



INFESTATION OF OBJECTS, DISCERNMENT, THE RITUAL, CHALLENGES & DIFFICULTIES

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Grand Ballroom, BGPOP, UST, España, Manila
August 2019

Introduction

“There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan.” - C.S. Lewis

In our three years in the ministry there had been more cases of oppressions and obsessions than possessions. But in our fledgling liberation team’s experience majority of these cases started out as mere infestations that went unattended - some for months, many for years, and still others for almost a lifetime. It is no exaggeration to say that demonic infestations are longer in duration than all the other demonic influences combined. They may indeed be the first baby steps of Satan’s *counterclaim* moves. These cloven hooves are the first to show up and the last to leave.

There are at least four known targets of demonic infestations: persons, animals, places and objects. While this paper/talk focuses on object infestation, the wider context of objects being infested are persons (and their relations) and their dwelling or working places. The following are some of the ways demonic infestation may enter into human affairs:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of Cursed Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Hex Casting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Murder / Suicide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Magic Attack | <input type="checkbox"/> Ritual Offerings (Blood-letting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affliction from Family Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Unrepented Habitual Sinful Lifestyle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affliction from Possessed Guest | |

Demonic infestations mediated through **object bound curses** are the “rarest” types and the most difficult. **Object bound curses** are curses attached to an object that may be directed to a specific person, or just to whoever comes in contact with the cursed object. They may be easily identified if they are exposed and overtly occult, and the most difficult and harmful if hidden and covertly occult. Some wiccan practitioners can identify them despite the objects’ innocent looks at thrift stores, antique shops, flea markets and garage sales.

Not all infested objects are cursed objects. Common infested objects in the Philippines are those bound to spirits of superstitions. For this discussion, we shall breeze through infested objects in general then zero in on cursed objects.

Other than intentional curses, it seems that some oppressing spirits responsible for some extreme negative emotions or traumatic events have a way of attaching themselves to the objects or places connected to the negative event: like a knife used in a murder, or the room where a crime was committed. These unintentional curses make these objects extremely unpredictable and undetectable for the unexperienced case officer.



I. INFESTATION OF OBJECTS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church recognizes the reality of infestation of objects when, in speaking of exorcism, it states:

When the Church asks publicly and authoritatively in the name of Jesus Christ that a person or object be protected against the power of the Evil One and withdrawn from his dominion, it is called exorcism. (CCC # 1673)

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It recognizes that the Evil One may have dominion over a person or an object and that through exorcism this dominion may be withdrawn. The Catholic Encyclopedia elaborates the reality of infestation:

Hence, places and things as well as persons are naturally liable to diabolical infestation, within limits permitted by God, and exorcism in regard to them is nothing more than a prayer to God, in the name of His Church, to restrain this diabolical power supernaturally, and a profession of faith in His willingness to do so on behalf of His servants on earth.¹

Demonic infestation is when evil spirits obtain the right to exercise dominion over certain places, objects or time, and thereby manifest this dominion through an object or a set of things, overt or hidden, that had been ritually bound through formal or informal consecration to the Evil One and/ or to an evil purpose or end, within a specific place and time.

Let us sort out some elements of our working definition:

- 1) Evil spirits obtaining rights to exercise dominion
- 2) Over certain places or objects
- 3) The instrumentality of overt or hidden objects
- 4) Formal or informal ritual binding or consecration of object to the Evil One / evil end
- 5) Within specific limited place and time

1. Evil Spirits Obtaining Rights to Exercise Dominion

Demons may be given *legal* (spiritual) rights by any person over places and things over which the granting person has legal (spiritual and moral) authority. This means that we appeal to the already well accepted principle in demonology that demons, as spiritual beings, do play by certain rules and observe a certain authority structure. As mere creatures, these evil spirits abide by the rules created by God, who, in His great mercy, is always in charge of what spirits, divine or evil, are allowed to do.² This makes the **Prayer to Take Authority** at the beginning of deliverance and exorcism sessions an essential part of deliverance preparation.

Spiritual Authority

*Exorcism is directed at the expulsion of demons or to the liberation from demonic possession through the **spiritual authority** which Jesus entrusted to his Church. (CCC #1673, emphases mine)*

Authority vs. Power

Authority is not similar to power. Authority is the context of power. Authority is a right to or fittingness for the power that goes with it. Genuine authority stems from a) what a person is, b) by what he has received from a higher authority, or c) by his relationship to other persons. Through any or all of these means one is linked to the “authorship” (the origin of the power) one assumes to exercise. It is this connection that constitutes authority. In a word, authority is connection. To be more precise, for our purposes here, **authority is relationships**. Power derives from authority when relationships are strong between the giver and the receiver of authority. Power is neither derived from sheer strength of will to exercise it nor from the

¹ Catholic Encyclopedia: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05709a.htm>

² Hence, contrary to common fears, demons do not jump from one person or object when commanded with God's authority through the Church.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



strength to enforce that will. Power is derived from authority which is rooted in the nature or office of persons in their relationships with one another.

Types of Authority

A. Natural authority

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Natural authority is the exercise of power and influence stemming from the nature of a being or a person. A father, by the order of his nature, has authority over his children and therefore exercises power over them. Therefore, a parent has authority over her children in the order of nature precisely because she is the parent. Her relationship to her child engenders a web of responsibilities, rights and powers. An elder sibling has natural authority over his/ her younger siblings. Naturally so, the dominant male animal in a particular animal group, the so-called alpha male, exercises authority over the rest of the herd. A person who naturally possesses one or all of the three attributes of authority, viz., status, specialist skills or knowledge, and social position may exhibit natural authority. Here, the authorship is nature and the authority it grants may be considered **informal natural authority**.

An inventor, creator or maker of objects exercises **formal natural authority** over his/her own invention, creation or production. This authority flows simply from the nature of the relationship between the inventor and his/ invention, the creator and his/her creation, the producer and his product. One principle observed in this formal natural authority is: everything is created twice; first creation is in **the mind or intentionality** of the creator; the second creation is the material or physical expression or manifestation of the first creation.

For example, an innocent looking bracelet may be produced by someone with the sole intention of invoking preternatural authority or powers, i.e., for use as an amulet or a charm. Thus, even before the bracelet is physically created, its maker had already directed his/her intentionality in setting the purpose (*raison d'être*) of the intended object. The physical creation only confirms and affirms this intended purpose.

Now, I theorize, that any succeeding owner (either through formal, i.e., via commerce or trade, or informal acquisition, i.e., via tradition, hand-me-down, donation) of this object in question has lesser natural authority of ownership than the formal natural authority of the object's creator/maker/inventor who invoked the assistance of preternatural authority over the bracelet. In reality, there would be a legal change of ownership authority after the act of purchase (legal transaction through monetary currency). However, invoking a much higher preternatural authority (than just natural authority) to dominate over the bracelet done by its creator/maker/inventor adds a little complication to the issue of authority.

Hence, if I bought a *bracelet* intended as a charm or amulet by its creator/maker/inventor, the bracelet is mine (since I now possess it), but the **preternatural spirit of superstition** invoked by the intention of the maker (therefore legitimately bound to the object) is **not yet broken or eradicated**. Therefore, this **preternatural dominion is, de facto**, still in place and legitimate, even if I, the new owner, **impose my own intention onto the object**, e.g., merely for personal effects.

Question: Is there a way to break this preternatural bondage of this object?

Answer: Yes. By invoking the assistance of a much **higher authority: supernatural authority**.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



However, in occult circles, many practitioners make use of **sigils**. A *sigil* is a symbol, used in magic, that serves as a type of pictorial signature of a demon or other entity. It is also a symbolic representation of the magician's desired outcome. Sigils, thus, refer to occult signs which represent various demons which the magician summons. By themselves, sigils are invocal prayers shorthanded into signs.

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The thought processes involved in creating and embedding sigils are discussed by Ray Sherwin in his *The Book of Results*: "The magician acknowledges a desire, he lists the appropriate symbols and arranges them into an easily visualised glyph. Using any of the gnostic techniques he reifies the sigil and then, by force of will, hurls it into his subconscious from where the sigil can begin to work unencumbered by desire."

It is my recommendation, therefore, that bracelets, medallions and other trinkets for personal effects that have *sigils* or occult *symbols* inscribed or etched onto their surfaces, **would have to be physically destroyed and defaced** to such point that these sigils lose their legibility, meaning and recognizability, accompanied by appropriate minor exorcism prayers as well a well composed prayer of disownment.

B. Supernatural Authority

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

*[...] God says who he is and by what name he is to be called. This divine name [...] expresses God as what he is - infinitely **above everything** that we can understand or say: he is the "hidden God", his name is ineffable, and he is the God who makes himself close to men. (CCC #206) (emphases mine)*

For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. (CCC #27)

Supernatural authority is the highest known authority to man. It is God's exercise of power over all His creatures. All other types of authorities mentioned in this list fall under the ambit of supernatural authority. This invisible power is **made visible through Jesus Christ** who said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Mt 28:18). This authority had been **granted to the Church** by Jesus Christ: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19). **To ordained ministers** St. Paul speaks of this authority: "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim 1:7). Here the word spiritus or πνεῦμα (*pneuma*) refers to a divine power δύναμις (*dunamis*) and therefore to the supernatural authority. To those who are baptized in Christ, this same **pneuma-dunamis** dwells: "If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you" (Rom 8:11).

Therefore, in the strict sense of the word, the only genuine authority there is is **supernatural authority centered in Jesus Christ** and through him to the Trinity. The vital principle of the spiritual authority of all of humanity comes to us **only through the mediation of Jesus Christ**. This spiritual authority is the exercise of power to cultivate our spiritual life, i.e., consciously or unconsciously **to follow the teachings of Christ, regardless of our religious affiliations**. This supernatural authority is **spiritual authority**.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Over parental authority. Time and time again, God addresses parents and gives them the responsibility for the training of their children, not the state (cf. Deut. 6:7-9; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). Parental authority, then, is a delegated supernatural authority. Hence, parents are not free to do with their children as they please. Children are stewardships from God, blessings He has given to parents to manage for Him.

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Over all creatures, even preternatural beings. Why even demons have to obey the command of the priest given supernatural authority through the Church is explained by St. Paul: *“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth...”* (Phil 2:10). This divine authority is therefore exercised too over all created beings, including all the good angels as well.

C. Formal authority

This is exercise of power, which recognizes natural authority as well, is authority **legitimized** by socio-cultural and political elements. Max Weber, a German sociologist, proposed that the political authority that controlled the state can be composed of the following types of authority: ³

- **Traditional Authority:** *Power legitimized by respect for long-established cultural patterns.* A store owner exercises power inside his store by virtue of an authority which derives ultimately from natural ownership and legitimized by cultural conventions and therefore protected by them. This involves relationships of responsibilities, rights and powers.
- **Charismatic Authority:** *Power legitimized by extraordinary personal abilities that inspire devotion and obedience.* Many local heroes and heroines fall under this category; all cult leaders exercise charismatic authority making their natural authority work to their advantage. A priest exercises sacramental power by a gift from God Himself which actually changes his very being, placing him in a new relationship with others in the order of grace. Interestingly, a priest is also addressed as “Father;” so is the Pope, Holy Father. This place the ordained ministers in a position of “parental” authority over their flock.
- **Rational-Legal Authority:** *Also known as bureaucratic authority, is when power is legitimized by legally enacted rules and regulations such as governments.* The authority of public officials, like a nation’s president, derives from political and social conventions born out of the society’s desire to secure the common good. If the president handles this august office *according to morally upright conventions*, he enters a political relationship with his citizens, therefrom he acts with power based on authority. Otherwise, he creates a pseudo-relationship with his citizens. Soon he loses his socio-political authority and may find himself bullying his way into holding on to power. However, to complete this picture, we must remind ourselves with St. Paul’s words: “Everyone is to obey the governing authorities, because there is no authority except from God and so whatever authorities exist have been appointed by God” (Rom 13:1). Governing political authority is not above supernatural authority. (Ergo, if God were a “stupid God” He must be most stupid thereby appointing the most stupid president in the country.)

³ <https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/sociology-comprehensive-edition/s17-01-power-and-authority.html>



D. Moral Authority

This authority is premised on principles, or fundamental truths, which are independent of written, or positive, laws. Moral authority is what one achieves in one's character that gives one primary greatness. To understand the difference: Gandhi never had any formal legitimized authority, i.e., he never ran for public office, was never publicly elected to any position of public or government service, but he had primary greatness because of his moral authority. His moral authority was what made him the Founder of India which stood out by successfully leading a peaceful revolt against British rule.

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Because spiritual life cannot be lived outside the practice of moral laws and principles that are at the heart of God, moral authority, therefore, can only come from the Supreme Law giver, God Himself. Whether one is an atheist or an anti-God anti-religionist - who, however, just the same, engages in charitable works because he/ she observes a moral law (avoiding evil and doing good) - de facto, that person posits by his/ her very acts that the moral law he/ she observes is written in his/ her heart. If they do claim that this moral law is innate in their being (as atheists or anti-religionists do), then they must posit a law-giver. That law-giver, they so deny, is God, Who, by the way, also said, "on this rock I will build my church." (Implication: God did not just launch a spirituality that makes man feel good about himself; he founded a Catholic Church, a religion (re+ligare) – one that links or binds man back to Him.

Moral integrity is at the heart of moral authority. St. Peter exhorts man to heed the voice of moral and spiritual integrity when he says, "Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before Him, at peace" (2 Peter 3:14). Hence, those who are exhibiting the least moral integrity are also the least in the kingdom of heaven. They have the least power, therefore, over those who submit themselves to the highest supernatural authority, God.

Being in the State of Grace: Norm of Spiritual and Moral Integrity

CCC #1861 Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself. It results in the loss of charity and the privation of sanctifying grace, that is, of the state of grace. If it is not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, it causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell, for our freedom has the power to make choices for ever, with no turning back. However, although we can judge that an act is in itself a grave offense, we must entrust judgment of persons to the justice and mercy of God.

Being in the constant state of sanctifying grace engenders superior moral and spiritual authority over and above any demonic preternatural authority.

E. Demonic Preternatural Authority

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of demonic authority when it alludes to demonic influences, Satanic power and their limitations.

