

SATAN'S BIBLE ANALYZED

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INTRODUCTION¹

Ever since Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, there has been *sin*. Sin has been functioning within the fabrics of every society since then. For centuries, man has wrestled against the evil principalities of the world. Satan has done his job well. Vast numbers of people are continuously being deceived and discouraged from even trying to run the Christian race. Numerous religions and denominations are split on the issues of values and worship. Largely due to these divisions, man has designed churches which cater to his own desires. Life in this world has become more valued than God's promise of eternal life.

It is no surprise that a mere man, such as Anton LaVey, would choose Satan's principles as the foundation for his own religion, and for the establishment of his own church. Regarding the motive for men doing such things, God made it plain, saying: "[M]en shall be lovers of their own selves" (2 Tim. 3:2). LaVey tried to use man's "instinct" as the basis for his claim that "unavoidable urges" are a part of human nature. In so doing, he attempted to bring doubt into the minds of others. God never said we would not sin, but every day we must bury that old man of sin and press forward.

A BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF ANTON LaVEY

On April 11, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois, a son was born to Augusta and Joe LaVey. They named their new son Howard Stanton LaVey. LaVey spent much of his early childhood in California. At the age of seven, he started being interested in magic and the occult. He became particularly interested in hypnotism and the art of handwriting. Young

LaVey enjoyed hearing the stories found in dark literature and pulp magazines and he often fancied the mystical characters, such as one by Jack London.

As a youth LaVey kept to himself most of the time. He had many talents, but perhaps his greatest talent was the keyboard. The range of sounds one could make on the keyboard fascinated him. LaVey was viewed as an outsider among his peers. He often skipped school and followed his own interest. At the age of sixteen LaVey dropped out of school. After leaving school he joined the circus in search of acceptance and adventure. No one knows when LaVey changed his name to Anton Szandor LaVey, but it is by that name he is infamously known today.

LaVey enjoyed the art of observing people. While employed by the circus, he noticed that some of the men who attended indecent sideshows on Saturday nights also attended tent revival meetings on Sunday mornings. Seeing the hypocrisy exhibited by many “church goers,” LaVey abandoned “Christianity” to seek other avenues of religious satisfaction.

Involving himself in paranormal research, LaVey used his talents as an organist to support himself. On Friday nights LaVey held lectures on the occult. Those especially “in tune” with LaVey’s thinking on the occult became known as a “Magic Circle.” It was a member of his “Magic Circle” that suggested he had the basis for a new religion.

On April 30, 1966, LaVey declared and founded the Church of Satan. He proclaimed 1966 as year “One” of the Age of Satan. This gained a lot of media attention for LaVey. Dubbed the “Black Pope” by some newspapers, LaVey performed Satanic baptisms and funerals. He also released an album called the *Satanic Mass*. Concerning LaVey’s production of *The Satanic Bible*, one of his disciples, Peter Gilmore, writes:

By the end of 1969, LaVey had taken monographs he had written to explain the philosophy and ritual practices of the Church of Satan and melded them with all of his philosophical influences from Ayn Rand, Nietzsche, Mencken, and London along with the base wisdom of the carnival folk. He prefaced these essays and rites with reworked excerpts from Ragnar Redbeard’s *Might is Right* and concluded it with “Satanized” versions of John Dee’s Enochian Keys to create *The Satanic Bible*.²

With the publication of this book and the media attention it received, LaVey became increasingly popular. In 1969, a documentary was done on LaVey entitled, *Satanis: The Devil's Mass*.

Howard Stanton LaVey, alias Anton Szandor LaVey, became ill and died on October 29, 1997, in San Francisco, California. He died at St. Mary's Catholic Hospital of pulmonary edema. Following the Satanic funeral his family requested for LaVey, his body was cremated and buried. Later, under the assumption that they could be used for Satanic ritual magic, LaVey's ashes were retrieved and divided among his heirs. Unfortunately, his legacy continues with those who follow the ideas of Satanism.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Satanic Bible was written and copyrighted in 1969 by Anton LaVey. It was published by Avon Books in New York, in 1969. Few would deny that this book was written by one deceived by the stealthy influences of the devil. Satan, however, did not directly *inspire* LaVey to write as the Holy Spirit *inspired* the Bible's penmen to write (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21).

