was interested in manipulating and commanding the forces of nature through the intonation of magical verse as initially espoused by Cornelius Agrippa. In Book III, chapter xxx of his *De Occulta Philosophia*, Agrippa provides an example of a celestial alphabet. And to a degree, the Grid Sigil marks a progression in the exploration of the celestial code.

In its most sublimated aspect, the Grid deals with the root forces of the elements, or the precursor energies of the four elements before they have come into existence. The Grid in this aspect poses an interface between the *ain soph* and the formative world. At the outset I viewed the Grid as a



sigilized version of the Tetragrammaton. Spare himself stated that sigils are grasped by the subconscious, whereas symbols are understood by the conscious mind. But then I became aware that there is a gray area that begins to dissolve the boundary between sigil and symbol. How many times have people found a certain piece of verse or song hypnotic or highly evocative of something not quite conveyed by its literal meaning? Seen in this 'in-between' light, I am compelled to look at the Grid Sigil as occupying the flexible space or *brissure*, hinge, between the symbolic and the sigilic so-to-speak.

Acknowledged as a pattern of divine light forming a sigil, or as an analogue of the four elements held in union by spirit, the Grid Sigil lends itself to a wide variety of interpretations and uses. The *omicron*-shaped character pertains to the root forces of air, the *alpha* to water, the *omega* to fire, and the *tau* to earth. The central cross is that of spirit; and the three rays that comprise the expanding space wherein the Grid resides, represent the space-time continuum. The characters in each quadrant closely resemble Greek letters, but the array viewed as a whole conveys a more mechanoid and alien embodiment. I was initially compelled to view the Grid Sigil as an instrument of the most rarified nature, linking it exclusively with the *ain soph*, etc. But then it became clear that this approach was a meiotic one, placing an exclusive tag on the Grid Sigil, thereby delimiting its uses. All tools of high-magick, in the hands of the truly innovative practitioner, invariably convey a wide range of utilities and cross-applications.

Sigils, we may ascertain, act as mimetic tools, as opposed to letters comprising modern alphabets that may be understood through a diagetic approach. At one point, I had toyed with the idea of simply putting forth the Grid Sigil and corresponding sigils in graphic form without an expository text, assuming that its use would reveal itself to the serious student. For those of us who have adopted Dion Fortune's philosophy of spending an exponential amount of time engaged in meditation for each hour spent reading an occult manual, any worthwhile revelations should become self-evident given time and sufficient attention. The demonstrative or 'showing' aspects of a grimoire are initiated by the revelatory light within the magician. The diagetic or instructional part of the same magical text, it follows, informs us as to whether or not we wish to proceed with implementing that described form of magick — or does it? Thought distracts; non-thought or non-doing draws us closer to where we need to be. Subsequently, there is one very basic practice in which I invite the reader to engage: simply 'gazing' on the Grid Sigil. The graphic flow and hypnogogic nature of the sigil becomes clear with this simple practice.

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The rays of time and space, that intersect the four quadrants and the central cross, seem to extend beyond the boundaries of the page, thus dissolving the frame. These rays actively portray space as ever-expanding. And it is by virtue of this extraordinary visual quality of the Grid Sigil that I would argue that it was a transmission, due to the fact that I possess very little in the way of skills as a graphic artist that would enable me to render this depiction unassisted. In any event, the results of gazing on this design, while preferably in a vacuous state, can be very telling. I hesitate to elaborate further on this visual aspect, so as not to influence any results, visions, etc., the reader may encounter. Now, to better acquire a grasp of the multivalent utilities of the Grid Sigil, let us look at some of its most basic applications, and then consider them as gateways to more rarified functions.

Dowsing is an age-old tradition, still practiced in Appalachia and other remote areas of the world, that harnesses geo-magnetism akin to the Grid's fundamental manifestation. Dowsing has been adopted and popularized more recently by healers and modern new-age practitioners, for detecting maladies, bodily energy flows, etc. Through the use of a forked willow branch or copper rod, the traditional dowser has been able to detect water sources such as hidden springs for the purpose of well-digging, etc. Willow has often been the wood of choice for 'water-finders', in keeping with the tenets of sympathetic magic since the willow tree grows close to bodies of water; as well as the fact that its roots often detect and infiltrate water pipes, sewer lines, etc. The dowser essentially uses a secondary tool, the dowsing branch or rod, to serve as a receptive medium between the seeker and the sought object or energy. In the same manner, the Grid Sigil may be employed to detect power zones, *temenos* or gates, etc.