CCC #394 Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence of the one Jesus calls "a murderer from the beginning", who would even try to divert Jesus from the mission received from his Father. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." In its consequences the gravest of these works was the mendacious seduction that led man to disobey God.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



CCC #395 *The power of Satan is, nonetheless, not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God's reign. Although Satan may act in the world out of hatred for God and his kingdom in Christ Jesus, and although his action may cause grave injuries - of a spiritual nature and, indirectly, even of a physical nature- to each man and to society, the action is permitted by divine providence which with strength and gentleness guides human and cosmic history. It is a great mystery that providence should permit diabolical activity, but "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him."*

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According to St. Thomas Aquinas,⁴ demons are fallen angels, and can influence humans like angels do. He says that demons may try to tempt people to sin, although people can also sin of their own free will. By contrast, all our good deeds are done through divine assistance, mediated by angels. Demons can amaze people with tricks that seem to be miracles, but they cannot perform real miracles.⁵

Are good or bad angels more powerful? Luckily for us, the good angels have the power to restrict the activities of the bad ones. Thomas Aquinas says that this is because the ***bad angels are further from God and so less perfect.***⁶

In Summary

Question: So, are we saying that objects can be possessed by demons?

Answer: We should state that, technically, only human beings (endowed with souls) can be demonically possessed. ***Inanimate objects can come into possession or ownership by demonic powers*** and thereby ***be negatively controlled through curses***. Adam Blai, a lay Catholic expert on religious demonology and exorcism, states:

*A curse is simply a demon sent to do some harm. [...] Cursed objects are objects that have had the opposite of a blessing done to them. Instead of grace being attached to an object to make it holy, a demon has been attached to the object to make it associated with evil.*⁷

That is, through the permission of the one who has rights over an object, a demon *attaches* itself to the object and inflicts harm through it. Through the Church's exorcism blessing of the object, the natural owner submits the object to the highest authority's dominion, God's supernatural authority, thereby rendering preternatural authorities over it *kaput*.

However, we stated that should the object contain physical marks or resemble images that evoke evil ideas or thoughts (e.g. a statue of baphomet, even after exorcism blessings, will only and always evoke satanic references and thoughts about satan), it would be wise to destroy the image, deface it until it is unrecognizable from its original form, and blessed again before burying it underground.

Nexus: We discuss these different types (grades, if you will) of authority in order to understand the authority of the Church over the weak demonic powers manipulated by evil creatures. Hence, it will make sense when we answer the question:

Who can say deliverance prayers over whom?

- 1) *Parish Priests or Hospital Chaplains (praying over a place, individual parishioners or patients – only with permission from patients or at least with their knowledge)*⁸

⁴ Excerpted from Summa Theologiae 1.109, 114

⁵ <http://bartholomew.stanford.edu/ondemonsthomas/intro.html> Introduction by Courtney Roby, *On the Wickedness of Demons*. Accessed: June 29, 2018

⁶ *Ibid.* Emphases mine.

⁷ Adam Blai, *Hauntings, Possessions and Exorcisms*. 45.

⁸ CCC 1549: Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is **Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!**



- 2) *Liberation Prayer Ministry Team Leaders (praying over a place, object or victim)*⁹
- 3) *Parents or Guardians (praying over their own house or a family member)*¹⁰
- 4) *Superiors of Religious Congregations (praying over their religious congregation members)*¹¹
- 5) *Leaders of Religious Organizations, Groups or Movements (praying over their members)*¹²
- 6) *Teachers, tutors or School Principals (praying over their students or teachers)*¹³
- 7) *Medical Health Caregivers (Doctors, Nurses, etc. praying over their patients only with the patients' permission and/ or knowledge)*¹⁴

Note that we all can pray for one another. But as to deliverance prayers over persons, it would be wise to observe the protocol of authority. It is the safest route. Better safe than sorry.

Question: Can any lay person pray deliverance prayers over suspected demonically infested objects?

Answer: Yes. Provided that:

- a) the person is in the **state of sanctifying grace** (i.e., free from mortal sin) and, therefore, is **under God's supernatural dominion** (this is similar to saying that the person has a strong relationship with God; authority is, after all, relationship based);
- b) the person is doing these deliverance prayers (which are **sacramentals** by themselves) **according to the mind and heart of the Church** (a strong indication here that the lay person is a baptized Catholic)¹⁵;
- c) the mode of prayer is supplicative and **not imperative**.

Pamahalaan

As a side note: A duly elected political leader of a believing nation, like the Philippine president, ideally, should be a God-fearing believer him/her self. Since he/ she had been "appointed by God" (Rom 13:1), he/ she therefore is expected to live, think and breathe as a human being under supernatural authority.

Pamamahala is a Tagalog word rich in meaning. It tells us how our ancestors viewed stewardship. Bathala¹⁶, or God in our dialect, entrusts all of His creation to man's care. Thus, stewardship is a Divine commissioning. From this evolved the concept of "bahala na" which actually means "let Bathala take care of the situation."¹⁷ **Pamahalaan** is our Tagalog word for government. For us, thus, to run and head a government entails a divine responsibility to run the believing nation's affairs with supernatural authority; not just sheer political power! **Pamahalaan**, by itself, therefore, demands spiritual and moral authority. Any political leader

made visible in the midst of the community of believers

⁹ *Christifideles Laici* (JP II, 1988) No. 21: The ministries which exist and are at work at this time in the Church are all, even in their variety of forms, a participation in Jesus Christ's own ministry as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep (cf. Jn 10:11), the humble servant who gives himself without reserve for the salvation of all (cf. Mk 10:45).

¹⁰ CCC 902: In a very special way, parents share in the office of sanctifying "by leading a conjugal life in the Christian spirit and by seeing to the Christian education of their children."

¹¹ *Vita Consecrata* (JP II, 1996), No. 43: In the consecrated life the role of Superiors, including local Superiors, has always been of great importance for the spiritual life and for mission. In these years of change and experimentation, the need to revise this office has sometimes been felt. But it should be recognized that those who exercise authority cannot renounce their obligation as those first responsible for the community, as guides of their brothers and sisters in the spiritual and apostolic life.

¹² *Christifidelis Laici*, Op. Cit.

¹³ *Gravissimum Educationis* (Paul VI, 1965) No. 8: But let teachers recognize that the Catholic school depends upon them almost entirely for the accomplishment of its goals and programs... Let them work as partners with parents and together with them in every phase of education...

¹⁴ *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (USCCB, 2009): 10. A Catholic health care organization should provide pastoral care to minister to the religious and spiritual needs of all those it serves.

¹⁵ Cf. CCC #1667: [Sacramentals] signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained **through the intercession of the Church**. (emphases mine)

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



assuming a supernatural authority is expected to have the strongest relationship with God, the “authorship.”

Notice how, observing the nature and structure of authority, when a parent submits his child (baby) for baptism, God admits into the Christian fold the said baby based on the validity of the parent’s natural authority and exercise of power. Similarly, a mother who, *in utero*, consecrates her baby to Satan, is validly and legitimately giving away the child to Satan’s dominion. (And no matter how weak the power Satan yields, it is still stronger than sheer human powers!) **Now, note this:** because supernatural authority respects natural authority, the president becomes a father-like figure in the scheme of bigger relationships. Should this “father” of this believing nation consecrate his “children” to Satan by cursing every Catholic believer (cursing God is a tell-tale first step), Christians and all believers who are **not** “in the state of grace” may validly and legitimately suffer in the oppressing hands of Satan. This is the worst-case scenario grander than the Big One to befall our nation.

2. Over certain places or objects

So, can objects be demonically infested? Yes. Can these infested objects influence the affairs of those who own them? **Yes.** How so?

Not only does the spiritual world follow, honor and observe the aforementioned authority structure, the spiritual world also observes some **universal principles and laws** both natural and divine. Here are some principles worth noting:

A. Res clamat ad dominum. An object cries out for its owner.

Although possession is a presumption of ownership, this presumption will always yield to contrary facts. So, obviously, as an ethical principle, if a valuable ring is found in one of the pews inside the church, proper steps must be taken to find the true owner. If an object has been stolen from A, sold by B to C, and later given by C to D, ordinarily D must return the object to A, its true owner, simply because an object cries out for its true owner. This is certainly true for things that had been consecrated or dedicated to preternatural beings. The legalistic and possessive nature of demons is such that they will cling to their catch like a pitbull.¹⁸ A cursed object (known or unknown to the owner), even if this were legally bought with one’s own money, **cries out for its demonic preternatural owner.** And being the rightful owners, demons may do what they please with their objects, but mostly to use the object **to test the faith** of the earthly holder of the object/s. Some parlor tricks of demons, which we call *demonic infestation*, may include **imaginary or real manifestations through spectre apparitions and paranormal activities like levitation or movements of objects without physical cause**, all meant to bully human beings and cause fear and panic. These are mainly scare tactics in view of making human beings more afraid of Satan than have “fear of the Lord” which is “the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). It is the common experience of Catholic exorcists that when these infestations are not addressed right away, the demonic influence do escalate to oppression or downright obsession.

B. Nemo dat quod non habet. No one can give what he does not have.

¹⁶ **Bathala** is the high god of the ancient Filipinos, regarded as the grand conservator of the universe, its caretaker; hence the word “bahala” or “mabahala” meaning “to care.”

¹⁷ Cf. p.66, Kintanar, Cultural Dictionary for Filipinos, UP Press, 1996).

¹⁸ Pit bulls are dogs descended from bulldogs and terriers known for their distinctive bite. They are reluctant to release their prey, whether it is a rope, a hog, a dog or a person. They grab and hold, or in other words, they grab and lock.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



This is a common-sense natural law principle. Let us take an example of a person who has stolen an amount of money and does not have it to pay it back at the present time. So, he wonders whether he may go to confession or not, since he cannot make restitution for the time being. Of course, he should go to confession even if he could not yet pay the money back right away. He should have a sincere compunction for the sin and make a strong resolution to return the stolen money (and where this is not possible, some form of restitution should be made). His inability to return what was stolen at the present time should not trouble him and prevent his approach to sacramental confession. Why? Because no one can give what one does not have. He must, however, promise to pay back or return the money (or what was stolen) when it becomes possible in whatever way or mode **because what was stolen cries out for its owner.**

Lucky vs Blessed. This simple adage is a good reminder to Catholics who, despite professing belief in One God, turn to using amulets and charms, practice and observe superstitions, engage in divination and consulting occult practitioners just for luck's sake. *Baka swertehin eh. Wala namang mawawala pag ginawa ko. Wala namang mawawala pag ginamit ko. Baka sakali lang. (I might get lucky. Nothing will be lost if I do it. Nothing will be lost if I use it. Just taking my chances.)* The adage is quite straight-forward: you cannot give what you do not have. You cannot give 100% faith in God and be in the state of sanctifying grace when you dare to give even .01% of your belief to things that are an abomination to God! You simply don't have it, man! You don't have the faith that God demands. Proof? Your belief in luck. **No Catholic should ever believe in luck or swerte.** Being under God's protection and sanctifying grace you cannot be anything BUT BLESSED! There are no chances there; no middle grounds. In pure 100% Catholic faith, you are either blessed and protected by God or not at all. No such thing as 50% blessed and 50% cursed. Rightly so, and herein lies the rub, because judgement awaits the lukewarm believer: "...because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Rev 3:16). The self-talk of those who believe in lucky charms sounds like this: "Since I am not sure whether God would give me a 'yes' for an answer to my prayer request, I might as well try these feng shui lucky bracelets; I might just get lucky. Who knows?" *Nemo dat quod non habet! You cannot give the faith that you do not have!* You therefore cannot gain the merits you do not deserve. To think otherwise is to take lucky chances. It is outright cheating. *Pati ang Diyos gustong dayain.*

Is this belief in luck the reason why many Catholics use sacramentals like lucky charms, believing they are protected by these sacralized objects despite their not ever minding to live in the state of sanctifying grace?

Question: If sacramentals like medals or scapulars have been validly and licitly blessed by a priest may the blessing be forfeited or removed?

Answer: Yes. Remember, how God allowed Israel's place of worship, the temple in Jerusalem, to be destroyed (Neh. 1:3) because the people did not keep God's commandments (Neh. 1:7)? And how God also allowed the people to be scattered away from the land He had given them because of their sin (Neh. 1:8)? St. Paul alludes to what can cause a previous blessing to be forfeited. "See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off" (Rom 11:22). As long as these sacramentals are used by those who, in the state of grace, desire to obtain spiritual graces **through the intercession of the Church** (cf. CCC #1667), these sacramentals will remain **connected** to God's

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blessings. Hence, faith in God expressed through 100% faith in the Church is the demand in this relationship through which the power of spiritual authority is transmitted to sacramentals. In my opinion, once these sacramentals are used or viewed as superstitious objects, the blessings are cut off. (If people and nations are cut off from God's graces through sin, how much more with facility objects which are primarily under the natural authority of its owners who are not in grace.)

C. In aequali jure melior est conditio possidentis.

Literally: ***In equal rights the condition of the possessor is the better***; or, ***Where the rights of the parties are equal, the claim of the actual possessor shall prevail***. Also expressed as: ***Possession is nine-tenths of the law***.

Although laws relative to justice and rights are complicated to apply at times, this one fundamental norm can be of help in determining a true ownership. It, of course, must always yield to contrary facts that are established. If, for instance, a ring is now in the possession of a certain individual, presumption is that it belongs to him until the contrary is proved. In spiritual terms, a person in possession, knowingly or unknowingly, of objects which are cursed, hexed, or consecrated to the dominion of the Evil One or dedicated to an evil end (regardless of whether this evil binding is known or unknown to the possessor) is presumed to be the physical owner of the infested object. Now, if I may add this nuance in the idea of possession: possession of an object does not mean the object is physically near the person nor is it found in one's house or property. I may throw these cursed objects in the public trash bin, but that does not mean that that garbage is not mine any more. If that object's curse is intended for me, the curse is in place and in play wherever I place the object – until it is totally destroyed or disfigured to a state not resembling its original state.

3. The instrumentality of overt or hidden objects

A Cursed Vase with Flowers. A couple once received a lovely glass flower vase with glass flowers and marble-like pebbles as a wedding anniversary gift. Among the many gifts received, the couple could not identify the donor as the gift was unmarked. Soon after placing this gift inside their bedroom paranormal events started occurring for the first time: perfume bottles moving/ dancing, sounds of the glass marbles being thrown on the floor in the middle of the night, and tapping sounds from their attic floor. It took some weeks before the couple discerned that the vase must be the culprit, as the unexplained sounds and events center around it. Not knowing any better, the couple decided to bring the vase out of the house and left it in the little garden near their parish Church's parking lot. The fate of the vase is unknown to this day. However, the paranormal events in their room continued though reduced to the tapping sound from their unoccupied attic room. The tapping sound disappeared for some two months after a mass was said in the room and a deliverance session was conducted in the house. The tapping returned after a couple of months, and this time with discernible movements on top of their roof. For the second time deliverance prayers were said, then there was peace and quiet. After some time, the strange noises returned. After a year and a half, the family moved to a new house. The couple called the liberation team again as the tapping seemed to have followed them to the new house, only this time the knocking was coming from outside their glass window panel of the masters' bedroom on the second floor.