AN OVERVIEW OF *THE SATANIC BIBLE*

At first glance *The Satanic Bible* may appear to be just an average book. Giving it a closer look, one's attention is quickly drawn to the five-pointed star which is strategically located on the cover's center. No, this is not your ordinary star. This one serves as a trademark for the Church of Satan. This trademark has served as the symbol for Satanists since the nineteenth century. Called the Sigil of Baphomet, this star encompasses five pointed angles, one pointing downward and the other two upward, all enclosed by a circle. While the Sigil of Baphomet appears on its cover, it is not the only symbol present within *The Satanic Bible*.

There is a second symbol that occurs above the "Nine Satanic Statements," which includes the Cross of Lorraine preceded by the infinity symbol at the bottom. This sign represents brimstone, the element with which hell's fire is fueled.

The Satanic Bible is divided into four books: the Book of Satan, the Book of Lucifer, the Book of Belial, and the Book of Leviathan. These four books are named after the four chiefs of hell in *The Book of the Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage*. Each of the previously mentioned books corresponds to diverse core aspects in Satanism.

THE BOOK OF SATAN: THE INFERNAL DIATRIBE

The Book of Satan is one of the shortest books in *The Satanic Bible*. This book is closely associated with *fire*. LaVey uses wittiness to stir his readers' senses and prepare them for what is to come. The Book of Satan attacks the core elements of Christianity. It makes a mockery of the moral beliefs upon which our society was founded and places Satan in the position of being a victim of persecution. The Book of Satan sets forth LaVey's philosophies as pure truth and attempts to break down the binary opposition (good vs. evil) generally recognized by society. The Book of Satan takes what is right and endeavors to undermine it. Accordingly, the concept of something being *good* is no longer *right*, and *evil* is no longer *wrong*. The *truth* becomes a *lie*, and the *lie* becomes *truth*. Denying that the freedom of one's soul is found in Christianity's so called "God," LaVey avers that freedom is found in the devil's iniquities and in serving oneself. Instead of presenting Satan as an evil entity in the world, LaVey views him as one who has done no wrong and is rightly due his own justice.

THE BOOK OF LUCIFER: THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Book of Lucifer is closely associated with *wind*. This book characterizes religion's traditional values as hypocritical. Based upon a wrong interpretation of Isaiah 14:12, many professed "Christians" think Lucifer is Satan, the representative of evil and all lies. Building upon the fact that the word "Lucifer," in Latin, means "bearer of light," LaVey expresses, "The truth alone has never set anyone free, it is only doubt which will bring mental emancipation."³ This quote from *The Satanic Bible* highlights how LaVey would have men to believe the absurdity that doubt is the key to freedom. The Book of Lucifer is divided into twelve essays, each of which is designed to destroy the foundation of Christian morals.

ESSAYS WITHIN THE BOOK OF LUCIFER

Wanted-God Dead Or Alive

In this essay LaVey discusses how Satanist's view God as merely a balancing aspect in nature, not the superior being that He is, One Who concerned with human suffering. Satanists deny God's unconditional love and claim His omnipotence is a fraud. They argue that if God really is all-powerful, and if His love really is unconditional, then He would not allow people to endure pain, misery and sorrow. As LaVey

sees it, the responsibility for everything hinges on the way man and the universe act and react, and there is no other entity that cares.

The God You Save May Be Yourself

This essay continues the thoughts expressed in the previous one, trying in vain to develop them further. Satanists believe God is merely the creation of man's imagination, invented to give him the hope for something better. Sophistically, they then pose the question: "Why worship something that is of no less human origin than oneself?" Setting forth such questions, Satanists want to persuade people to conclude that they should be glorifying themselves, not a *humanized God*. By taking God out of the equation, that leaves only a man being responsible for himself. Holding such an egocentric view makes most Satanists self-centered and non-empathetic concerning the world around them.

