

# Renegade Files®

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This is Renegade Files Episode 83, Chaos Magic.

Chaos Magic is one of those unfortunate topics which, because of a poorly selected name, people tend to think they know what it is, without ever looking into it.

Maybe that's a good thing from the perspective of a true Chaos Magician, but the more likely truth is that (1) the devotees probably don't care if someone understands it or not, and (2), there is no such thing as Truth in the first place so either of these scenarios is equally ineffectual in the world and there's really no one to care or not care, but this is not to say that the entire discipline is Nihilistic.

A better term might be flexible, and before we start trying to understand this, we need to unravel a few things.

First of all, the unfortunate name here: Chaos Magic. When people hear the word Chaos, they often think of melee, destruction, and wreckage. Officially, Chaos

refers to a state of complete confusion or disorder, where there is no order or organization. It can also describe a confused mass or mixture of things. As for Chaos Magic, what we're concerned with is more of the absence of organization, formality, and tradition. But this doesn't mean the total void of performance. Quite the opposite. Chaos magic is, above all else, concerned with **Results**.

One of its mottos is, *If it works, it works*.

In the first section we'll cover some deeper definitions and origins of Chaos Magic. In part 2 we'll explore the tools of the trade. In part 3 we'll dive into Chaos Magic in Popular and fringe Culture. And that will lead us into some part 4, Pop Culture Events and Products that just may be forms of Chaos Magic being performed in plain sight. By the end we should know just enough about Chaos Magic to get us in trouble.

So join me now for Renegade Files Episode 83... wherein together we will explore the strange, potentially life changing, and almost certainly treacherous world of Chaos Magic.

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Online Chaos Magic Sigil Generator mentioned in the episode:

<https://www.chaostarot.com/app/chaos-star-sigil-generator/>

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## **Episode Text**

Hello my intrepid accomplice. You have tuned into Renegade Files, your underground connection to Paranormal Adventures, Unsolved Mysteries, and Unhinged Conspiracy Revolution. *You are now in the company of outcasts.* I’m your host Lex Gordon broadcasting a pirate radio signal from The Jungle Villa Outpost, Deep in the Uncharted Tropics.

This is Renegade Files Episode 83, Chaos Magic.

Chaos Magic is one of those unfortunate topics which, because of a poorly selected name, people tend to think they know what it is, without ever looking into it.

Maybe that’s a good thing from the perspective of a true Chaos Magician, but the more likely truth is that (1) the devotees probably don’t care if someone understands it or not, and (2), there is no such thing as Truth in the first place so either of these scenarios is equally ineffectual in the world and there’s really no one to care or not care, but this is not to say that the entire discipline is Nihilistic.

A better term might have been Flexible Magic, and before we start trying to understand this, we need to unravel a few things.

First of all, the unfortunate name here: Chaos Magic. Those who named this were using the literal term and so this isn’t as much a poorly chosen term, just one that has come to drag baggage along with it, because of people’s emotional

ideas about the term. When people hear the word Chaos, they often think of melee, destruction, and wreckage. The modern definition of Chaos refers to a state of complete confusion where there is no order or organization. But the original Greek Term meant “from the void” and described infinite possibilities. As for Chaos Magic, what we’re concerned with is more of the absence of organization, formality, and tradition. But this doesn’t mean the total void of performance. Quite the opposite. Chaos magic is, above all else, concerned with **Results**.

One of its mottos is, *If it works, it works*.

In the first section we’ll cover some deeper definitions and origins of Chaos Magic. Then we’ll explore the tools of the trade, Chaos Magic in Popular and fringe Culture, and wrap it up with Pop Culture Events and Products that just may be forms of Chaos Magic being performed right before our very eyes. By the end we should know just enough about Chaos Magic ,to get us in trouble.

So join me now for Renegade Files Episode 83... and together we’ll explore the strange, potentially life changing, and almost certainly effective world of Chaos Magic.

## **Part 1 – Definitions and Origins**

To get started here let’s define Chaos Magic in broad terms. The people who started and developed chaos magic mostly came from either the art world, or the neo pagan traditions like Crowley’s Thelema and Gerald Gardner’s Wicca, and some from both. Most of Chaos Magic stems from a rebellion against the formalities and rules of these more established traditions. Chaos Magic proponents wanted to do away with the symbolic, ritualistic, theological or otherwise ornamental aspects of these occult traditions, to get down to what worked.

Chaos magic teaches that all of our perceptions are controlled by our beliefs, and so the world we perceive can be changed, by changing our beliefs.