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Question: Is it possible that the preternatural spirits attached to the possibly cursed vase are still continuing to harass the couple?

Answer: Yes, I think so.

It is only now as I write this paper that I realize these things:

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a) that by simply leaving behind an owned object (especially a cursed one) does not necessarily mean abandoning ownership of the object;

b) that a genuine practitioner of witchcraft who knows her trade certainly performs hexes and spells which are directed to certain people named as recipients (not like to-whomever-it-may-concern curse); the physical/ material manifestation of these curses are the infested objects;

c) that we have not said a kind of **prayer of disownment of cursed objects**¹⁹ that declare in the strongest possible way the owners' official renouncement of ownership of the infested object which is either bought or acquired as a gift. While the prayers of breaking²⁰ are themselves powerful minor exorcism prayers - as can be gleaned from the experience of peace and tranquility after the deliverance sessions - after which we can say with certitude that all connections to evil consecrations and intentions are severed, **the fact remains though that the abandoned object that serves as a conduit of malediction is still existent and is still "legally" owned by the original recipient or buyer.** A prayer of disownment of cursed objects should be a formal solemn act of renouncing or no longer accepting one's physical and spiritual ownership of an object or property as a part of one's possessions. A part of the prayer may state one's most ardent desire that the object/s or property be destroyed physically, thus rendering the preternatural linkages and bondages totally annihilated. This should be done in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

4. Formal or informal ritual binding or consecration of object to an Evil end

A **formal rite** may refer to a ceremonial act or procedure prescribed or customary in religious or non-religious occult or esoteric traditions usually marked with solemnity.

In **Hinduism**, the ancient Atharva Veda's most salient teaching is sorcery. This Veda contains mainly mantras and hymns used for formal rites of Hindu witchcraft or sorcery.²¹ In Taoism, Sorcery has different types of love talismans and rituals to work on different love problems, among other kinds of amulets and charms. Different deities or spirit entities are invoked to seek help to deal with different type of issues.²² In **Buddhism**, there are sorcery schools that teach formal ritual magic and black magic.²³ Practically all occult and esoteric religious and pagan cults possess literature (scripture) that record instructions (codes) in formally summoning the aid of preternatural spirits often accomplished through forms of ritualistic chanting and invocation. **The use of bodily fluids (saliva, blood) or any human body part (hair, finger nails), or any thing owned by a person (clothes, comb) is believed to enhance the connection between the spell-caster and the victim of spell.** The objects that are "consecrated" or dedicated for the purposes of spells, hexes and black magik, serve like sacramentals as understood by Catholics.

¹⁹ Simply because there is still no such prayer in our armory.

²⁰ Prayers of Breaking of Unholy Seals and Consecration, the Breaking of Curses and Spells, and the Breaking of Unholy Soul Ties, Links and Relationships which are efficacious Minor Exorcism Prayers

²¹ <http://www.mahavidya.ca/2015/06/25/magicians-and-sorcerers-in-hinduism/>

²² <http://taoist-sorcery-master.blogspot.com/>

²³ <https://www.pressreader.com/thailand/the-nation/20170310/281578060461490>

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An **informal** rite or binding may refer to human acts and practices that validate and confirm the preternatural authority over a person or a thing. These rituals do not refer to religious or solemn ceremonies consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order. Informal rituals are simple acts done regularly that stem from occult or superstitious beliefs. Every time these acts are accomplished, the preternatural authority relationship is enhanced. Samples may include the practice of wearing talismans, carrying amulets, keeping charms, displaying feng shui objects believed to attract luck, doing Transcendental Meditation (where *mantras* which are names of Hindu deities are invoked), observing superstitious beliefs, etc. These informal acts and behaviours only serve to strengthen and confirm the practitioners' bondage to the various preternatural spirits their actions and behaviours invoke.

5. Within specific limited place and time

Satan and his minions **are limited in what they can do**. Should God allow them to use the full force of their angelic natures against us, they would have an unfair advantage.²⁴ However, these fallen angels did not really lose their natural knowledge through their sin; nor did they lose their angelic intellect – a reason why they have an advantage over our human nature.

Despite this intellectual advantage, **they have no access to our intellect or our free will**. Like the good angels, demons too are spiritual, immutable and immortal, but they are **not omniscient**. Their still angelic intellect is far superior than human intellect; each demon, when manifesting itself, may exhibit through the host victim some superhuman knowledge. However, they cannot know our actual thoughts or move our volition. They only seem to know our human actions, the operations of our bodies, our passions, our emotions, and our internal senses. This knowledge enables them to subject these human senses and actuations, as well as our sense memory and imagination under their demonic powers.

As to the exercise of their authority and power, these are limited to that which God allows. **They are not omnipotent**. Are they **omnipresent**? It is not clear whether they can be in different places at the same time. Some exorcists opine that the Evil One can either be in different places at the same time, or he sends an emissary in his name. This theory of demonic emissaries serves as an explanation why Beelzebub or Asmodeus can be named simultaneously in two different cases of possession. The inhabiting demon only mentions the name of the demon that sent it.

Do they really reside in a place or an object? They are spirits; therefore, they are not bound by space. They really do not need dwelling places and objects to exist. They do not need these for their being. They need these though for their various projects, with one intent – make their authority and power felt until a relationship is established between them and the owners of the places and the objects, whether through direct (e.g., the owners are occult practitioners) or indirect relationship, i.e., through infested or cursed objects or through the sin of superstition). But, again, with limitations.

Consider the **Chillingham Castle** in England, regarded as Britain's most haunted castle, which was originally a monastery in the late 12th century. Or the Diplomat Hotel in Baguio, Philippines, built in 1911 by the American Dominican Friars. Through the passing of the years, how is it possible that the same demonic infestations can be felt in these places? Don't these

²⁴ <http://catholicism.org/ad-rem-no-190.html>

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spirits grow old and just fade away? Or consider the query of someone who claimed she was still a little girl when she tried playing the spirit of the glass and, yet, how is it possible, now that she's in her 40's, that she's experiencing only now a terrible demonic infestation in her new house?

The fact that spirits are not bound technically²⁵ by time and space seems to easily escape our notice given our space-time paradigm. Preternatural authority, it would seem, is always in the here and now for those who willfully submit to its dominion. This implies the following: a) as regards their nature, demonic spirits are measured by *aeviternity*²⁶ whereas as regards successive affections and intelligences, demonic spirits are measured by *time* (cf. *St. Thomas*); b) between the *time* of invocation of demonic attention years ago and the current preternatural infestation, it is the human being alone who keeps count of the years that passed; for the dominating spirit, however, that *past* invocation / invitation is always *here* and *now* and the *contract* informally forged via childish play is active and valid unless revoked or broken accordingly by a superior authority. ♥

II. DISCERNMENT

In dealing with demonic infestation the following elements are usually present:

- a) a **person** or a **group of persons**, by some belief or practice, had **invited**, knowingly or unknowingly, an unclean spirit; this one-time invitation is enough tacit permission for the unclean spirit to enter the sphere of life of the victim/s;
- b) presence or reality of **demonic attractants**, which may include: excessive curiosity with inhuman spirits, dabbling with divination, occultic practices, superstitious beliefs and practices (all the aforementioned practices may even be generational), traumas, clinical depression, personality or psychiatric disorder, a life of sin, and/or voluntary engagements with demonic powers through pacts, spells, charms, communications, and/or conjurations; and
- c) the **breakdown of the human will**, consciously (e.g., when person finally makes a conscious pact with or self-consecration to Satan due to whatever form of crises), or unconsciously (e.g., someone with superior authority over the person consecrates the subject to evil spirits, or casts a curse, hex or spell on the subjects -like parents or grandparents) when the victim has a weakened will due to infestations and oppressions.

The process of discernment necessitates the knowledge of these elements in any infestation case as these data determine the appropriate form of spiritual intervention.

Michael Freze, S.F.O., in *Demonology, the Devil and the Spirits of Darkness*, identifies the two phases of diabolic influence:

Haunting. This is a widely used term that refers to the demonic infiltration of a home or particular environment. *When the attacks begin to escalate especially toward the targeted victim the stage of infestation reaches an intensified siege known as diabolical oppression. Literally, the evil spirit now attempts to take over the people living there.*²⁷

²⁵ I leave it to our august theologians to discuss the nuances involved in the concepts of *aeviternity* and *time*. St. Thomas of Aquinas says that while *eternity* refers to having neither a beginning nor an end, *aeviternity*, which angels and pure spirits possess, refers to *having a beginning but no end*. In this strict sense, the human soul is therefore *aeviternal*.

²⁶ According to St. Thomas, angels are *unchangeable being as regards their nature with changeableness as regards choice* (cf. *Summa Theologica, First Part, Question 10, Article 5*).

²⁷ Michael Freze, S.F.O., *Demonology, the Devil and the Spirits of Darkness : Evil Spirits: Infestation, Oppression, & Demonic Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!*



Dormancy. This refers to a demonic infestation phase where *an infested home never creates a problem for those who reside there. A home may be infested with evil spirits at some point in the past. The presence of demonic spirits may not even be noticed by a specific person or particular family during their time of residency. The spirits are present but remain in hiding.*

Dormant Infested Objects

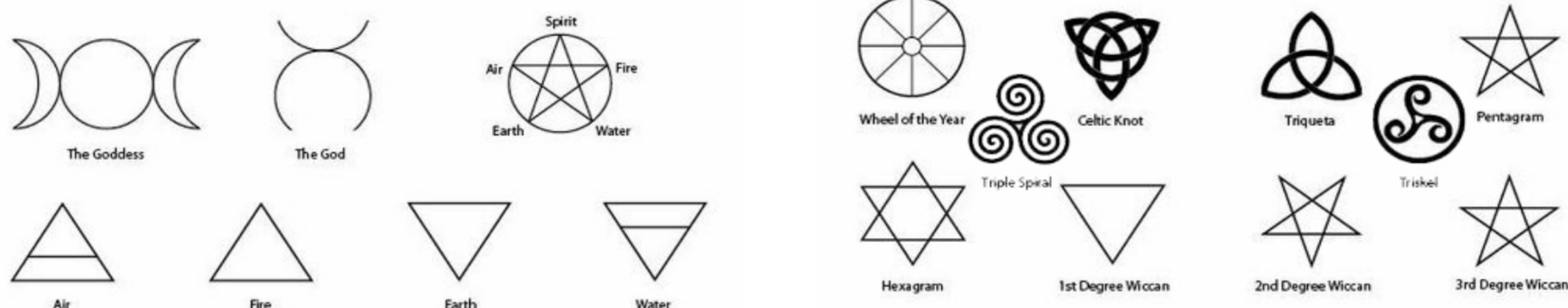
Our interest mainly is in trying to identify what objects may possibly be infested in order to prevent its further haunting activities in our lives. Suffice it to say that an object, no matter how innocent looking, may be considered a ***dormant infested object*** if the following characteristics are considered.

Overtly Occult:

1. Known common objects used in divination, occult and esoteric practices:



2. Objects with Known Occult emblems

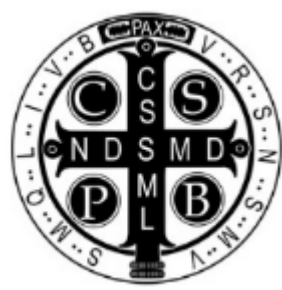


3. Objects Attached to Superstitions



Activity (Volume 6). The Demonology Series. p2. Kindle Edition.



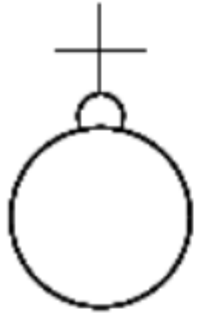
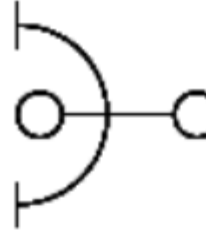
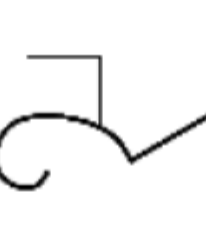

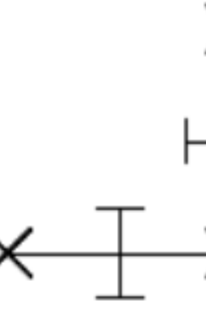




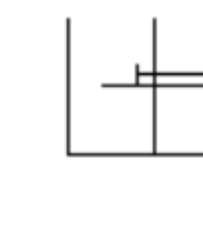
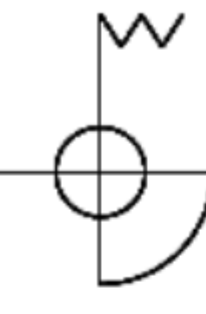

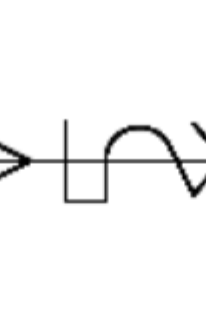
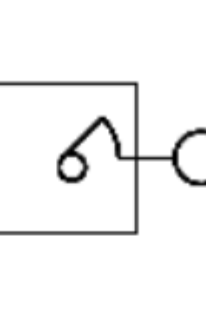


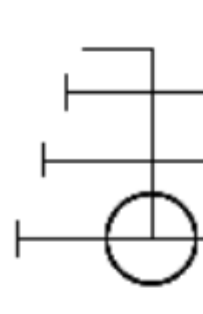
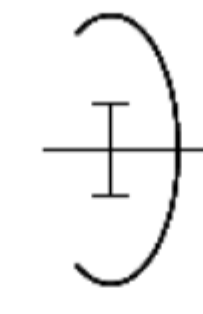


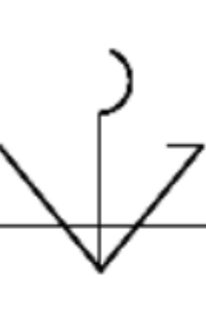
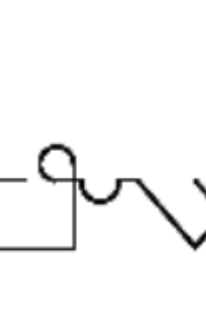