Some Evidence Of The New Satanic Age

This piece displays Satanism as more than a philosophy. It contends that Satanism is the *religion* best suited to meet human needs. Here, LaVey expresses that the "Seven Deadly Sins" are instinctual and unavoidable. Basically, LaVey says such sins are the natural urges of human nature, that they are bound to happen and thus they should not be viewed as "sin." He views Christianity's prohibitions and restrictions against sinning to be a religious framework designed to assure that men and women will sin. Thus, having sinned, they have to beg God for His forgiveness. Moreover, he insists that this makes man dependent upon the church for spiritual salvation. LaVey offers Satanism as the alternative religion, which is supposedly built upon truth, not falsities like most other religions (especially Christianity).

Hell, The Devil, And How To Sell Your Soul

This article explains why LaVey has no real belief in God or Satan, or any gods or devils. He highlights the reason why he uses "Satanism" as the name for his self-indulgent religion. He points out that the term "Satan" means "adversary." According to LaVey, an adversary can be a supernatural figure or any opponent that one may face; therefore, Satan is the ideal symbol for a religion that partakes in iniquities.

Love And Hate

This section explains Satanists' perception of love and hate, and the roles they play in the lives of men and women. Satanism is admittedly

a religion in which self-satisfaction is the goal, and LaVey identifies it with what the individual truly wants for self. However, while he stresses that one must *first* always have his/her own interest at heart, the concepts of universal love and hate are viewed as impossibilities under the umbrella of Satanism.

Satanic Sex

Satanism's catering to man's carnal desires is an advertisement for promiscuous behavior. In this section, LaVey talks about a "free love movement." LaVey's "free love movement" would allow decisions regarding sexual appetites and activities to be "matters of the heart," i.e., left up to the individual. There are exceptions which limit the "freedom" allowed in the "free love movement." The rules in *The Satanic Bible* specifically state: "Satanism encourages any form of sexual expression you may desire, (*so long as it hurts no one else*) (emphasis added)."⁴ This prohibition includes any form of pedophilia or bestiality. LaVey's *The Satanic Bible* also forbids any type of illegal activity. LaVey and other hedonists fail to recognize that any sexual activity outside of monogamous marriage hurts someone (Heb. 13:4).

Not All Vampires Suck Blood

This part of *The Satanic Bible* is perhaps its most famous. It is within this section that LaVey defines what he calls the "psychic vampire." The phrase "psychic vampire" is used to describe those who mentally control others by articulately playing the role of a victim. Satanists view these people as mentally draining and they are advised to avoid "psychic vampires" at all costs.

Indulgence Not Compulsion

This exposition focuses on how Satanists should not abstain from things, but rather should release their inhibitions and throttle ahead *full force*. Satanism's doctrine that heaven is nonexistent means that earth is the only place one can find happiness and satisfaction. Although Satanism holds that one's own happiness is paramount, LaVey warns Satanists to beware of individuals who lack any sense of self-restraint. Is it not interesting that Satanists deny that individuals who participate in destructive behavior will fail to find fulfillment in this life?

On The Choice Of Human Sacrifice

LaVey uses this passage to expound the limits of human sacrifice. He authorizes "symbolic" but *not* "literal" human sacrifice. Further-

more, LaVey condemns animal sacrifices. If one wants to make a sacrifice, LaVey encourages him to use himself as a sacrifice, but again he does not condone suicide (except in the case of euthanasia). LaVey teaches that if one believes an individual deserves to die, then one has the right to place a curse on him. Then, if the cursed person dies, that is a human sacrifice which is acceptable.