After interacting with the Grid Sigil internally, the magician may then project it outside of the circle, utilizing it in conjunction with the earth's grid or ley-lines. To do this one must have developed a certain amount of spiritual vision by having awakened the *ajna chakra*. It is also helpful to perform this type of geomagnetic operation out of doors. For those able to perceive the earth's grid, this part should prove relatively easy. Once an intersection of the cords of power has been located, the magician may project the Grid Sigil into that point, superimposing the central cross of the Grid Sigil over the intersecting cords. This act of projection may be achieved simply through directing the will. However, if the student has not developed their astral skills accordingly, then the Grid Sigil may also be traced in a manner similar to the way in which the pentagram is drawn in the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram, using a wand or the hands to draw the Sigil with the astral light. Nonetheless, if the practitioner is

still having difficulty perceiving the cords of power, the Grid Sigil itself may be used to help locate them. This exercise requires a good mastery of *dharana*. After tracing the sigil in the aethyr, the magician should then move it and project it about until its vibration rate increases. This may be perceived as an increase in brightness, warmth, etc. When the Sigil, like a dowsing rod, begins to exhibit an increase in energy or vibration rate, one has located a nexus. Moreover, if attempting to position the Grid sigil astrally proves problematic, it may be inscribed on a piece of parchment and then physically repositioned while paying attention to the energy it gives off, as previously described in the astral method.

In Carlos Casteñeda's *The Eagle's Gift*, Don Tuma described a fixed web of intersecting cords of power that surround the earth. The Grid Sigil is a tool for locking into and harnessing this grid. As we have seen, formulating the Grid Sigil and projecting it into the intersecting cords of power form the first phase of its implementation. Then, upon activating the Grid Sigil at that nexus, the practitioner can establish it as a transmission point for a variety of magical uses. It is important to take this function of the Grid Sigil into consideration, as it affords some insight into the logic behind the construction of ancient temples and pyramids. Theoretically, a magical device such as the Grid Sigil could be utilized as a catalyst or magical battery of sorts, to increase the vibration rate within a temple or to charge it with a given energy sympathetic to a specific rite. Subsequently, we will explore how the Grid Sigil may be utilized with such an astral structure.

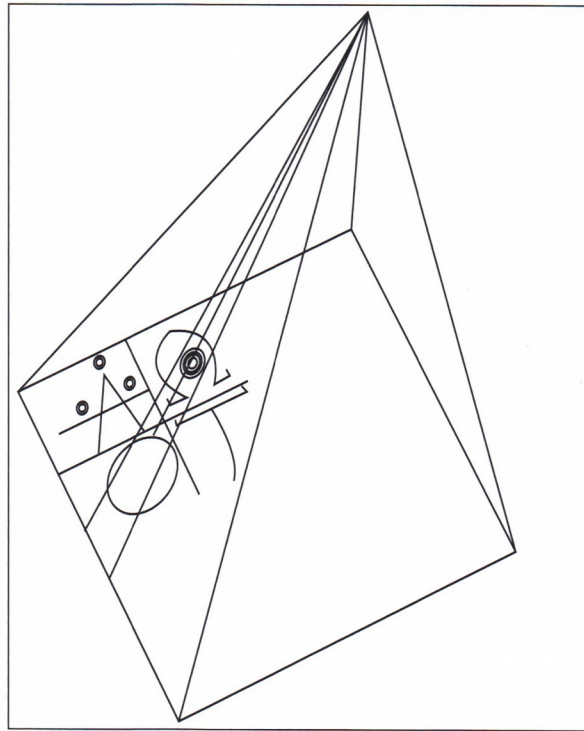
'The Ritual of the Rose Cross' as outlined in *The Golden Dawn* (pp.46-50), is a particularly useful practice in preparing the Grid Magician for creating and energizing their own astral pyramid. In short, the Rose Cross ritual enables a practitioner to construct an astral cube around their being. The rite is concluded with an invocation of INRI, the LVX signs, and vibration of the names of the four Enochian angels of the Tablet of Union. It is typically a ritual very much focused on Tiphareth and attendant rebirthing energies parting the Veil of Paroketh. Regardie's suggestion is that "when much distracted," one should "use the Pentagrams to banish and the Rose-cross to maintain peace" (*Golden Dawn*, p.49). Like an orgone accumulator, as prescribed by Wilhelm Reich, this ritual does in fact establish an energy containment field that helps to isolate and regenerate the subtle vibrations of the magician inward, thus preventing their unfocused release.