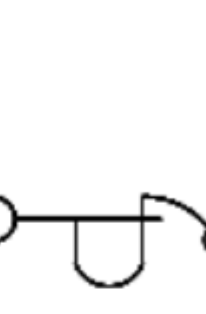
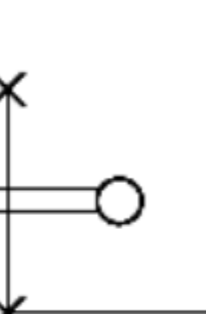


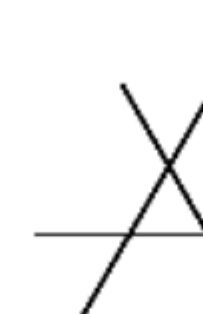
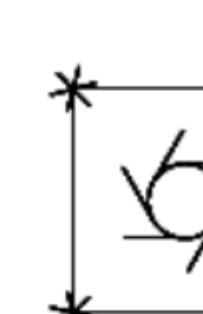

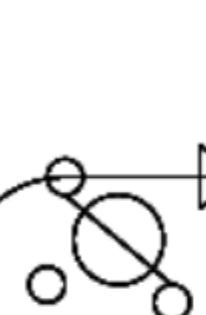

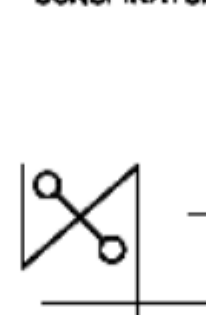
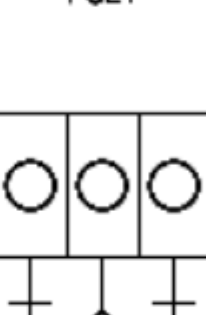

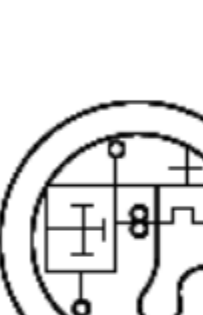
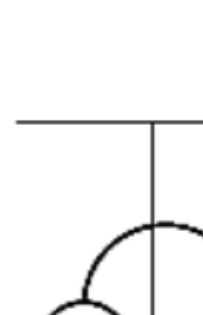


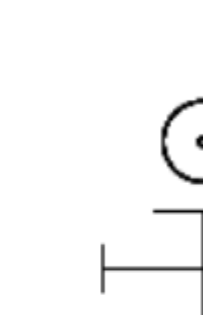



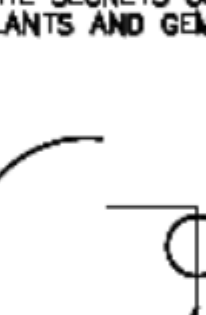



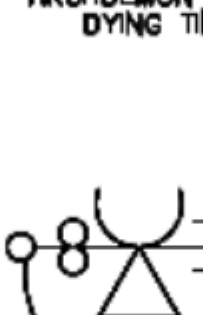

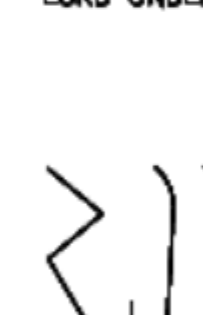
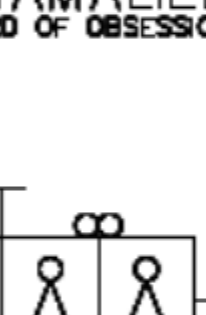

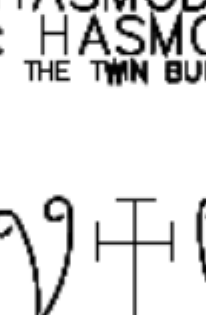

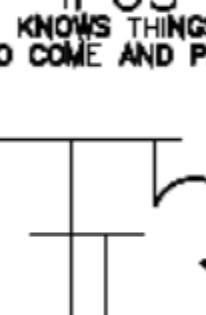
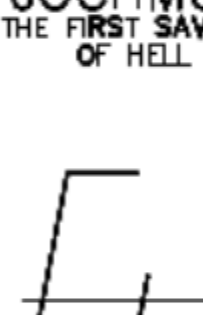




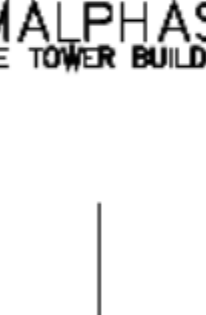


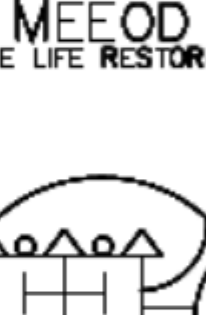
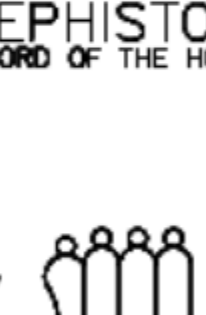


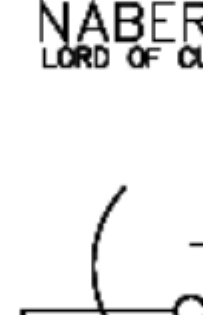

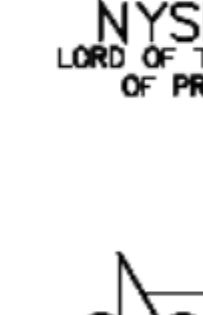



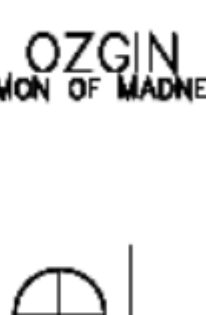


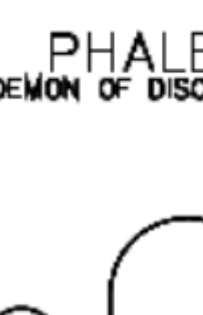


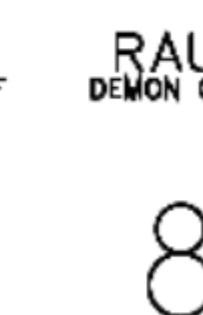
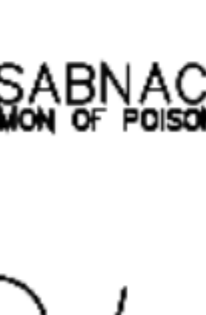




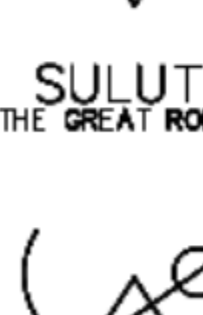
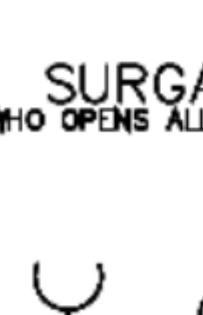
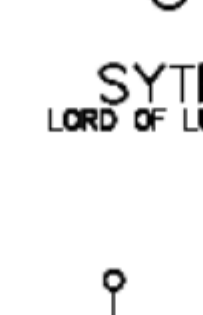




Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!

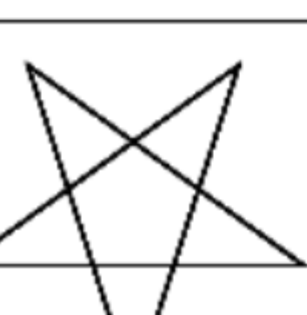
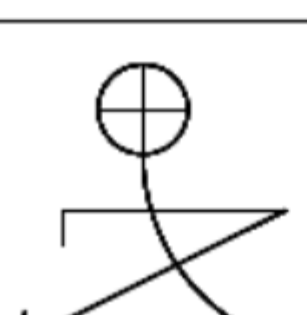
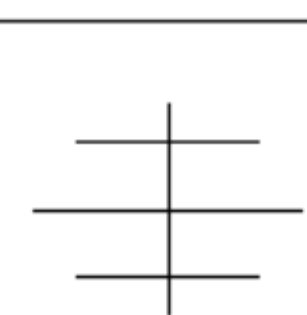
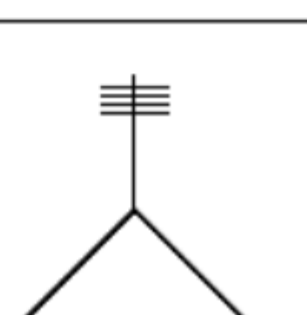
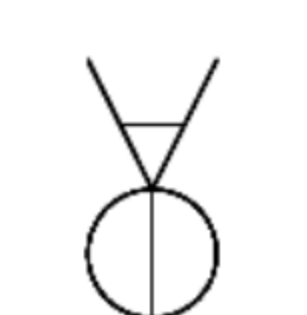

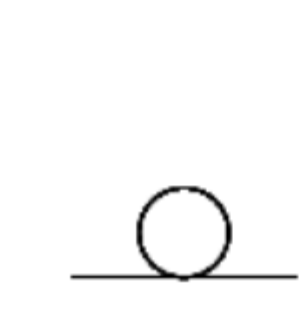
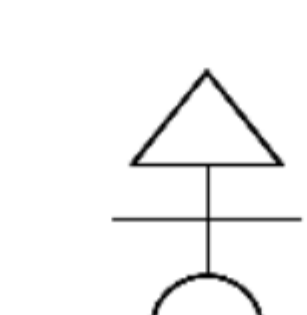




4. Objects with Demonic Invocations through Sigils

A LIST OF SEVERAL DEMONS
AND THEIR SIGILS OF SUMMONING:

									
ABYSS LORD OF CHAOS	ACIEL THE GOD BURNER	ADATIEL WALKS THE EARTH	ADNACHIEL THE HUNTER DEMON	AGIEL LORD OF CALAMITY	AMBRIEL THE CHANGER	AMNIXIEL DEMON OF THE LINES	ANAEL DEMON OF LUST	APADIEL OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "MUSICIAN"	ARATRON DEMON OF SORROW
									
ARIEL OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "HISTORIAN"	AVACHIEL THE INQUISITOR	AZERVIEL DEMON OF DEFEAT	BABALEL SECOND DEMON OF WAR	BARBIEL LORD OF ANCIENTS	BARCHIEL OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "MECHANIC"	BEFAFES FIRST DEMON OF WAR	BLISDON THE QUICK ONE	BORNOGO LORD OF POWER	BRORGES ARCH-DEMON OF WOE
									
BUTMONO DEMON OF GREED	CAMAEL THE DESTROYER	CASSIEL LORD OF ALL CONSPIRATORS	CASSRIEL OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "POET"	CHENOR THE WISH GRANTER	DAGON THE GREAT FISH	DECARAB THE BEAUTIFUL	DIGDIN THE DISORDERED	ELIM LORD OF ATTRITION	EKSUSHA THE GOD EYED
									
EOLIGOS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE	FERUG THE RUSTING ONE	FOCALOR THE DEMON THAT DROWNS MEN	FORCAS TEACH LOGICS AND THE SECRETS OF PLANTS AND GEMS	FURTUR DEMON OF STORMS	GAMIGIN THE HORSE LORD	GARN THE KING TEMPTER	GRACHIEL ARCH-DEMON OF THE DYING TIMES	HAGITH DEMON OF JEALOUSY	HAGONEL LORD UNDER GRACHIEL
									
HAMALIEL LORD OF OBSESSIONS	HANAEL THE ADVERSARIAL	HASMODEL & HASMODAI THE TWIN BULLS	HISMAEL THE ACQUIRER	IPOS KNOWS THINGS TO COME AND PAST	JOCHMUS THE FIRST SAVIOUR OF HELL	LAHAD THE DEVIL VOICE	LESIFUGES BRINGS RICHES AND SHORTENS LIFE	LUCIFER THE MORNING STAR	MALCHIDAEAL DEMON OF IMPATIENCE
									
MALPHAS THE TOWER BUILDER	MARBUEL OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "ARCHITECT"	MARCHOSIAS GIVES AID IN BATTLES A DEMON BOUND	MEED THE LIFE RESTORER	MEPHISTOPH LORD OF THE HOST	MICZARIEL THE WARRIOR	MURIEL GREAT DEMON OF LIES	NABERIUS LORD OF CUNNING	NESTORATS THE FIRE MASTER	NYSROG LORD OF THE HOUSE OF PRINCES
									
OCH THE SUN SPEAKER	OPHIEL LORD MESSENGER AND GOD TEACHER	ORIAS OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "ASTRONOMER"	OZGIN DEMON OF MADNESS	PAIMON MASTER OF INFERNAL CEREMONIES	PARNIEL FIRST LORD UNDER VEGUANIEL	PHALEG DEMON OF DISCONTENT	PSOHDON THE INCONSTANT	RONOVE THE KNOWLEDGE STAFF	RAUYM DEMON OF FILTH
									
SABNAC DEMON OF POISONS	SAKATH SECOND LORD UNDER VEGUANIEL	SALEOS OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "PANDER"	SCHETALIM THE POLYGO	STYGAL BRINGS DEATH	SULUTH THE GREAT ROBBER	SURGAT WHO OPENS ALL LOCKS	SYTRI LORD OF LUXURY	TARTHANAC LORD OF GOLDIRON	TEPHROS THE ASHMAKER AND FEVER CURER
									
UPHIR OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "PHYSICIAN"	VABAM WHO TELLS TRUE OF HIDDEN TREASURES	VALAC LORD OF SNAKES	VEGUANIEL ARCH-DEMON OF FORTUNE	VEPAR THE WATER MASTER	VETIS THE LIFE PROMISER	ZABLAH OF HELL'S ELECTORATE "LAWYER"	ZAGAM LORD OF FORGERY	ZURIEL THE STONE MASTER	ZEPAR DEFORMS THE UNBORN

OTHER SIGILS OF NECESSITY INCLUDE:

									
TO SUMMON A COMMON DEMON OF HELL OF WHICH ALL FOUR ARE A NECESSITY	A COMMON SIGIL NEEDED TO SUMMON AN UNHOLY POWER	KALI YUGA, AN ANCIENT SORCERY	TO SUMMON A MYRIAD WHICH IS 20,736 OF HELL'S MINIONS	TO REQUEST A FIENDISH UNION WITH INCUBI OR SUCCUBI	THE GREAT CIRCLE OF SUMMONING				

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Covertly Occult:

1. Unmarked / Innocent Objects

Candles

Candles are used in Luciferian and Satanic rituals as symbolic of the Light of Lucifer. This encompasses enlightenment, the flame of desire, Black Flame of Divine Consciousness and the fiery pit. The different colors and significations are:

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- Black for power, self-liberation, wisdom and destruction;
- White for higher consciousness and intelligent articulation, astral and spirit mastery, healing, compassion and knowledge;
- Red for lust, flame of desire, vampirism and blood, war and aggression, love and strength of will;
- Yellow for physical vitality, health and solar warmth;
- Green for earth, nature, mastery of your physical and carnal realm, wealth;
- Pink for feminine and goddess, motherhood;
- Blue for the spirit and divination.²⁸

Chalice

The cup represents the aspects of the subconscious brought into flesh, Leviathan rising from the abyss. The sorcerer drinks from a chalice often at the end of a rite to symbolize confirmation of the ritual itself, the intent to make flesh. Some magicians use **skull caps** to drink from, representing the power of the carnal and the spiritual plane.²⁹

Other various paraphernalia used by occult practitioners include: communion hosts (wafers), black robes, makeshift low table altars, the symbol of the Baphomet (Satan): pentacles, pentagram, hand bells, wine or some other drink most pleasing to the palate (they call this *elixir*), swords, model phalluses, gongs, crystals, crystal balls, incense sticks, parchment, etc.³⁰

Most suspicious are these aforementioned objects when they are **kept together**, as they can readily be available when rituals need them. Some people say they keep them only as personal effects or as a hobby. I would consider simply keeping them as a red flag, when demonic oppressions or obsessions are already overtly manifested.