Life After Death Through Fulfillment Of The Ego

This section displays how *life* and *living* are placed very high on the Satanists' priority chart. They are advised to take good care of themselves and preserve their lives. LaVey condemns the acts of martyrdom and suicide. When it comes to a man's natural inclination to defend his loved ones, one must always weigh the risks—preservation of "self" is primary. LaVey finds that suicide is acceptable in cases of a terminal illnesses when dying is preferable to living.

Religious Holidays

As indicated by the title, the bulk of this essay discusses important holidays for the Satanists. The holiday held in highest regard by the Satanist is his own birthday. This is not surprising seeing as how important one's own existence is to the Satanist. The next holiday discussed in the book is called "Walpurgisnacht." While Walpurgisnacht historically comes from a pagan spring observance, LaVey gave that name to the holiday which marks the birthday of his Church of Satan. The third holiday Satanists observe is Halloween. Summer and winter solstices, and spring and fall equinoxes are also celebrated. They mark the specific days in nature when the seasonal changes occur.

The Black Mass

LaVey uses this book to discuss the so-called "Black Mass." He discusses how this particular observance is a "literary invention" designed by the Catholic Church to instill the depravity of those accused of being witches. However, LaVey goes on to explain that Satanism has utilized the Black Mass as a motivational psychodrama and as an emotional channel.

THE BOOK OF BELIAL

This detailed portion of *The Satanic Bible* is closely related to the *earth*. Its sole purpose is to present in depth the whole concept of magic. LaVey expresses that there is power in magic and that it has

practical applications. Like the others before it, the Book of Belial is also divided into essays.

The Theory And Practice Of Satanic Magic

This article sheds light on LaVey's definition of magic. LaVey explains: "The definition of magic, as used in this book is: 'The change in situations or events in accordance with one's will, which would, using normally accepted methods, be unchangeable.'"⁵ LaVey also breaks magic down into two separate entities, distinguishing between "Lesser Magic" and "Greater Magic." "Lesser Magic" deals with any non-ritualistic or persuasive magic. Manipulation is perhaps one of the most important elements when practicing "Lesser Magic." "Greater Magic" encompasses all ritualistic and ceremonial magic.

The Three Types Of Satanic Ritual

In this passage, the three types of Satanic rituals are explained. First, there are "Lust Rituals." These are the rituals that involve sexually attracting the person of one's choice. In order for this ritual to be successful you have to have a particular person in mind. The second type of ritual is the "Compassion Ritual." The purpose of the "Compassion Ritual" is to increase wealth. It can be applied to loved ones or oneself. The third ritual is a "Destruction Ritual." "Destruction Rituals" involves placing a curse on one's enemy in order to destroy him. For any of the rituals to come to pass, one must first visualize and actually want his desires to come true. Satanists are warned to be mindful of the consequences of these rituals.

The Ritual, Or "Intellectual Decompression Chamber"

The "Decompression Chamber" is defined within this chapter. This ritual involves relinquishing all of one's pent up energy and entering into a state of mental suspension of disbelief. LaVey explains that this ritual may be practiced by an individual or by a group. Regarding the "Intellectual Decompression Ritual," LaVey says more can be achieved by "Group Rituals." He states that more can be achieved in the "Compassion" and "Lust Rituals" on an individual or personal level.

The Ingredients Used In The Performance Of Satanic Magic

This portion of *The Satanic Bible* names the five elements that are crucial for spells. The five elements are: 1) desire, 2) timing, 3) imagery, 4) direction, and 5) balance. LaVey provides a complete list of detailed instructions for the exact administration of rituals, giving

specifics as to how one must execute them. Items included in the rituals are: the Sigil of Baphomet, ritual wear, chalice, elixir, phallus, gong, sword, parchment, bell, candles, and the alter.

THE BOOK OF LEVIATHAN: THE RAGING SEA

This is the last book in *The Satanic Bible*. It is closely associated with the element *water*. LaVey gives Satanists explicit instructions on what they are to say and do in carrying out the rituals in this section. This book includes the so-called “Nineteen Enochian Keys.” These keys serve as alternating chants. *The Satanic Bible* ends with a stamp which says: “Yankee Rose.” Not even the Satanists know why LaVey chose this reading to end his book. Since LaVey is dead, the “Yankee Rose” mystery remains.