So this is a very New Age, Law of Attraction idea, and it has been championed by many beyond Chaos Magic. Norman Vincent Peale tells us that we are likely to get what we believe we will get. Ask, believe, receive. All that.

Chaos magicians subsequently treat belief as a tool, often creating their own idiosyncratic magical systems and blending such different things as practical magic, traditional mysticism, modern pop-culture ideas and icons, quantum physics, and anarchy. Authority is shunned wholesale mostly because it seeks to control, and individual freedom is paramount to establishing one’s own way in the world.

Scholar Hugh Urban (as attributed in the *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*, by Peter Clarke, on the Routledge imprint from 2004) has described chaos magic as a union of traditional occult techniques and applied postmodernism. The postmodernist part comes in with a disbelief in objective truth. So Urban concludes that chaos magic rejects the existence of absolute truth, views all occult systems as arbitrary, and sees the effectiveness of any magic as a result of the practitioner's belief.

Okay, that gets us started so we can now take a quick look at the OGs who came up with this.

One of the earliest influences on Chaos Magic was the English visual artist and occultist **Austin Osman Spare** who lived from 30 December 1886 to 15 May 1956. He was a draughtsman and a painter known for his clear use of line, and depictions of monstrous and sexual imagery.

He cultivated several magical techniques including automatic writing, automatic drawing and sigilization based on his theories of the relationship between the conscious and unconscious self.

He created constantly throughout his entire life while fluctuating in and out of poverty, but he produced a staggering variety and quantity of paintings, drawings, pastels, etchings, and published books combining text with imagery.

According to one friend, Haydn Mackay, quote, "rhythmic ornament grew from his hand seemingly without conscious effort."

Spare was regarded as an artist of considerable talent and good prospects, but his style was apparently controversial. Critics of his work were often simultaneously baffled and impressed.

In the occult arena Spare gave us his main book, *Book of Pleasure (Self-Love): The Psychology of Ecstasy*, which was published in London in 1913. This book draws upon Crowley and blends sex magic with Austin Spare's belief in using art as a gateway to the subconscious and thus we get his contribution of Sigils, or magical symbols, and activating them with sexual energy as a sort of jumping off point for modern chaos magic, and this is a drastic simplification of the whole thing, which is fine for our adventure into this today. In his system there is no right or wrong sigil, and no right or wrong method of making or using them, as long as the practitioner believes in them and gets the results he or she is seeking and this is a very foundational concept in chaos magic.

*If it works, it works, right?... Ok cool.*

And we will dive deeper into what sigils are in Part 2, The Tools of Chaos magic, so stay tuned.

Another Chaos Magic OG is Peter J Carrol and mainly as a cofounder of the *Illuminates of Thanateros*, a chaos magical order, and his book called *Liber Null and Psychonaut*, which was written as a guidebook for those in the order, but has become a widespread resource for all chaos magicians. If you're interested in the whole of chaos magic and want to look into a fully formed system, *Liber Null and Psychonaut*, often referred to as just *Liber Null* by people in the know, is a one-stop-shop as well as being, at this point, basically essential.

I'm going to give you a short and sweet version here, because what's there is fundamental to chaos magic, but you just have to go through it yourself if you really want to start to understand it. It's dense, and discussions about it extend for hours across the internet. We won't go that deep into it today, but *Liber Null* does deserve a look into its highlights before we move on.

And don't get me wrong, I think that even a quick look at this book is valuable, or else we would just skip it. So *Liber Null* goes a little something like this.

The first sentences after you get past the introductory parts comes in the section called Mind Control, and reads, quote, "to work magic effectively, the ability to concentrate the attention must be built up until the mind can enter a trance-like condition. This is accomplished in a number of stages: absolute motionless of the body, regulation of breathing, stopping of thoughts, concentration on sound, concentration on objects, and concentration on mental images.

So motionlessness is being still. Regulation of breathing, so calm smooth breathing. The stopping of thoughts is basically meditation. And concentration on sound objects and mental images is the whole focusing on your desire that we hear so much about in law of attraction. These are simplified definitions of those terms and the book goes much deeper into each one but that's the gist of it.

Then we have a section explaining what sigils are and how to use them. Now there are many ways to make and use sigils, and any good chaos magician would tell you there's no right or wrong way. But the way that Peter J Carroll outlines the process of using sigils in *Liber Null* has become a sort of standard.

Basically a sigil is a created visual artifact that represents an idea, or more specifically in this case, a belief, and it's used to imprint that belief on the subconscious, because the subconscious operates on the level of imagery.