2. Common Objects

Practically anything can be used by occult practitioners to cast hexes. Using personal items owned by the intended target - a shirt, a bracelet, a ring, a handkerchief, any piece of clothing, or even a strand of hair or a photo, or a piece of paper with the name of the target written on it – with a few recitations of spells and an optional mix of the sorcerer's bodily fluids (blood or saliva) to enhance the evil power, voila, you got a victim.

The most surprising discovery in the sorcerer's arsenal is the use of the Christian Bible and some biblical concepts in mediating occult powers. For example, in hoodoo³¹ spell casting, the

²⁸ Michael W. Ford, *Beginning Luciferian Magick* (<http://www.luciferianwitchcraft.com>)

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ <https://www.churchofsatan.com/doa-pamphlet-no165-13.php>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



following instructions are given: “Knock three times on the floor and say ‘*Peter, Rock of Christ, open the gate*’. Knock three times again and say ‘*Peter, Rock of Christ, open the gate*’. Then, call upon the ‘*Thirsty spirits, lost in Purgatory*’ to bear witness as you ‘*bind and confound <name of target>*’. Then, read aloud Psalm 140. As you say lines 9, 10 and 11 draw a line through the person's name. For clarity those lines are - v9: *As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them; v10: Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again; v11: Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.*”³²

3. Human Acts

At this point it would be beneficial to look at an example of objects in Scriptures that acquired benediction, instead of a curse. In Acts 19:11-12 we read: “*So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.*”

Face cloths and aprons are ordinary everyday objects then and now. They may refer to handkerchieves and daily working aprons usually worn by people manning their goods (e.g., fish and meat vendors in wet markets). Paul did not own them obviously, but exuding God’s supernatural authority, coupled with the people’s deep faith in God, it did seem that the Holy Spirit, when it decided to show His *mighty deeds through Paul’s hands*, made it possible that benediction be communicated through some human gestures (touching Paul’s skin and applying the cloths to the sick). However, in order to avoid any misunderstanding here, viz., God through Paul was just accommodating the superstitious mind set of the time, value is given to the voluntary human gestures.

Remember, when people reached for the corners of Jesus’ garment,³³ it was in many cases **a sign that they wanted to identify with Him**. There was nothing *magical* about the cloth that brought healing. It came by **faith** as people via their public display of faith “aligned” themselves with Jesus. Thus, He told the woman with a discharge of blood, “Your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22). Similar faith, both publicly and privately lived, may have occasioned the benediction of objects that merely *touched the skin* of Paul.

Can we then say that this may be true as well in dealing with the opposite of benediction? Yes. Public and private engagement of individuals in occult acts and practices, coupled with a strong “faith” in the lie that evil powers can take over some aspects of human affairs, **are valid and legitimate confirmations** of the occult practitioners’ **alignment with preternatural authority**. Therefore, **maledictions, hexes and spells can be mediated through objects aligned (publicly or privately) with the evil one through sinister human actions**.

My theory: If something had been used to commit a heinous crime (a gun, a knife, or money, etc.), covertly or overtly committed, in the name and evil end of a false religion or pagan belief, the odds of these objects being infested are high, indeed.

³¹ Hoodoo, unlike voodoo, is not a religion, nor a denomination of a religion; it is a form of folk magic that originated in West Africa and is mainly practiced today in the Southern United States.

³² <https://runesoup.com/2010/03/a-simple-vooodoo-hex-using-common-household-items/>

³³ For instance, the story of a woman with a “discharge of blood” who “touched the fringe” of Jesus’ garment and was healed (Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48), or when to Jesus was brought “all who were sick and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment”. Matthew even tells us, “As many as touched it were made well” (Matthew 14:34-36; cf. Mark 6:56).

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Discerning a Demonically Infested Object

There are certain **preternatural signs** that accompany objects that have been hexed. Almost always, after receiving the object, one may experience having **splitting headaches**, **intermittent dizzy spells**, **unexplained stomachaches**, having **difficulty sleeping** or have **nightmares** (usually of being attacked, being in an accident, being injured), or having an overwhelming sense of **panic or extreme nervousness**. It can happen that the series of unusual accidents (or near accidents), unusual breakages or conking out of appliances or machines, unusual computer or technical anomalies may (or may not) simply be due to the victim's panic attacks and nervousness causing mental or emotional stress and distractions. A prospective victim who seeks spiritual intervention reporting these incidents after receiving an object may indeed possess something cursed.

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So, in a way, the first sign of owning either a dormant or active infested object is **demonic oppression**. The levels of oppression may escalate gradually through time or may immediately be intense. Among the obvious signs of oppression are an unusual run of unexpected and undeserved bad luck, or in-house or office work space quarrelling. One occult practitioner opines: "people usually pick up the vibes transferred into the home from the object".³⁴

Obviously, not much discerning is warranted when **magical and superstitious objects** or those portraying **unknown deities or spirits** from other cultures, especially from ancient times or spirit-worshipping peoples, are owned by the alleged victim. It is a generally accepted fact even among occult practitioners that these can hold curses "quite powerfully from the original creator or those who have used them for less than positive purpose".³⁵

Nightmares from Infested Objects

Can demons cause nightmares?

Let me just share Fr. José Antonio Fortea's response to this question:

*"Yes, even though there is no way of knowing when a nightmare has a natural cause or a demonic one. We can only suspect cause nightmares that it has a demonic cause when there are other indications that point to this. There are cases where no psychiatrist has been able to find a reasonable explanation, either conscious or subconscious, for a normal person to suffer every night for a month or more with terrible nightmares that cause him or her to awake screaming and covered in sweat. These periods of very intense nightmares are sometimes connected to things such as having taken part in an occult rite or having begun a more intense spiritual life. The best advice one can give someone in this situation is to use holy water and ask God for protection and deliverance from any demonic influence during the night before he goes to sleep. If such actions cause the nightmares to stop, this would confirm that they were demonic in origin."*³⁶

Demonic Oppressions from Infested Objects

Bulul

A *bulul*, also known as *tinagtaggu* (an Ifugao term), is a carved wooden figure used to guard the rice crop by the Ifugao (and their sub-tribe *Kalanguya*) peoples of northern Luzon. The sculptures are highly stylized



³⁴ Michelle Gruben, *Spell Dectedition* 101 (cf. <https://www.groveandgrotto.com/>)

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Fr. José Antonio Fortea was an exorcist in Madrid (<https://www.spiritualdirection.com/2013/08/22/can-demons-cause-nightmares>)
Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



representations of ancestors, and are thought to gain power from the presence of the ancestral spirit.³⁷

The *bulul*, a well-known fertility idol, had been believed by many superstitious folks to bring luck and blessings to persons and families. Radio/ TV host, Cory Quirino, shared her experience of demonic infestation through her ex-husband's possession of a recently acquired *bulul* idol.³⁸ Mysterious walking steps heard inside the house, sudden shifts of room temperature when approaching the object, apparitions of dark ghostly hairy creatures inside the house witnessed by house residents, among other manifestations.

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Antique *bulul* idols come from the Cordillera mountains. An Ifugao native, Roberto Pahintong, admits that rituals are done on the *bulul*. He says, "For the Ifugaos, *bululs* are created for the purpose of being '*diyos-diyosan*' (gods). These cannot be sold because we worship these *bululs*." So, in no time the oppression escalated into obsession when Ms. Quirino herself started to hear the ghostly apparition "speak": "*Akin ang bahay na ito! Lumayas ka! Mamamatay ka!*" (*This house is mine. Go away! You will die!*)

Soon, when Ms. Quirino's body started losing weight "without medical explanation" she started inviting paranormal experts and *espiritistas* and *albularyos* from Mt. Banahaw into her house to help her in whatever way. Without any prior knowledge of her case, the *espiritistas* and *albularyos* could not enter the room where the *bulul* in question was kept.

Wrong process of change of ownership of the *bulul* is the culprit, according to the Mr. Pahintong. "*They should make a ritual so the spirit residing in the bulul would not be angered by the change of ownership,*" the Ifugao native says.

The Quirino household eventually discarded the *bulul* collection altogether. "*When the bulul was gone I started gaining weight,*" said Ms. Quirino.

What about Objects with « Bad Energy » ?

Not my question really; I am just repeating what I am often asked by Catholics. As a Catholic priest, however, I'd be **cautious using the terms "good and bad energy"** lest I fall into the new age semantics. No, I am not being pessimistic³⁹ nor do I invite and influence others to always see the demonic under every rock.⁴⁰

In Luke (8:46) we have a record of Jesus' words: "*Someone has touched me; for I know that **power** has gone out from me*"(RSV-CE). The culprit: a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. **Power** here is *dunamis* in Greek,⁴¹ as can be found correctly translated in a Catholic bible. However, the modern understanding of **power** is one that is synonymous to **energy**. So, even if there are no bible translations for Lk 8:46 that attempts to substitute power with energy, **there are new age believers who reduce this divine power to mere energy**.

³⁷ William A. Dyrness; Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen; Juan Francisco Martinez (2008), *Global Dictionary of Theology: A Resource for the Worldwide Church* (InterVarsity Press), 64.

³⁸ See the interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL6dVbv75rw&ab_channel=ABS-CBNNews

³⁹ When a Catholic posted the question about "negative and positive energy" and queried about it being new age and occult, a blogger responded: "how about have an optimistic outlook rather than a pessimistic one? I encounter people everyday that point out the negative in everything... I fall prey to this myself. Seeing God's love in every situation is, in my opinion, the equivalent of having 'positive energy'." (See: <https://forums.catholic.com/t/negative-energy-and-positive-energy/321170>)

⁴⁰ Fr. Chad Ripperger, founder of the Dolorans and an exorcist priest, used to quip, "*Satan is not under every rock; he is under every other rock*". I'd say, "Satan is under every other rock, only if it moves by itself".

⁴¹ **Dunamis** is 1) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth 2) power for performing miracles 3) moral power and excellence of soul 4) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth 5) power and resources arising from numbers or 6) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts (cf. **Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!**)



New Age Energy Semantics

"Nobody seems to know exactly where the term *New Age* came from, but it has been around for several decades or more, and many elements of the *New Age*, like faith healing, fortune-telling, and transmigration of souls, go back for centuries."⁴²

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The New Age movement encompasses a ***wide range of religions from spirit worship, Eastern mysticism, Mind-science religion, and even psychology***. Its purpose is to rediscover the ***god-within us all***. It is thus a religious movement⁴³ that is centered in ***SELF***-worshipping the god of forces and promoting the ***Aquarian Gospel of Jesus Christ***.⁴⁴

The New Age Jesus Christ was not and is not the only Christ, nor is he God. One person named Alice Bailey, who claims to be a New Age prophetess, describes a so-called "*Avatar of Synthesis*" who she says is a "*close Associate*" of "*the Christ*." She says: "He works under the great natural Law of Synthesis...in unison with ***the energy of Christ*** [in order to] generate spiritual will in humanity, the will-to good."⁴⁵ The New Age claims that ***Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Jesus, and many others were 'Christ'***.

The New Age "God" is impersonal, cosmic, a God of energy forces. God is an impersonal energy. New Agers do not mean God or Jesus Christ of the Bible. Most New Age teachers hold that Mother Earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars, indeed ***all of Nature can be worshipped as God***.⁴⁶

Flaunting the ***"I am God" (god-within us all)*** doctrine that naturally appeals to man's egotistical thirst for *power/ energy*, New Ageism's lure is almost always on the basis of acquiring knowledge or power⁴⁷ and the manipulation of energy. And perhaps because of its deification of energy many New Age writers and practitioners have been attracted to various forms of ***energy medicine***.⁴⁸

Energy Medicine : Reiki and its Energy Objects

Gaining some popularity in the country, among others, as energy medicine is Reiki. Reiki is etymologically from Japanese reiki (霊気), meaning "mysterious atmosphere, miraculous sign, " combining *rei* "soul, spirit" and *ki* "vital energy."

Reiki claims to work by removing obstructions to the flow of life force energy throughout the body. In her website, Jillian Knox Finley, herself an energy healer, wrote an article entitled ***"12 Items an Energy Healer Says Should Be in Your Bedroom."***⁴⁹

Her ***energy semantics*** center around generating positive energy and creating sacred space within the home. ***"Sacred,"*** according to Finley, has to do with ***"a connection to God."*** However, this is not the Catholic God from whom all power comes.

Bibleworks 9).

⁴² Otto Friedrich, "New Age Harmonies," TIME, Dec. 7, 1987.

⁴³ Those involved in the *New Age* rarely consider it to be "religion"—negatively associating that term solely with organized religion—and instead describe their practices as "spirituality".

⁴⁴ Cf. https://www.jesus-is-savior.com/False%20Religions/New%20Age/new_age_movement.htm

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ Neil T. Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker* (Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2005), 114.