Similar to the Rose Cross ritual, the Grid Magician may obtain additional benefits from being able to formulate an astral pyramid. In practice this operation may be modified, given the particular degree of

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attainment and proclivities of the practitioner. This ritual basically invokes energies paralleling Tiphareth in Kether. After engaging in pranayama and blessing oneself, either with a wand or by the hands, the magician should draw an astral square on the ground. The ideal format, although not essential, is to have one's square lined up with magnetic north (this varies from area to area, and it is best to do a little research to find the coordinates for magnetic north given the geographical region where you are performing your magick). Then, beginning in the northern quadrant, draw the light up from the northeast corner to a point above one's head and then down to the southeast corner, thus completing one triangular side of the pyramid. Vibrate *Sothis* or *Sopdet* (the Egyptian for Sirius, literally 'Serpent's Tooth'), drawing the stellar light from above and filling that side of the pyramid with the light. Moving clockwise, repeat this invocation in each of the following quadrants. Lastly, make sure to perform the invocation while filling the base of the pyramid with the same light.

This ritual of forming the astral pyramid should be performed on a somewhat regular basis in the same spot. After a while, the pyramid's astral impression will be reified in that area, and soon the need to physically perform the gestures will be obviated; the magical imagination will be able to materialize the astral pyramid in a flash. It is also a good idea to spend some time in the pyramid, just experiencing how it makes one feel on all levels. Once this ritual can be performed easily and comfortably, the practitioner is ready to apply the Grid Sigil to the process.



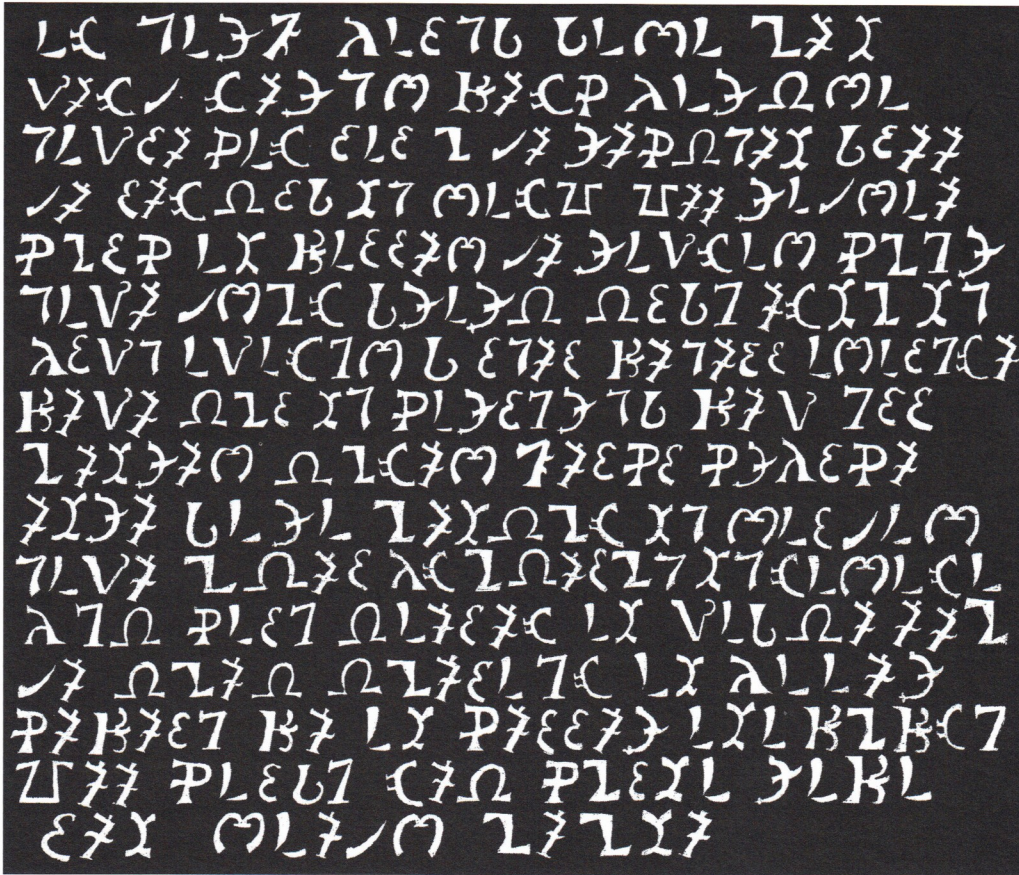
With the Grid Sigil prepared on a piece of parchment, position it in the northeast corner of the pyramid. The magician may now project the Grid Sigil outside his or her sphere, aligning it with the cords of power or ley-lines as they are perceived. Drawing the light down through the outer Grid Sigil into the pyramid to activate the earthed Grid Sigil, the