The way this book describes creating a sigil, is through a process of writing out your ideal desired result as a belief. Basically as a short phrase or a sentence. And then what you do is you remove all the duplicate letters, so in other words you reduce it to a string of each letter that only appears once.

Then you layer those remaining letters to create a sort of logo, most of them end up looking something like an elaborate rune, typically they are enclosed in a circle, and then you personally ascribe the idea in your original statement as being personified by this sigil that you've created. So you could think of it as a pictograph of your idea... of your intention.

Carol describes it as a glyph of desire. Sigils work because they bypass the everyday waking mind, and cause the Will to operate at the level of the subconscious. It's the everyday waking mind, your conscious mind, that judges that second guesses, that worries, that back pedals, that sabotages your grandest plans, because the ego, which functions on that level of the everyday mind, is concerned only with protectionism, and keeping things the way they are is the most efficient way to protect you from danger, harm, and disappointment.

It's a perfectly good defense mechanism for living in a dangerous world, but it's a terrible impediment to accomplishing anything new, anything brave, or anything original.

Liber null tells us there are three aspects to working with a sigil: the sigil is constructed, the sigil is lost to the mind, and the sigil is charged. Now it seems to me that he's put those out of order, because the way I understand it from reading the rest of the book is that you make the sigil, and then you charge it, and then you forget about it, so that you don't worry about it every day, like the law of attraction trying to get into the vortex business.

Now I could be wrong, and I'm not an expert, but it just seems like they're a little bit out of order but I guess it doesn't really matter... we are, after all, talking about chaos magic.

Either way, you just make it, set it, and forget it, and it's this *not focusing on it* which allows the subconscious mind to actually get going, and start identifying those things that show up in your path that would lead you to it, these are things that are always there, but when you believe that you will accomplish something, you recognize the roads to it that people who don't believe it, will never see.

This is where we get "*the rich get richer and the poor get poorer*" phenomenon.

We described a brief example of how you create a sigil. There are also tools online where you can go to type in your desire and it'll make a sigil for you. I'll put a link in the show notes to one of those and I thought it was pretty cool. Of course, there's a lot of debate in the chaos magic community as to whether or not those online sigil apps are good or bad, but I think ytrue chaos magicians would say, once again, *if it works it works*.

Losing it to the mind... that's kind of self-explanatory. You basically get rid of the sigil, you throw it away, you burn it, you do whatever it is after you've made it after you've imprinted it on your subconscious. You go with faith that it's going to get done and that's it.

It makes it a very simple version of doing magic and it's actually... I mean, OK you want to be careful here... because you want to be specific and you don't want to end up with this monkey's paw version of asking for \$1,000,000 and then getting the money by some law suit after a horrible accident. I don't know. You can imagine this kind of thing. So you want to be very specific, very clear, and it might even be worth going into some deep research about what to do, and what not to do... dabbling in magic is not a safe thing... Scoff as you may but all I'm saying is be careful before you start drawing sigils and trying to change the world.

And finally there's the part about *the sigil is charged* and there's a number of ways to do that, and one of the most widely discussed in the realms of chaos magic, mostly from people outside of it, is this whole idea of sex magic and there we get into this situation where, you give the sigil energy by focusing on it during the end result of, let's just say, a sexual excursion. And we'll just leave it at that ... use your imagination right.

Also there are much more complex versions of sigils... they can take on a life of their own, they can be entire creative works or lasting entities... hypersigils. But for now this is sigil basics and we'll continue.

In Liber Null there's a section on Gnosis, which is that state of mind where you aren't consciously thinking, but you are performing. So that flow state that a writer gets into. Also athletes, Formula-1 drivers, Figure skaters... golfers...*be the ball Danny*. Right. That magical state of being in the zone when your actions just flow.

Liber Null says that this state of mind is where magic happens. This is the mindstate you want to be in when you are entering the creative aspect of performing chaos magic, so the visualization stages, and the sending forth the intentions into the Universe stages.

According to the book, there are two main categories for attaining Gnosis and these are the Inhibitory Mode, and the Excitatory Mode. Think of these as the passive and the aggressive modes.

Inhibitory Mode techniques are listed as The Death Posture which is basically lying on your back and overing your eyes with your crossed arms and as Chaos magicians tell us, there is no carved in stone way to do this, but in general you are lying very still and blocking out stimulation.

Truman Capote said he never had a creative idea or flowing thought unless he was reclining on a sofa or a bed. This is an example of the chaos magic death posture.

The second Inhibitory Mode technique is Magical Trance Concentration, so meditation for a purpose.

The third is sleeping, fasting, and exhaustion.