⁴⁸ ***Energy medicine, energy therapy, energy healing, psychic healing, spiritual medicine or spiritual healing*** are branches of alternative medicine based on a pseudo-scientific belief that healers can channel healing energy into a patient and effect positive results. This idea itself contains several methods: hands-on, hands-off, and distant (or absent) where the patient and healer are in different locations. (See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_medicine)

⁴⁹ <https://www.mydomaine.com/reiki-home-accessories/slide2>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Finley's list of reiki energy objects includes:

- Sandalwood candle (because its oil vibrates to the first and fourth chakras)
- Yoga blanket (declares sacred space)
- Meditation cushion (makes the space cushy)
- Sage (for cleansing negative vibes)
- Power animals (spiritual companions)
- Tibetan bowls (because chakras receive their vibrations)
- Inspired reading materials (esoteric materials);
- Feathers
- Raw stones: rose quartz, crystals, etc.

Is reiki a non-religious form of healing?

It is religious. The founder of Reiki was Mikao Usui (15 August 1865 – 9 March 1926), a Japanese, whose teachings' aim was "to provide a method for students to achieve connection with the Universal Life Force energy that would help them in their self-development."⁵⁰ The history of reiki's roots was reconstructed by Usui's followers to make it appealing to the West. Usui had actually "obtained the knowledge of Reiki from the Buddhist religious book *Tantra of the Lightning Flash*, Takata, a follower, claimed that Usui had been inspired from the story of Jesus Christ, who had healed with the touch of his hand, and so had come to America to learn Reiki."⁵¹ Only in 1994 was it known publicly that Reiki had originated from Gautama Buddha when the original manuscript of Usui was found.

In March 2009, the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the document *Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy*, in which they declared that the practice of reiki was based on superstition, being neither truly faith healing nor science-based medicine.⁵²

So, can the objects used in energy medicine be considered infested?

There are many schools of energy healing under various labels, e.g., biofield energy healing, spiritual healing, contact healing, distant healing, Qi Do, therapeutic touch, Reiki, Qigong, or pranic healing.

When there are underlying concepts that involve **connecting** with, **aligning** with or **channeling** a **universal life force** - which maybe termed as *prana* (Sanskrit word for "life force" or "vital principle"), *Qi*, ("natural energy", "life force", or "energy flow") or any other term other than the Christian God – that alternative healing modality is **suspect**.⁵³

⁵⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikao_Usui

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² Committee on Doctrine United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (25 March 2010). "Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy" (PDF). Archived from the original (PDF) on 31 March 2015. (Wikipedia) See also: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/187390> – for studies published in a peer reviewed medical journal.

⁵³ Chi, qi, or qi (sometimes also spelled as ch'i), a foundational belief of this system, is believed to be a force that permeates the universe and all forms in existence. The concept of Chinese qi was developed by philosophers such as Lao-tzu, Confucius, Mencius, and others between the sixth and fourth centuries B.C., and was considered to be "the source of vitality, harmony, Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



We only examined reiki, briefly stating that it is based on *religious superstition*. But since we also now know that reiki is based on *Tantra of the Lightning Flash*, a revered text of *Esoteric Buddhism*, then we discern as well two other things: a) that reiki is not only superstitious, it is also occultic; b) that, as esoteric Buddhism dictates, the healer “creates a special bond with a guardian Buddha, Bodhisattva, or deity during their initiations and eventually becomes spiritually united with that being.”⁵⁴ Now, a Catholic participating and even actively engaging in an esoteric occult practice, even without any knowledge of this “special bonding” modality involved, may be guilty of polytheism and idolatry, violations of the 1st commandment.⁵⁵

Use of Reiki Sigils. William Lee Rand, a Senior Reiki Master, states the following on reiki use of symbols:

*“Usui Reiki symbols are sacred and are to be kept confidential. They are only revealed to those who are about to be initiated into the Second or Third degree of Reiki. [...] Reiki symbols are an important and very interesting part of Reiki practice. They allow one to focus the energy of Reiki for specific purposes. [...] Usui Reiki symbols are not as mysterious as they might seem. They have actually been created from Japanese kanji which means they are simply words from the Japanese language. Their names can be found in a Japanese/English dictionary. The first two symbols vary from this somewhat. While the names of the Power and Mental/Emotional symbols are Japanese, the symbols themselves may be shamanic or a combination of Sanskrit and Japanese kanji.”*⁵⁶

So, **YES**, owing to the invocation of strange gods, the use of sigil-like characters, the objects used in reiki or in any manner where these dieties or energies are channeled *may be* infested.

Discerning Objects used in Alternative Healing Methods and Geomancy

Channeling Objects

Channeling, manipulating and balancing the *universal life force* is the basis of most alternative healing methods. Hence, the liberation team involved in cases of infestation, oppression and obsession must have at least a modicum knowledge of the alternative healing modality used on the victim.

By channeling we mean “a person's body being taken over by a spirit for the purpose of communication.”⁵⁷ *Channelers, also sometimes known as psychic mediums, often use what are called "spirit guides," friendly spirits who give them knowledge and help them on their spiritual journeys.*⁵⁸ This manipulation and balancing are also present in Chinese

creativity, and moral courage,” (Guiley, 627). Chi/qi has parallels to *ki* in Japan and to *prana* (the divine breath in Hindu thinking) in India, an energy “upon which all things depend for health and life,” (Guiley, 626). Known generally as the *universal life force*, this energy is also known as “*bioenergy*,” (Ibid, 629-30), “*vital energy*,” “*vital force*,” or, most commonly in the United States, the “*life force*.”

⁵⁴ https://www.ancient.eu/Esoteric_Buddhism/

⁵⁵ CCC #2113 *Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc.*

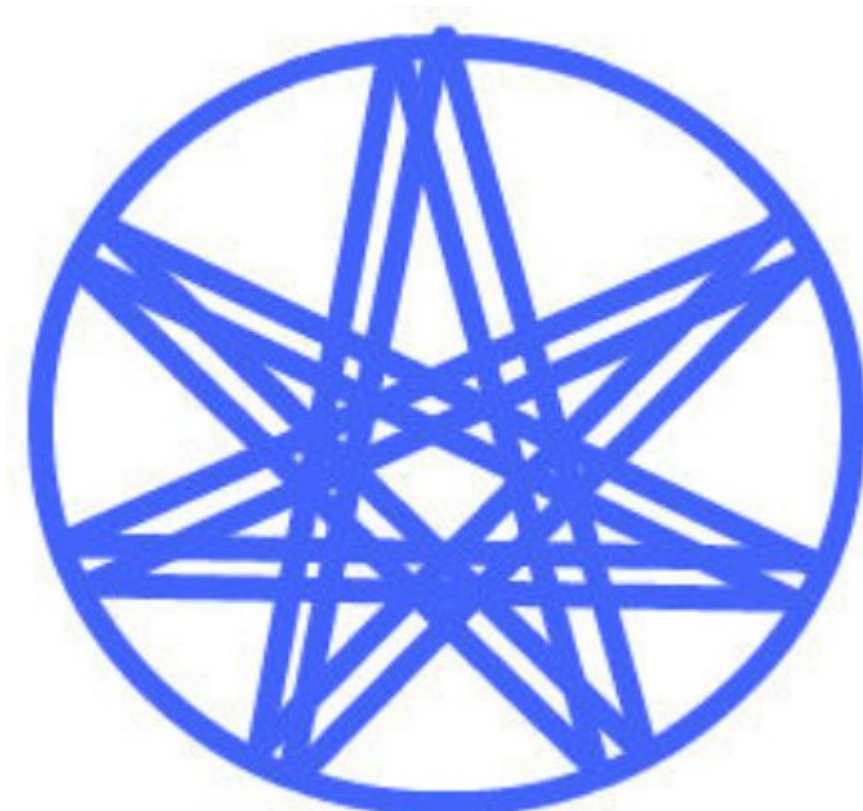
⁵⁶ <https://www.reiki.org/reikinews/usuism.html>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



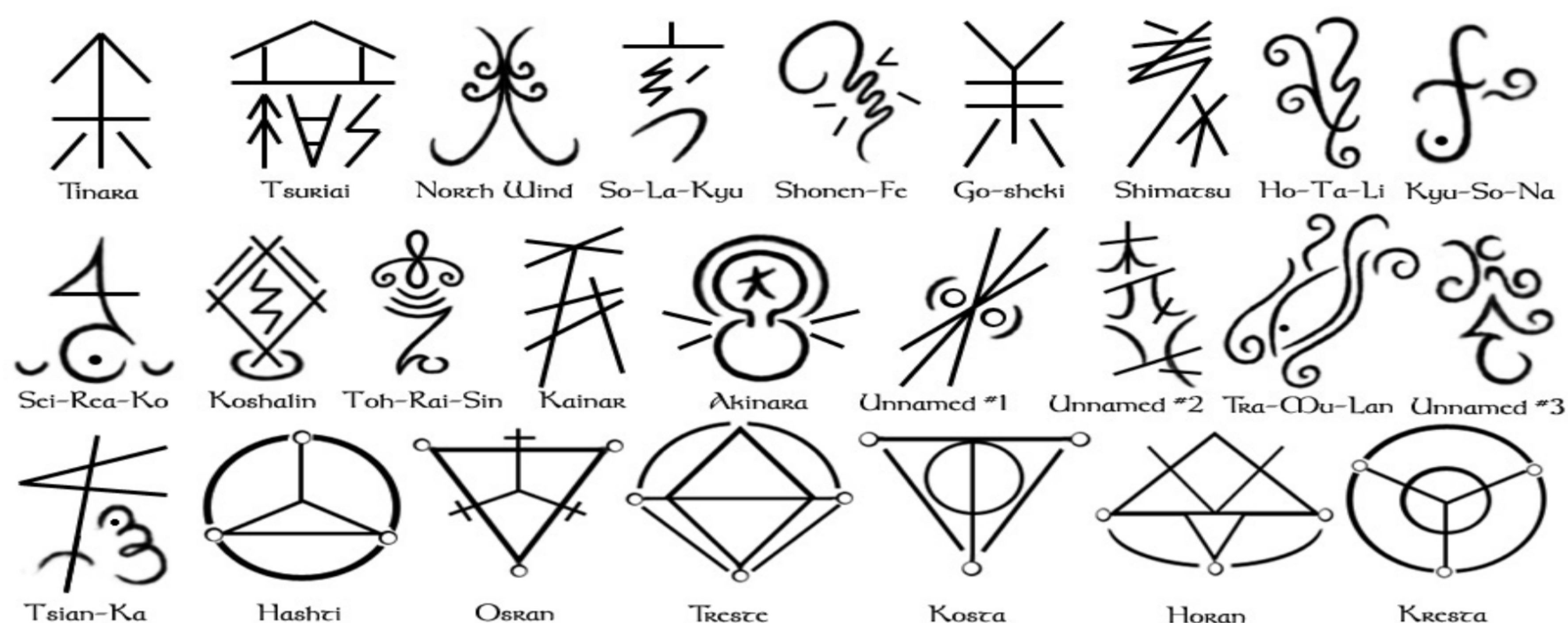
geomancy, popularly known as *Feng Shui*. Feng Shui uses energy forces to harmonize individuals with their surrounding environment. Author Belinda Henwood in *Feng Shui* states: "Just as acupuncture, chakra balancing or shiatsu massage can adjust the flow of energy in the body, so can feng shui adjust the flow of energy around us." ⁵⁹ The chi must flow "not too quickly and not too slowly," and will stagnate or become destructive if it is blocked." ⁶⁰ Additionally, the yin and yang (female and male) components of chi "must be in balance." ⁶¹

Channeling Symbols



Corey Thorn, possibly a psychic medium (and I am guessing a male) has a site where he posts chakra and reiki sigils or symbols which he claims to have channeled. He calls these sigils "energies and thoughtforms." For example, he/ she channelled this "sigil designed for attunement": a pentacle (fig., left), for attunement to what kind of spirits?

In his website, *Symbols Channeled by Corey Thorn*, without any mention of what he meant by channeling, he gives an assortment of sigils he *channeled* possibly through certain "spirit guides." Here is his collection. ⁶²



Local Arbulario Ritual Objects

Most *arbulario*s (also termed as "witch doctors" because they allegedly help those victimized by black witches) use herbs, alum, coconut oil, and other substances in their healing practices. In many cases, arbulario will also employ various prayers, chants and "supernatural" cures—especially for cases involving supernatural causes. ⁶³



⁵⁷ <https://www.livescience.com/38561-channeling.html>

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ Belinda Henwood, *Feng Shui* (Pownal, VT: Storey Books, undated), 6.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ Rosemary Ellen Guiley, *Harper's Encyclopedia of Mystical and Paranormal Experience*, (Edison, NJ: Castle Books/Books Sales, Inc., 1991), 200, 627.

⁶² <http://wanderingpaths.dreamhart.org/images/creikisymbols.jpg>

⁶³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arbulario>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Albularyos have their own versions of *Catholic sacramentals*: oil, candles, salt, water, prayers, ritual gestures, exsufflation, etc. They also have their own versions of *exorcism rituals* various means of communicating with “the possessing spirits” through channeling and mediumship.

While some may argue that our local folk healers and *albularyos* only base their healing principles, at the least, on the therapeutic properties of actual herbs, and at its worst, on superstitious beliefs, the numerous documented interviews of these healers say something more.⁶⁴ While all agree that their “powers” come from “above” (*mula sa itaas*), these supra-natural powers are not necessarily attributed solely to the Christian God (despite the local healers’ claim to and display of Catholicity). These powers are channeled to them either via “*nature spirits*,” “*highly evolved spirits or ascended masters from other dimensions*,” *other “spiritual entities” and other beings*, whether dieties or non-dieties. The mode of acquiring the healing powers vary as well, from being handed down through the generational bloodline of *albularyos* via *visions* or *locutions* or *possession* by the granting spirits. There are also accounts of receiving these powers after near-death-experiences (NDE’s) or after some traumatic experiences.

Seals and Consecrations

Sealing (*Pagtatatak*) and Consecrating (*Pagtatalaga*) may be understood literally or non-literally. Sealing may be done through *anointing of blessed oil* (usually coconut oil), impartation of a visible or invisible object, e.g., *talisman* or *amulet*, *charms*, spiritism books or *libreto*, book of prayers (with allegedly *Latin*, *Hebrew*, *Español* or *Aramaic* texts), etc. In most cases, the consecration or dedication of the objects are done simultaneously, usually quickly done through *bulong* (whispering prayers) onto the objects. I would then consider all these objects dormantlly infected.