magus basically completes the magical circuit. At this point there should be a marked change in the energy generated within the astral pyramid. The rate of vibration within the astral pyramid should increase substantially. Through this process, the practitioner has begun manifesting their own magical, autonomous universe. Subsequently, this application of the astral pyramid forms the next step in actualizing the potential energy of the Grid Sigil as a nexus or liminal bridge between within and without, above and below, in the magician's overall sphere of awareness.

In Enochian Magick, especially when used in conjunction with the 1st Call to creation, the Grid Sigil acts as a powerful catalyst. Working from a yogic perspective, the magical act of evocation is reified through the combined use of the senses. The *yantra*, or magical diagram, sigil, etc., embodies visually the magical intent; the *mantra*, auditory reinforcement; and *tantra*, the combined holistic method of manifesting intent within the magician's sphere. The medieval magician and neoplatonist, Marsilio Ficino, understood the synaesthetic nature of magic and how incense, smell, colour, etc could all be magnifying agents of the magician's intent for reinforcing the willful act. Crowley's 777 essentially takes up the torch that Ficino initiated, by setting up various tables of correspondences to elaborate upon these elements given a cabalistic framework. In accordance with the synaesthetic approach, it is clear that the visual and auditory aspects of ritual may enhance the overall magical experience.

In addition, there are sigils that correspond to the remaining 16 calls to creation which I have outlined in *The Sacred Alignments and Dark Side of Sigils*. However, due to the constraints of the breadth of this article we are focusing on the Grid Sigil alone. As I discussed earlier, the use of the Enochian call along with the corresponding sigil serves to magnify the overall effect. When I began to record the sigils in black ink on white boards, I was compelled to do the same with the initial 18 calls, but to put them down in Enochian characters instead of Roman script. I was able to feel the effect of this combination immediately. It became glaringly obvious that the Enochian calls written in Enochian created the powerful visual effect of a flashing tablet. The eyes are able to feel the energy emanating, and consequently the calls in Enochian presented themselves as powerful theurgical tools in their visual aspect. Just by gazing on the Grid Sigil and the first call, I was able to detect an electrifying field emanating from the paired combination. Furthermore, the combined sigil and call in Enochian is useful as a magical aid for tapping into the Enochian current when environmental constraints prohibit the intonation of the calls out-loud.

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First Enochian Call to Spirit

When viewing the Enochian system via the implementation of sigil magick, I believe that it provides access and appeal for a wider range of practitioners than possibly it had in the past. Typically — and I am sure most experienced occultists would agree — Enochian magick has been the system of choice for the more aggressive, systematic, and analytic practitioners of the occult arts. But by sheer virtue of adding sigil magick techniques to the Enochian foundation, the system begins to open up to practitioners who rely on spontaneity as a means of actively energizing their workings. The use of such sigils can further enable a practitioner to recall and project on-the-spot the energy evoked from a prior ritual performance of a specific Enochian call. Having earthed the Grid on a piece of parchment, or astrally for those who are able, the magician may infuse it with the energies evoked during a specific ritual and then carry it with them throughout the day, to assist with reproducing these energies or building upon them at will. After all, what method of magick is worth

its salt if it can't be conducted at will *sans* lengthy orations, protracted rites, etc.

Apparently, crossovers exist between the traditional use of sigils as tools of evocation and their more current Sparean assignations. Agrippa-based angel magic, with its roots in Sabine rites from the Middle East as they made their segue into the west via texts such as the *Picatrix*, utilized sigils as a means of evoking spiritual entities. The term *evoke* itself signifies 'to call forth from without'. In Austin Spare's system, sigils are used to reify one's true desires by projecting a self-made sigil inwards. Yet, Spare was able to demonstrate the evocational potential of these inwardly-projected sigils by literally calling forth denizens that empower these sigils, through the gateways of the subconscious to visible and palpable appearance (see *The Magical Revival*, 2010 edition., pp.180-181). Subsequently, the Grid Sigil embodies a variety of contemporary as well as traditional principles of sigils, synthesized into a flexible and dynamic magical tool relevant to modern applications.

Robert Podgurski

For further developments in Grid Sigil Magick and *The Sacred Alignments and Dark Side of Sigils* visit: www.gridmagick.com.