The fourth is gazing. So unfocusing your eyes and shifting your perception from the mundane individuation of the world, to that in-between haze where you see nothing but you also see everything. This is a kind of paradigm shift.

If you are someone who can see those freaky images in stereo-graphic posters that look like a pattern of nonsense on the surface, but a pirate ship when viewed at unfocused depth, then you have the capacity to shift your mind into gnosis through gazing.

The next Inhibitory Mode technique is through psychedelics or trance-inducing drugs. Caveat emptor.

And the final one here is Sensory Deprivation. So 11 in the tank on Stranger Things.

The other way to accomplish gnosis according to Liber Null is through the excitatory Modes, and these are sexual excitation, emotional arousal, so fear, anger, and horror. The third one is pain, torture, dancing, drumming, and chanting. I'll take the sexual version over the pain and torture version. Anyway, the fourth is called the Right Way Of Walking, which is kind of a walking trance. The 5<sup>th</sup> are all of the harder stimulant or disinhibitory drugs. And the 6<sup>th</sup> excitatory Mode method is sensory overload. So like a rave with a heavy sound system, flashing lights, blinking LED glasses, and a dust mask with vicks vapo-rub on it all at once.

So remember, any one of these is a way to accomplish gnosis, and even these are far from the only ways, and as I understand it you choose the one that fits your groove and that's it. Maybe you use varying methods for various magical acts or goals.

The sections in the book that follow involve Evocation, Invocation, and Liberation (which is about unlearning your old perceptions).

The most important of the invocations is called Augoeides, or your own personal genius, also known as colluding with your guardian angel, or aligning with your true universal will. This is that divine flow state we see when creatives generate their magnum opus. In sports it's called peak performance.

Now this book goes on to get pretty complicated, although it isn't really difficult to understand, nor is it very long. It's 105 pages. It's a sort of compilation and blending of a bunch of actionable pagan traditions and techniques, with the decorations removed and people both love and despise it for this reason. Pure wiccans find it boring and pure Initiates of Thelema find it inaccurate and vague, but people who are just interested in accomplishing their will with magic find it refreshing and love the do-it-yourself approach.

The book tells us, quote, *"The Chaosphere is the prime radiant or magic lamp of the adept – a singularity which emitteth the brilliant darkness. It is a purposely created crack in the fabric of reality through which the stuff of chaos enters our dimension. Alternatively, it may be considered as a demonstration of the axiom that belief has the power to structure reality."* Endquote.

So that wraps up our look into Liber Null, and I feel like it was important to go through it, even as we only scratched the surface here, but it does provide a digestible snapshot of the basic principles and some of the ways those ideas are put into action in the world of Chaos Magic.

And if you're interested in truly learning about and potentially trying your hand at chaos magic, I'd say save Liber Null and Psychonaut as book two, and start out with Condensed Chaos by Phil Hine.

Phil Hine's Condensed Chaos: An Introduction to Chaos Magic. This book is nearly twice as long as Liber Null but it flows better and reads faster. There's plenty here, and no fluff, and you can find it in the Internet Archive and I'll link to it in the Dark Intel Files on our Patreon Page... free for a week and link in the show notes so tap it and get access to the Renegade Files Agency right now. See you in there.

Let's just read a bit from the beginning of Condensed Chaos so you can get a feel for how straightforward and accessible it is.

Read the tiles in order

And lastly from Condensed Chaos I have to tell you the story of GOFLOWOLFLOG, the Servitor.

A Servitor is a type of sigil that becomes a sort of created and living spirit or energy form made to do a certain magical job then sent out into the world by a chaos magician or group.

So the deal was that Phil Hine was meeting a group of other Chaotes and when everyone arrived they were all exasperated from the hectic traffic. They decided to collectively create a servitor to smooth traffic and congested sidewalks.

This is the story of how they created GOFLOWOLFLOG, what he is and what he does.

This book goes much deeper than that and has large doses of caution and tips and methods galore and even though it's written at a decent pace and is relatively easy to get through, and is called Condensed Chaos, it's not a quick read. It condenses Hine's ideas about everything there is to Chaos Magic, but it isn't cliff notes. But if you want to learn about Chaos Magic, it's a solid start.

Overall we can consider Chaos Magic as the Punk Rock and D.I.Y. counterpart to formalized, structured, and stuffy systems of magic. But because it's so focused on accomplishment and self-reliance, the status quo of big government and large corporate structure is always against it.

But Chaos Magic isn't for or against anything, unlike the hippy movements of the 60s, which was against the war, the status-quo, and the Man, so to speak.