Some Sealing Infested Objects

Some objects used in Sealing rituals:

- **Charm (*Mutya*)** – worn to attract good luck; can be a stone, metal, animal or human bone, wood or a tree bark with extraordinary properties, *old coins*, *wands* made of rock, wood or metal;
- **Amulets (*Agimat*, *Baluti*)**– provides protection from danger; medallions with sigils, gnostic occult symbols, or often with Christian symbols;
- **Insignias** – a piece of cloth with “sacred” writings;
- **Libreto** – book of prayers for curses, in various shapes;
- **Talisman (*Anting-anting*, *Gayuma*)**– to attract a particular benefit to its owner/wearer; usually with etched illustrations on wood, stone or metal; some talisman markings are made on the walls of houses.

⁶⁴ See for example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOgipMCt4lw&t=24s&ab_channel=ABS-CBNNews

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKbpHZRyFSM&ab_channel=miajVee

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ot601_ogvU

For an archive of these interviews visit: <https://imperiya.by/show/SIKAT+NA+ALBULARYO>



Some Occult/ Esoteric Prayer Books Used in Sealing, Hexing and Other Purposes

- **Aklat ni Moises (Book of Moses) 6,7,8,9** – Knowledge of Treasure, Conjuraton (conjuring of elementals)
- **Encanto De Dios** – Kaballistic, Tigalpo
- **Flos Sancturum** – Prayers in Nature
- **Troncu del Mundo** – Origin of the World, Prayers of the Prophets, Prayers of Infinito Dios
- **Karunungan ng Dios** – The secret Life of Jesus and His Apostles, Prayers for Various Illnesses
- **Testamento ni Adan** – History of the Church and the race of Adam, Secret Names
- **Martyr of Golgotha** – Occult History of Jesus and of the biblical New Testament characters
- **Various Collections of Oraciones** allegedly handed down by the healers from one generation to the next; usually holographic in character in alleged *Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic or Spanish* mixed together. Tony Perez, a self-professed Filipino warlock (male witch) has a collection of Mga Panibagong Kulam (New Hexes) in the vernacular and English.⁶⁵

Evil consecrations and seals (*masamang pagtatalaga at pagtatatak*) may be performed with or without the use of the aforementioned objects / books, as long as the elements of acknowledgement and gratitude towards the granting spirits are present. However, on account of the intended purposes of the objects, it is safe to assume that preternatural spirits lie in wait for their prospective victim-owners and victim-users. Thus, they may be considered as ***dormant infested objects***.

Wider Meaning of Infestation

Even if an object is not directly overtly or covertly hexed, it *may* indeed carry with it the occult ***deified energies*** channelled or mediated through it. We have seen the case of the *bulul* image above, which, unbeknownst to the owners, served as a channel or conduit for a sinister spirit.

It is a mystery why some attract evil spirits while others do not. Common experience dictate that not all owners or possessors of questionable or suspicious objects do experience preternatural infestation, oppression or obsession. Although one definitely sins through the practice of the occult or through observance of superstitious beliefs, it would seem that the diabolical spirit is first to know or sense the crisis point in which a person finally gives his/her

⁶⁵ Tony Perez's authored books include the following: *Mga Panibagong Tawas*, Anvil Publishing, Inc., 1997, *Mga Panibagong Orasyon*, Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2000; *Mga Panibagong Orasyon Sa Magica Cantada*, Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2000, *Mga Panibagong Ritwal ng Wicca*, Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2000, *Mga Panibagong Kulam Sa Pag-ibig*, Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2005. From [http://tonyperezphilippines.blogspot.com/Mga Panibagong Kulam](http://tonyperezphilippines.blogspot.com/Mga_Panibagong_Kulam), Anvil Publishing, Inc., 1996. Last accessed: July 10, 2016.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



will to preternatural authority. We, in this ministry of spiritual warfare, can only guess intelligently and discern spiritually possible causes of demonic manifestations and activities.

Identifying the crucial point of the victim's surrender of will to evil spirits is an important task in handling cases of alleged infestations. *It may be an act that is so subtle that even the victim is not consciously aware of the fatal choice. But once the choice is made and if the human will succumbs (even the slightest bit), it gives the evil spirit access to that person in ways not normally allowed.*⁶⁶

CAVEAT FOR THE EXORCIST

In order to prevent misinterpretation and misinformation: Because of the nature of our PRESUMPTION of evil spirits' infestation of objects used by alternative healers, it **SHOULD BE STATED CLEARLY THAT IN NO WAY ARE WE DECLARING CATEGORICALLY:**

- A) that all forms of alternative healings are demonic;**
- B) that the objects used in any mode of alternative medicine are demonic;**
- C) that all who practice these pseudoscientific alternative healings are demonically influenced.**

As all presumptions dictate, we can only give information to people based on what we fully know and understand through some thorough research and study on each modality of healing focusing on its spiritual, religious and pastoral aspects. THEREFORE, the most we can give is a WARNING to all believers and non-believers to have an attitude or belief dictated by the PROBABILITY OF DEMONIC INFLUENCES AT PLAY IN THE SAID PRACTICES AND BELIEFS.

Just as we may be foolish not to heed the warning of an impending BIG ONE by laughing with scorn at the earthquake drills done in public places, we may be foolish too not to heed an intelligently worded and conveyed warning to the public with regards certain spiritual and physical disasters wrought by dabbling in preternatural affairs. ♥

III. THE RITUAL

The Rite of Exorcism has a set of prayers that is specifically intended for cases of infestation. Officially titled the *Exorcism of Satan and the Fallen Angels*, the rite is sometimes also called the *Prayers of Leo XIII* (Leo being the pope who added these prayers to the rite). The 1999 Rite of Exorcism contains prayers for this purpose in an appendix entitled, *A Supplication and Exorcism which May be Used in Particular Circumstances of the Church*.⁶⁷

In his excellent resource book of prayers, *Catholic Handbook of Prayers for Spiritual Liberation and Exorcism*,⁶⁸ Fr. Winston Fernandez Cabading, OP, had included the text of ***Exorcism of Satan and the Fallen Angels***,⁶⁹ for our reference. Fr. Cabading gives an important pre-note to the prayer: *"This prayer can also be used as a minor exorcism for persons, things, objects, animals, and any situation that is believed to be under the sway of the evil spirits. [...] ...can be used for spiritual liberation of a locality (parish, city, home, buildings, etc.) that is suspected of having an infestation of malevolent spirits or under the sway of the devil. Only priests can use the prayer. The faithful are*

⁶⁶ Michael Freze, *Op. Cit.* Kindle Ed.

⁶⁷ USCCB, <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/exorcism.cfm>.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



admonished to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend Holy Mass, receive Holy Communion, have a Spirit-filled life, practicing virtue and constant in prayer.”⁷⁰

It is suggested that **prior** to saying the **Minor Exorcism Prayer of Pope Leo XIII**, the afflicted should have first made a solemn **Renouncement of Unholy Soul Ties**, which can be found on page 23ff of the said book. This renouncement is an appropriate preparation for the afflicted to cut “*all evil, occult-practices, unholy vows, unholy ties and relationships, if possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament, or a Crucifix, or an Icon of Our Lord or of Our Lady.*”⁷¹ At the end of the prayer of the **Breaking of Unholy Soul Ties** a note by Fr. Cabading on page 24 reads: “*Now is a good time to **destroy or get rid of any physical gifts or other objects that can hold the soul tie together**, such as a gift given in an adulterous or immoral relations, talisman, amulets, etc., or anything that can hold the bond together between you and that person*” (emphases mine).

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As to the proper prayers during the *disposal of infested objects*, **Disposing of Cursed Objects (p336ff)** segment gives some texts for the rites.

Because we are more concerned about the state of the afflicted than the objects, after the **Minor Exorcism of Satan and the Fallen Angels** (p. 98ff), and the other **Minor Exorcism Prayers** found on page 40ff, if the exorcist finds it beneficial for the *energumen*, he may proceed to administering **Solemn Major Exorcism** on pages 119ff. The **Rite of Exorcism** starts with the **Litany of the Saints**, then the **Praecípio prayer** (138-9), the **Gospel Readings** (140-6 for options), then **Exorcism Prayers I to VII** (146-170). **Exorcism Prayers I-III** are from the **Roman Rite of Exorcism (1612/1952)**, and are therefore in the **Extraordinary form**. **Exorcism Prayers IV-VII** are taken from the **Roman Rite of Exorcism and Certain Supplications (1998/2004)**, in the **Ordinary form**.

The exorcist may especially find **Exorcism III** (page 153) truly beneficial in rebuking occult spirits of divination and sorcery. The prayer’s reference to the sinister spirits that manipulated the magicians Simon Magus and Elyma, the lying spirits of Annas and Saphira, the murderous spirit of King Herod, and the divination spirit of Pythonissa, the soothsayer, effectively repudiates all occult and esoteric spirits.

As a supplement to our Latin Rite Exorcism prayers, Fr. Cabading wisely included in print a good resource of Eastern Catholic Prayers of Exorcism. It may be good to quote Fr. Cabading’s pre-note in this regard, so we may be guided accordingly:

“It is the opinion of the Redactor that the **Eastern Catholic Prayers of Exorcism**, in so far as the Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox consider them as Solemn Exorcisms, must be treated as such by Latin Priest-Exorcists, who must observe the proper rules. However, some Latin exorcists consider them as Minor Exorcisms because any Eastern Catholic or Orthodox priest can use them as they find necessary. Therefore, following this practice, they can be used by any Catholic priest who knows how to use them. Still, it is observed that the efficacy of the prayer is more pronounced whenever an authorized priest uses it in the context of a solemn exorcism.”⁷²

⁶⁸ Fr. Winston Fernandez Cabading, OP, *Catholic Handbook of Prayers for Spiritual Liberation and Exorcism with Redactor’s Notes* (Manila: University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, 2016), 380pp.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 98ff.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.* Redactor’s Notes, 98.

⁷¹ *Ibid.* Redactor’s Notes, 22.

⁷² *Ibid.* Redactor’s Notes, 171.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



And to proceed using ***Eastern Catholic Prayers of Exorcism***, immediately after Exorcism III ***the Exorcism Prayer of St. Cyprian of Nicomedia Against Curses and Against All Magic*** may be said. Fr. Cabading gives the following directives:

“If it is ascertained that the possessing demon is caused by the occult, witchcraft, sorcery, magic, or by a curse, the ***Exorcism Prayer of St. Cyprian of Nicomedia Against Curses and Against All Magic*** (pp. 176-181) can be used to supplement Exorcism Prayer III. Likewise, the various ***Eastern Catholic Exorcism Prayers Against All Magic*** (pp. 196-208) and those of ***St. Gregory Nazianzen*** (pp. 192-195), ***St. John Chrysostom*** (pp. 188-191), and ***St. Basil the Great*** (pp. 182-187) can also be used in conjunction with those of St. Cyprian of Nicomedia” (*emphases and pagination mine*).

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St. Cyprian’s Prayer gives us a picturesque list of various infested object with a hint of how they are used. Let us see the following lines, for example: “[...] all the activities of the author of malice, whether carved or written on animal skin, metal, the stone, wood, or on paper or any other substance. [...] whether they are fabricated with gold, silver or any other metal, with the bones and nails of human or animal, birds, both living and dead, whether they come from the earth or from a tomb, whether they have been wrapped with a nail or a needle or a pin, which have been linked with a hair, cotton or silk and linen or hemp or with a sac or with a rope and with some other plant, or have been made with the gurgling of the water, or hollow wood or whatever other manner.”⁷³

IV. CHALLENGES

General Observations

1. Witchcraft as an Alternative Philippine Lifestyle. In February 2012, the BBC News featured our country, no, not for its corruption, but for something uglier: witchcraft. The BBC headline reads: “The Philippines Island of Witches.”⁷⁴ It was not the first. United Press Internation (UPI) had earlier (2011) written about us too: “Witches common on Philippine Island.”⁷⁵ I admit I just smirked reading those, until...

Early this year, 2018, the Philippine Daily Inquirer carried this PSA: **“This Week’s Festivals: March 25-31, 2018:**

- March 26 to April 1: Moriones (Moryonan) - The religious tradition at Mogpog town in Marinduque province...
- March 28 to 31: **Healing Festival.** An annual festival during Holy Week at Siquijor town in Siquijor province that started in 2006. The event was created to ward off the image of Siquijor as home to witchcraft and promote the province as a haven for healing.”⁷⁶

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 180.

⁷⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-16887069/the-philippines-island-of-witches>

⁷⁵ <https://www.upi.com/Witches-common-on-Philippine-island/62561320077935/>

⁷⁶ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/977834/this-weeks-festivals-march-25-31-2018>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



Seeing that second item listed right after a Holy Week religious celebration I grimaced in dismay and whispered, “Aw shucks, kinareer na pala nila ito noon pa! Holy Week pa!” The elders of the province of Siquijor had decided since 2006 to flaunt their witch doctors’ healing activities to promote tourism. ***The challenge: Witchdoctoring is not taboo anymore; it is on its way to being the norm.***

2. Millenials’ Lifestyle Choice. The Facebook page ***Millenials of Manila*** featured Karlen, a 20-ish modern-day witch, whose dislike for religion ushered her lifestyle preference: “...when I was 4, my grandma would ask me to hear mass. For me it felt uncomfortable, when I prayed the rosary, I didn’t want to do it. And I find it weird, especially the teachings. I didn’t see myself or feel the belongingness in an organized religion. Then I knew that I was doing witchcraft when I quit church.”⁷⁷ ***The challenge: Witchcraft is indeed a socially accepted career path even for the young generation.***

3. Church’s Concern: Religious Nones. Our millennials today are less likely to be tuned-in religiously. A recent survey revealed that one in three (1:3) Pinoy millennials is not affiliated with any religion. Meanwhile, only 55% of Pinoy millennials consider themselves Christians and that already includes Catholic. ***The Challenge:*** The number of ***religiously unaffiliated millennials*** - who are tagged as ***religious nones***, who still report believing in God, and even praying regularly, and many of whom call themselves ***“spiritual but not religious”*** - keeps on growing.