THE THRUST OF *THE SATANIC BIBLE*

Denying God’s existence and therefore His involvement in the affairs of men, *The Satanic Bible* focuses solely on self-gratification and controlling one’s own destiny. It also plainly plants seeds of doubt regarding God, Christianity, things spiritual, man’s eternal destiny, et cetera. In the Garden of Eden, Satan used doubt to his advantage in getting Eve to taste the forbidden fruit. God had strictly forbidden Eve to eat of “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Gen. 2:17). When Satan tempted her, she told him, “God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die” (Gen. 3:3), but Satan planted doubt in her mind by saying: “Ye shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:4). Satan discarded what God had said and planted the seeds of doubt in Eve’s mind. Thus, Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and then gave it to her husband. God’s Word was validated. Consequently, Adam and Eve suffered spiritual and physical death.

The Satanic Bible also incorporates the nine Satanic statements. The nine Satanic statements are:

1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence!
2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams!
3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit!
4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it instead of love wasted on ingrates!
5. Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek!

6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires!
7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his "divine spiritual and intellectual development," has become the most vicious animal of all!
8. Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification!
9. Satan has been the best friend the Church has ever had, as He has kept it in business all these years!⁶

THE SATANIC BIBLE: A WORK OF BLASPHEMY

The Bible teaches: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). Satan is a great deceiver. He plays with the minds of individuals and leads them to believe that God is keeping something from them. LaVey uses *The Satanic Bible* to manipulate the minds of his readers and blaspheme against God's Word. We must be aware of Satan's evil devices, and be mindful that the devil knows the Scriptures, too. Satan's knowledge of the Scriptures can be used against the man who does not know what God's Word says.

LaVey truly is a follower of Satan in his use of doubt as a tool. This is especially so as he cultivates doubt in the minds of his many followers who find his brand of Satanism so inviting. Though he may not really believe there is a Satan, what LaVey fails to understand is that Satan is using him to lead others down the path of destruction. Satan does exist and hell is a real place! Since LaVey died in 1997, he knows that now, but, just like the rich man in Luke 16:19-31, he found it out too late. Once a man's life is over, and he has lived in such a way that his eternal home is with the damned, he cannot do anything to change it.

The Satanic Bible is full of lies. It denies the very fact that God lives. LaVey says: "Man has always created his own gods, rather than his gods creating him. God is, to some, benign and to others terrifying."⁷ To the Satanist, "God, by whatever name he is called, or by no name at all, is seen as the balancing factor in nature, and not as being concerned with suffering."⁸ Satanists may say what they will, but God says: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Ps. 14:1). If one denies the existence of God, the reality of

Christ's resurrection, and the reality of heaven and hell, he is truly being foolish. The Scriptures clearly point out how foolish one is who refuses to believe in the Redeemer of his soul. In light of this, LaVey's philosophy and Satanic doctrines are clearly blasphemy. Yes, it is too late for LaVey, but it is not too late for us. We can still make the right choices, choices that will lead us to salvation and keep us in God's good graces.

CONCLUSION

As Christians, we must be aware of Satan's evil devices. If we are not careful he may yet capture our souls. How much should one take in exchange for his soul? The answer should be: "Nothing!" Eternal life is ours if we will deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow him daily. No one says the Christian life is going to be easy. Indeed, we are to be hard-fighting soldiers on the battlefield. Exposing God's enemies, such as Anton LaVey and his fellow Satanists, pointing out and refuting their blasphemous beliefs, and telling others of God's wonderful message, the Gospel of Christ, we will be victorious.

ENDNOTES

¹ All Scripture references are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

² Wikipedia, "Anton LaVey."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Szandor_LaVey

³ Anton LaVey, *"The Satanic Bible"* (New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1969), 37.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 69.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 110.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 40.

⁸ *Ibid.*