The Chaos Magician understands that we need the squares to build roads, and make the water flow, and deliver the food, and ship our Amazon orders, so the Chaos practitioner who has the ability to shift paradigms at will, is capable of being a department manager at Home Depot for 4 or 5 days a week and then being Merlin dressed in a celestial robe and casting a spell on his days off.

It has a focus on success. What works is what works. It's different than neo paganism overall because it never gets tied to specific traditions or Gods and Goddesses. And it seems to appeal to artists-as-shamans and the cultural proponents of free speech and expression without oppression.

## **Part 2 & 3 – The Tools of Chaos Magic & Chaos Magic In Popular and Fringe Culture**

So I know it's kind of strange to combine parts 2 and 3. Why not just make each one part. But the deal is, yes, these are separate facets of the topic, but they overlap so much because the tools are defined by the people using them, so in true chaos fashion I'm combining two things in a new way and giving you two separate parts, but making them into one section, and I know that makes no sense, but it does make sense.

So here are the main tools. We've hit upon some already.

Belief.

So magic works because you believe it. In fact the entire Universe we experience is nothing more than a reflection of our beliefs, so change your beliefs and change your life. That's real talk right there.

Paradigm Shifts.

Shift your perspectives. Paradigms are really just deeply held beliefs. Break free from the ones that hold you back. Examples: Tall people earn more money than short people. Rich people are all crooks. Crime is worse today than in the past. The economy is my enemy.

All of these are examples of paradigms that hold people back from accomplishing their goals. They are just soundbytes we tell ourselves over and over and they color the world we see, but they are imagined absolutes that are neither true nor set in stone. Change how you see the world and the world you see changes.

Deconditioning. This is just the active process of managing the two tools above: Belief and Paradigms.

Sigils. We covered these pretty well so far. Sigils bring in the sex magic that gets so much attention from Chaos Magic outsiders. These are icons created to encapsulate ideal desired results that work in the subconscious because that's where symbology does its thing.

The next tool is more of a slogan: If it works, it works.

Then we have the The Cut-Up technique.

The idea of the Cut-Up technique brings us to Author and influential scoundrel William S. Burroughs, and here we start to blend the tools part with the *Popular and Fringe Culture* section.

Burroughs could fill hours of podcast air, but we're gonna cherry-pick the components of his amazing, controversial, and creatively important life. If you don't know much about Burroughs, you can think of him as a sort of Hunter S. Thompson of the beat generation.

He came from a wealthy family, spent time in the army after Pearl Harbor, then at Harvard after that, and was encouraged to write by Allan Ginsburg. But from childhood he was fascinated by the occult, and preferred the back alleys, the dark dive bars, and the companionship of colorful crooks over the high society into which he was born.

Throughout his life was a functioning heroin, opium, and general drug addict, that is, *functioning in part*, because he had a lifelong bottomless allowance from his rich industrialist family. He lived in New York with Jack Kerouac for a while in the

mid-forties. The two wrote a book together but were never able to get it published.

As I said, we're not going into his biography, but scrapes with the law and outright violent tragedy caused him to spend much of his time on the run and along the way he befriended the painter, poet, and performance artist Brion Gysin

Burroughs was passionate about freedom and he maligned authority in all of its forms but beyond it all he despised big government and authoritarianism.

Let's listen to a short clip as he reads from his book *Nova Express*...

Man that's good stuff. "To sell the ground from Unborn feet forever." Calling it, right?

How about some more from *Nova Express*...

*"These words may be too late. Minutes to go. Minutes to foe goal -  
"Top Secret - Classified - For The Board - The Elite - The Initiates -  
Are these the words of the all-powerful boards and syndicates of the earth?"*

*These are the words of liars cowards collaborators traitors. Liars who want time for more lies. Desperation is the raw material of drastic change. Only those who can leave behind everything they have ever believed in, can hope to escape."*

Alright, that's serious business right there.

And this, *leaving behind everything you have ever believed in*, is **exactly** Chaos Magic.

Eventually Burroughs and Gysin discovered the Cut-Up technique.

Gysin stumbled upon this when he had newspapers layered and spread on a table to protect it when he was painting and cutting canvas with a scalpel-type of razor blade, *so like an exacto knife*, and when he was finished, he noticed that he could see through the resulting holes from one newspaper page to the next, and as he looked the words made new sentences.

He started to experiment with cutting up the lines of text from news columns and rearranging them at random and he was amazed by the prose that came forth.

He shared this discovery with Burroughs and the two embarked on long sessions of Cut Up experiments. The men looked at this as revolutionary... as demolishing the illusion of control that language held over the masses. Rearranging the official narratives of carefully curated and edited words was a way to disrupt the

status quo, to destroy the ideas of the system, and to break free from the gatekeepers of culture. The Cut Up Technique was also used by computer programmer Ian Sommerville, who applied the method to audio tape recordings while he lived in the same Hotel as Burroughs and Gysin and collaborated with them creatively.

Much of Burroughs's novel *Naked Lunch* was written in this way. And this sort of random rearranging of pre-recorded source material had enormous influences on the visual arts, and music. The Cut Up technique paved the way for sampling and the producer as artist sequencing of electronic music.

So you could say that *Naked Lunch* was a test, and that Burroughs's subsequent works went full Chaos Magic Spec when he created what's known as the Nova Trilogy, which he called sequels to *Naked Lunch*. Sequel being used very loosely.

So the Cut Up technique became the driving force of Burroughs's Nova Trilogy: *The Soft Machine*, *The Ticket That Exploded*, and *Nova Express*.

*So what he did was move to Tangier in Morocco, and specifically to the Tangier International Zone, which was a kind of unincorporated section of the city that was set aside while various countries argued and fought over the control of Morocco. And this zone lasted from 1925 to 1956 and a lot of the Beat generation writers and artists moved there, because drugs and prostitution were essentially legal, there was plenty of heroin and other drugs for someone like Burroughs, and US citizens living in the Tangier International Zone, were immune to prosecution or extradition for crimes committed elsewhere, because there was no real government to petition or to arrest such people, and it was just kind of one of those weird moments in time and place that fell through the geopolitical cracks of the day.*

While he was there he was trying to quit heroin, which was a lifelong back and forth for him as we've seen, and Burroughs moving to Tangier to quit heroin is like Jim Morrison moving to Paris to stop drinking: it didn't really work out, but he was able to stop for stretches and in those times he smoked huge amounts of weed.

So while there he wrote nonstop and what he created was something he called *The Word Hoard*, which as 1000 typed pages of stream of consciousness prose, stories, scenes, fragmented nightmares, and general rambling with glittering jewels of lucid genius scattered throughout.

This became the source material that he used for the Cut Up technique and thereby wrote *Naked Lunch* and the Nova Trilogy. The Nova Trilogy being the more refined version of the method.

According to The Third Mind, quote, “*These books were not stories; they were transmissions, fragments of a cosmic war, creativity versus control, freedom versus repression.*” Endquote. That quote from The Third Mind video channel and their documentary entitled **William S. Burroughs // The Sorcerer of Words.**

Commenting on the trilogy in an interview, Burroughs said that he was, quote, “attempting to create a new mythology for the space age” endquote. And that’s from “Conversations with William S. Burroughs” by Allen Hibbard. University Press of Mississippi. 2000.

Just a brief summary of what’s in The Nova Trilogy: *The Soft Machine* is made of interchangeable scenes of sexual and biological issues, time travel, media bombardment, and astral excursions. *The Ticket that Exploded* deals with tape recorders, cybernetic pleasure farms, and homosexual erotic exploitations on the planet Venus, and *Nova Express* follows a detective who hunts members of the Nova Mob through a fragmented cyber world.

So what does all of this have to do with Chaos Magic?

These books can be considered as one enormous Chaos Magic spell... a Hypersigil... made to deconstruct the control of language and story wielded by the modern novel publishing houses of the day, while doing so using themes that fragment and challenge the paradigms of accepted sexuality, polite society, right and wrong, the control of big government over the people, and the constant battle between freedom of speech and expression versus the machines of bureaucracy, conformity, and consumerism.

I know, I could have just said that! But Burroughs is such an interesting character I couldn’t help myself. And I’ve barely scratched the surface of his misadventures.

The Nova Trilogy has influenced many artists, like David Bowie and Brian Eno who have used cut-up to compose lyrics. The band Soft Machine is named after the book, and the Grateful Dead mentions Soft Machine in the song Truckin.

DJ Spooky calls himself "That Subliminal Kid" after a member of The Nova Mob.

When Hüsker Dü broke up, Grant Hart formed a band called Nova Mob.

Many avant-garde and electronic musicians have created compositions using the technique of cutting up audio tape and rearranging the pieces to create new sounds. The German film *Decoder*, which stars Genesis P-Orridge and Burroughs himself is largely based on ideas in these novels. We’ll get to Genesis P-Orridge shortly so stay tuned.

But before we do I have to mention Grant Morrison who created the comic series called The Invisibles. (Not to be confused with The Incredibles.)

Grant Morrison is a self-proclaimed Chaos Magician and he has said that his dystopian comic is a living sigil made to

In the series The Invisible College uses time travel, magic, meditation, and physical violence to resist the physical and psychic oppression of The Archons of the Outer Church, which are interdimensional alien gods who enslave the human race without their knowledge.

Grant Morrison said that much of the story was told to them by aliens when he was abducted during a trip to Kathmandu, and the comic is meant to be a Chaos Magic *hypersigil* to jump-start the culture in a more positive direction.

At the risk of getting an E rating from the podcast gods, I must tell you that when sales started to dive, Morrison suggested that DC Comics promote a, quote, “wankathon,” his words, to improve sales by having all of his fans masturbate at the same time.

Can you imagine him pitching this in the boardroom?

*Ok thanks for the suggestion. Yeah, we'll just get with the boys down in marketing and draw up a press release for tomorrow.*

No, It didn't really go like that. But the books have been well received by many fans and critics.

Okay, so I'd like to wrap up this section with one last Fringe Culture Icon, and someone who is one of my favorites as far as sheer originality and fierce bravery in the face of being a censored outcast and complete indefinable entity... Genesis P-Orridge.

So Genesis P-Orridge, whose name might mean, *in the beginning there was porridge*, was an English musician and experimental artists who lived from 1950 to 2020 and who helped found the Industrial Band Throbbing Gristle, and the Chaos Magic group the Temple ov Psychick Youth.

Genesis P-Orridge refused any social labels and was one of the first non-binary, androgenous creatives and I will totally give Genesis that. And modern writings use the pronoun “They” when speaking of Genesis, and for that matter for the previously discussed Grant Morrison, and quite frankly, I respect someone's right to define or undefine themselves in any way they see fit.

But the fact is referring to an individual person as “They” is confusing as hell when writing, reading, or listening, and we need to find a better way, but until

then, if people have the right to be any version of gender or non-gender they choose, then I also have the right to say the words “he” or “she”, and I would bet a million dollars that Genesis P-Orridge would defend my right to that Freedom of Speech whether I was talking about her or anyone else.

But as far as being androgenous, Genesis P-Orridge was light-years ahead of the trend, but it’s not just that. P-Orridge contributed an immense body of work through Throbbing Gristle and the subsequent band Psychic TV, all along the way using Chaos Magic as a catalyst to champion free speech, love, fairness, and compassion and it’s hard to explain exactly how it was done because the work is so eclectic and avant-garde.

Some Throbbing Gristle...okay much of it... is really hard to endure, but an equal amount of it is dazzling and excellent. Their performance of the song Something Came over Me that was recorded live at the Oundle School in 1980 is definitive, blending the moods of Pink Floyd with Punk and Noise elements.

The Throbbing Gristle live shows are drenched in visual and noise excess, with strobing symbols, blurring the lines between magic ritual and entertainment, with every element in the shows integrating occult, Chaos Magic ideas about art changing reality.

The Psychic TV stuff is much more musical and far more approachable. It still has that experimental edge but it has harmony and rhythm and it’s way easier to relate to.

I can’t say enough about Genesis P-Orridge and his/her contributions just have to be sifted through and consumed to understand how original and boundry breaking so many of those creations are.

Let’s listen to Genesis in a backstage monologue recorded as a sort of video-selfie... once again, far ahead of his time.

So how cool is that? Where is that concern and attitude in today’s music and art? Where is today’s Tangier International Zone? Today’s Key West in the 80s? Paris in the 20s?

Where is that place right now where a wiley group of artists, musicians, and writers are doing their version of Chaos Magic to support free speech and give voices to the marginalized, weary, confused kids and to make a stand against control?

### **Part 3 – Pop Cultue Events and Products as Chaos Magic**

So as we contemplate the ideas of things like the Invisibles Comics, The books of William S Burroughs, and the music of Throbbing Gristle as living, public, Chaos Magic Rituals, we begin to recognize Occult Ritual in other Pop Culture Events and Products.

Rather than go through a traditional analysis of these examples, I'm going to use a combination of online sourced articles assaulted by me with the Cut Up Technique to try my hand at letting go of control and see what we get. This is a Cut Up of Occult Ritual Pop Culture.

We're in this together so, here we go.

Super Bowl halftime shows are the story of Peter Pan, heavily used in mind control programming. Popular music artists and Health workers have evolved from their partner participating, to a movie about a child possessed by the Devil.

While the evil characters run after the children, "elaborate productions can do nothing when the elite's mind control is happening behind closed doors".

This mega-ritual should not be forgotten. The symbolic meaning of ceremony.

France: the occult elite's sick, satanic, and thoroughly degenerate agenda.

One might be more inclined to act differently because simple college marching bands perform Popular music concerts as rituals.

Video integrates song to alleviate a variety of ailments. Ritualistic aspects create sharp and resilient nature communities to change behavior and thought. Witchcraft powerful energies in connection use holly considered evil or harm water. Resilient rituals. It's in healing, can fever, and should balance.

Alright, that's enough. Interesting exercise. I actually feel a bit more trapped by language when doing that, as opposed to freed from it. But that was my first time.

### **My summary**

Ok Chaos Kid... do we have a summary here? I'll just wing it.

The basic thing is chaos magic seeks to throw away all of the contrivances built around the centuries of ceremonial magic which preceded it.

Chaos magic values the individual above all else, is a philosophy that believes there is no such thing as objective truth, because the truth that we experience is colored by our beliefs and our perceptions. The logical leap from this viewpoint,

is the idea that you can change the world you live in, and your experiences within it, by changing your beliefs.

This is very much the same idea as the new age philosophies surrounding the law of attraction, and much more specifically, the law of assumption championed by Neville Goddard. The reason I make this distinction is because the law of attraction asserts that when you change your belief and expectation, that the external universe then delivers to you the results of your ideal desired result.

Now that method can absolutely work, but the law of assumption turns that process inward, and postulates that your accomplishments are a direct result of your beliefs about yourself, in a purely internal way. So it is your internal beliefs that allow you to accomplish your ideal desired results, and those gifts are not some gift from an external universe, as is often maybe not the case, but the interpretation of those, applying the law of attraction.

So the law of attraction says, *“visualize the truth of the spoon being bent, and match the vibration of that truth.”*

The law of assumption says, *“don't try to bend the spoon... only realize the truth: there is no spoon... then you will see it's not the spoon that bends, it's only yourself.”*

And Chaos magic doesn't say there is no spoon, Chaos Magic says, there is no truth. So the spoon is whatever you believe it is, bent or unbent, because an unbent spoon, is a little spatula, and that's the truth.

The concise version of all of this is that Xhaos Magic came about in the 60s and 70s when people were already questioning the age-old status quos in politics, religion, war, and freedom, and old systems of magic and the occult were questioned right along with everything else. Building on the work of Crowley and Spare. Crowley's Individual Willpower, and Spare's ideas about how symbols (so sigils) impact the subconscious. Spare also put forth the idea of Belief being something that is fluid and can be leveraged for results. So from Crowley and Spare we get the idea that individual willpower can be used to create personal symbols to impact the subconscious, which can change your belief, and thereby change the world and your effects in the world, because the world is merely a reflection of your beliefs.

Peter J. Carrol elaborated on these ideas in Liber Null and Psychonaut, and Phil Hine made them accessible in Condensed Chaos. These books developed the ideas of Belief as a tool, the applications of altered states of consciousness, and the rejection of elitist high magic traditional ceremony which they replaced with a value on results above all else.

If it works it works.

So when belief becomes fluid and can be shifted to get a different result, we enter a phase where people can employ paradigm shifts as a method. This allows for the “And” identity, as opposed to the “Or” identity. You can be an accountant, And a Wizard. You can worship the Witch Queen Aradia for protection, And Superman as your highest God.

This works because it is not the Truth of the Belief that matters, it’s the effectiveness of the belief. When you are freed from the boundaries of Truth, you can accomplish in limitless ways.

And this doesn’t mean you can be a total liar, it just means that much of the truth in the world is created by other people’s arbitrary beliefs, and you are free to believe what you will, and your beliefs shape your experience, not the imaginary truths others have made from *Their* beliefs.

It’s the infinity of possibilities that the Chaos Magician makes use of, because they aren’t tied to any one dogma or system. Experiment... Explore... Make your own path. Reality is not cast in stone; it is an organic, fluid reflection of your perceptions and beliefs, which are under your control.

And unlike the older trappings of ancient ceremonial magic which become faded, expensive, and impractical, the concepts of Chaos Magic constantly adapt and evolve, with the internet connecting communities, pop culture creating new gods and possibilities, and modern isolation encouraging self-reliance.

In the end, remember the word Chaos comes from ancient Greek and means *born from the void*. Chaos doesn’t mean mayhem. It means infinite possibilities.

xxxxxxxxxxxx ending / sign off xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thank you sincerely for investigating Chaos Magic with me.

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Links to all of those places are in the show notes and I'll see you in there.

Until our next adventure, I'm your host Lex Gordon saying...

*Stay Wild, Darkstar Child!*

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