4. Naturally Superstitious Culture. “Filipinos are very superstitious, especially the old people. Added to that, the beliefs have great influence in their day to day life... strongly rooted to the superstitious beliefs that they believe could help them deal with day to day occurrences and events.”⁷⁸ No one has kept count of the number of *pamahiin* observed by the Filipinos. Even its president flaunts his anting-anting. ***The challenge: The first commandment forbids honoring gods other than the one Lord who has revealed himself to his people. It proscribes superstition and irreligion (CCC# 2110).***

General Recommendation: Preserving the Catholic Culture via Re-Evangelization

Undeniable is the fact that Christianity has always had an enormous impact on the Philippine culture. The majority of Filipinos were shaped by the use of symbols and practices of Christianity which became a basis for ***social change***. Faith is not only built into our culture, it also has a) tremendous power to change the lives of our people and transform social structures b) strong political-cultural impact on the Filipinos in general c) and has enormous impact on moral formation of the Filipinos today. Catholic Christianity is a force of moral transformation as it criticizes contemporary world views and values when it can (as can be gleaned from the reception of and response to CBCP’s pastoral exhortation “Rejoice and be Glad!”), as well as “provide the strongest bond of national identity and unity.”⁷⁹ This “moral transformation” thrust is in keeping with St. John Paul II’s words stating that “the first and fundamental dimension of culture is healthy morality, moral culture.”⁸⁰

⁷⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/MillennialsofManila/videos/witchcraft-as-a-lifestyle/1763609263689189/>

⁷⁸ Felisa Daskeo, [anthropology.knoji.com](http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3863.html), October 1, 2012 cited in http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Philippines/sub5_6c/entry-3863.html (Accessed: July 17, 2018)

⁷⁹ Christina A. Astorga, Manuel B. Dy (ed.), “Values in Philippine Culture and Education,” Philippine Philosophical Studies (Washington, DC: Cardinal Station, 1994), 125.

⁸⁰ John Paul II, *Address to UNESCO*, 2 June 1980, n. 12, L’Osservatore Romano, weekly edition in English, 23 June 1980. Cited in “Towards a Pastoral Approach to Culture,” Pontifical Council for Culture (Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1999), no. 2.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



The enormous challenge we face now more than ever is: ***the re-education in the faith of the Filipino Catholic in this day and age so that we can retrieve and maintain a healthy Christian culture.***

As we note the rise of mega-churches and the proliferation of airconditioned auditoriums used for Sunday worship by mostly evangelical sects, we cannot but notice how the average Filipino of all generations grow more and more connected in the digital space. Yet relationships and faith seem to be faltering.⁸¹ The millennial today can access information about Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and various pagan beliefs like wiccan and satanism, with just a few clicks, or just by talking to people they encounter. Having so many options creates a lot of anxiety about which religious beliefs, careers or relationships millennials should choose. The post-modern attitude of “spiritual-but-not-religious” allows the Filipino millennials and the centennials (as the generations before them) to avoid choosing one religion and instead combine elements from many.⁸²

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Given these brushstrokes of post-modern culture painting a landscape that is posed to landslide onto our Catholic culture the wrong attitude to avoid is: ***let sleeping dogs lie.*** For decades, if not centuries, we may have avoided interfering with the superstitious culture of our Catholic populace in the pretext of “honoring our elders’s beliefs, *wala namang mawawala eh.*” Teaching, preaching and speaking against any superstitious belief may just cause undue confusion and hurt feelings. “*Maramdamin pa mandin ang mga matatanda.*” Now, we are faced with overwhelming difficulties re-educating our masses.

Hence, it is essential that the liberation and exorcism ministry be not just a healing ministry. It must also be re-evangelizing ministry.

Particular Observations

Let us go back to our working definition of demonic infestation we mentioned at the outset : It is when evil spirits ***obtain the right to exercise dominion over certain places, objects or time,*** and thereby manifest this dominion through an object or a set of things, overt or hidden, that had been ritually bound through formal or informal consecration to the Evil One and/ or to an evil purpose or end, within a specific place and time.

If we accept this as a spiritual truth, let us engage ourselves in some discernment gymnastics for some challenge, in the form of queries with apropos recommendations.

Observation #1: Stewardship

Is it possible then that the objects in your wallet, those paper bills, that had changed hands through time, are demonically infested?

Read this headline news from ABS-CBN Channel in December 2013: “***World's most powerful drug cartel now in PH.***” The Sinaloa Cartel from Mexico, often described as the largest and most powerful drug trafficking organization in the Western Hemisphere, is in the Philippines.

⁸³ Now, read this news item in September 20, 2017: “***Drug cartels invoke the intercession of Santa Muerte to protect shipments of drugs from law enforcement.***”⁸⁴ Are the

⁸¹ Fr. Armand Robleza, “*The Rules Have Changed: Challenges to Evangelizing Millennials,*” Novaliches Clergy renewal talk, June 13, 2018.

⁸² *Ibid.*

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



illegal drugs for sale in our country possibly consecrated to Satan by Santa Muerte cult? Yes, as well as the money traded in this narco economy.

The Vatican has condemned the cult of Santa Muerte in Mexico as blasphemous and satanic.⁸⁵ Santa Muerte's image as satanic or evil has been derived from her association with drug trafficking and the dead bodies found at her altar.⁸⁶

In 2010 a U.S. International Narcotics Control Strategy Report stated that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director General estimated the illegal drug trade in the Philippines at \$6.4 to \$8.4 billion annually.⁸⁷ By 2019, using this old 2010 data (\$8.4B), this translates to a whopping ₱437 Billion annually in Philippine drug trade. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas released a March 2019 factsheet stating that it issued 3.9 billion pieces of notes valued at ₱1.3 Trillion. And as of 31 March 2019, 31.8 billion pieces of coins valued at ₱39.5 billion is in circulation. The total money in circulation is ₱ 1.34T.

Let us look at the following verified data:

Per Year

Drug Trade: ⁸⁸	₱ 437,000,000,000.00 (₱ 437B)
Graft/ Corruption: ⁸⁹	₱ 10,000,000,000.00 (₱ 10B)
Guns-for-Hire: ⁹⁰	₱ 240,000,000.00 (₱ 240M)
Prostitution/ Trafficking: ⁹¹	₱ 311,820,000,000.00 (₱ 311.8M)
Smuggling/ Undeclared Exports: ⁹²	₱ 201,643,600,000.00 (₱ 201.6M)
Tax Evasion: ⁹³	₱ 384,578,000,000.00 (₱ 384.6M)
Total:	₱ 1,854,981,600,000.00 (₱ 1.9T)

You see that the money used for nefarious activities and transactions per year exceeds the total amount of bills and coins in circulation in a year. We do not include here the amount of money used to finance occultic and esoteric activities.

The point is: the paper bill in our wallets have the highest probability of having been used in criminal acts, sinful transactions, in occult practices. And, in all probability, consecrated to Satan. So, would it not make sense to break its ties with known or unknown sinister spirits? What do you think?

Personally, I think this question makes sense. There are many factors to consider in the weakening of the value of our money. In 2010, a dollar to a peso was ₱43.92 by year-end by July 2018, it was ₱53.45. But is the reason simply behavioural, social or material?

⁸³ <http://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/12/26/13/worlds-most-powerful-drug-cartel-now-ph>
⁸⁴ <https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/pope-says-devotion-to-mary-angers-devil>
⁸⁵ Ramirez, Margaret. "'Saint Death' comes to Chicago". Chicago Tribune. Chicago.
⁸⁶ Chesnut, R. Andrew (2012). *Devoted to Death: Santa Muerte, the Skeleton Saint*. Oxford University Press, Inc. pp. 3–27
⁸⁷ Cf. "INCSR 2010 Volume 1: Country Reports" (PDF). United States Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. 2010-03-01. p. 509.
⁸⁸ *Ibid.*
⁸⁹ <https://www.manilatimes.net/the-economic-costs-of-corruption-in-ph/462475/>
⁹⁰ <https://www.getrealphilippines.com/2014/08/filipino-motorcycle-tandem-assassins-a-rapidly-growing-national-cancer/>
⁹¹ https://www.academia.edu/37906102/Prostitution_Prices_and_Statistics_of_the_Global_Sex_Trade
⁹² <https://qz.com/173219/smuggling-cost-the-philippines-3-billion-in-2011/>
⁹³ <https://www.manilatimes.net/the-economic-costs-of-corruption-in-ph/462475/>
Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



The Philippine Economist website in October 2015 stated: “Poverty and corruption is the main problem of the country in this present time. This two are fuelling each other which causes stagnant economic growth of low income people, which is majority of the population.”⁹⁴ Has change come? As of January 2018, the social weather report states: 10 million Filipino families rate themselves poor.⁹⁵ And corruption? “Philippines is getting more corrupt under Duterte, dropping 13 notches in the 2017 Corruption Index published recently by Transparency International,” reports the reputable Forbes.com website.⁹⁶

Is it possible that demonic entities have taken dominion not only over our politics (through the evil spirits of narco politics, spirit of corruption, impunity through hubris, etc) but over our finances as well through the evil spirit of avarice, envy, pride and sloth? And these spirits’ preferred medium is our money? What do you think?

But we should not look far to locate the source of the curse. It can be us, who forget the giver of blessings. The Book of Deuteronomy serves as a good reminder:

*“*Remember then, it is the LORD, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth, by fulfilling, as he has now done, the covenant which he swore to your fathers. *But if you forget the LORD, your God, and follow other gods, serving and worshiping them, I forewarn you this day that you will perish utterly” (Dt 8:18-19).*

A more particular warning with regards right stewardship of money from St. Paul:

*“*Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. *For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. *But you, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness” (1Tim 6:9-11).*

Recommendation: Prayer of Stewardship of Properties, Finances & Relationships

Would it hurt if we simply say at mass a brief post-communion deliverance prayer to cut whatever demonic ties there are in the monetary donations we received at offertory? Maybe something like this:

Post-Communion Prayer for Stewardship

Lord, we thank you for the abundant spiritual blessings you bestowed upon us. We are grateful as well for the material blessings no matter how abundant or scarce they are for our stewardship.

We pray in Your mighty Name to break any evil seals and consecrations, curses and spells, unholy ties, links, evil relationships and bondages that had been cast to, made over or forged through the material and monetary blessings we receive, own and keep. Help us remember that these are given for your glory and for the greater service of the Church and of humanity.

And we ask You to bless all our relationships. These are Yours, O Lord, and we submit all these under Your most glorious authority. Amen.

Panalangin Pagka-Komunyon para sa Pamamahala

⁹⁴ <https://www.phileconomist.com/2015/10/poverty-and-corruption.html>

⁹⁵ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/960930/sws-10-million-filipino-families-rate-themselves-poor>

⁹⁶ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/panosmourdoukoutas/2018/02/21/the-philippines-is-getting-more-corrupt-under-duterte/#4d13113a256a>



Panginoon, nagpapasalamat kami para sa lahat ng Inyong ipinagkatiwalang mga espirtual na biyaya sa amin. Nagpapasalamat din kami para sa lahat ng mga materyal na biyayang ipinagkakaloob Mo sa amin, malaki man o maliit upang aming pamahalaan.

Sa Inyong Ngalan ay idinadalangin namin na Inyong ipawalang bisa ang anumang masasamang pagtatatak, pagtatalaga o sumpa na ginawa, sinabi o ipinadala sa mga ito o naganap sa pamamagitan nito. At kung may nabuong masasamang pakikipagugnayan sa pamamagitan nito, kalagan Mo po ito. Basbasan Mo po ang lahat ng aming ari-arian at likas na yaman. Kami'y paalalahanang ang mga bigay Mo ay laan sa Iyong ikaluluwalhati at para sa ibayong paglilingkod ng Simbahan at ng Sangkatauhan.

Basbasan Mo, O Panginoon, ang lahat ng aming mga ugnayan. Itinataas namin ito sa Iyong maluwalhating kapangyarihan. Amen.

Observation #2: Demons Dwelling Inside

On Preternatural Dominion. While we already admit that in speaking about demonic infestation, we refer to a human being's granting of preternatural rights and authority to evil spirits to exercise their dominion over one's possessions, *what does this dominion exactly mean? Do evil spirits "reside" in the infested objects?*

How a spirit can occupy or reside in matter is a question of superiority of being and of authority. A spirit, though not bound by space, can act upon matter existent in space. As the human soul, for example, acts upon every part of the material human body in order to animate it⁹⁷. Without the subsistent soul the human body is just plain non-living non-rational matter, like a rock.⁹⁸

In speaking about pure spirits, St. Thomas states that "an angel is said to be in a corporeal place *by application of the angelic power* in any manner whatever to any place."⁹⁹

St. Thomas Aquinas opines that we should think of the *presence* of pure spirits (angels or demons) in space and time (i.e., for our purposes, infestation) in terms of what he calls their *power quantity*. What he means by this is that it is only by the *exercise of their authoritative power* at a particular place or over an object that we recognize that *they are present in that place or in that object*.

Of course, both science and faith are not able to measure the presence of angelic authority in order to ascertain a place's or an object's degree of infestation. But we, believers, interpret and understand infestation as demonic spirits *acting upon matter* that is existent in a particular region of space and time, from outside of space and time as it were. It is by this *acting* (or power to act) that demons are *present* in a place or an object, *not by their being in that space and time in the way material objects are in space and time*.

Recommendations:

1. Having said these, it would be proper to cast off the following popular ideas with regards demonic infestations:

a) demons reside in homes, furniture, fixtures, statues, paintings, other material objects: It is very unlikely that these prideful spirits with self-perceived superior authority would settle

⁹⁷ For St. Thomas Aquinas the soul not only animates the body alive, it makes it a body. "Therefore this principle by which we primarily understand, whether it be called the intellect or the intellectual soul, is the form of the body" (*Summa*, Q76,A1). See <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1076.htm>

⁹⁸ Cf. #8 in <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas/> for a discussion of Body and Soul.

⁹⁹ Cf. *Summa*, Q52,A1 (*emphases mine*). See <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1052.htm>

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



for inanimate matter as their prey. They however can pretend to reside or dwell in time and space to instill fear and/or awe in their “inferior” human victims, always intelligently plotting towards an evil end.

- b) demons can be trapped in a bottle, burnt with fire, or made to suffer by inflicting physical pain in the energumen’s body:

These are the typical elements of the faith healers’ and espiritistas’ mode of exorcism.

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- c) demons can be shooed away by mere presence or application of sacramentals or pseudo-sacramentals:

The Catechism reminds us that sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do. This means that their efficacy is in the right disposition of the faithful to receive their spiritual effects through the mediation / intercession of the Church. Being in the state of sanctifying grace and living a sacramental life are prerequisites to their use; anything short of these may fall into their superstitious use. The sacraments and the sacramentals of the Church, drawing their power from the Paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ, are means of submitting the faithful’s being under the highest authority, God, thereby breaking any preternatural powerplays at work.

2. Thus, as a matter of order, discipline and clarity of thought, an exorcist **may not** refer to demons as **residing** in a house or **dwelling** in an object. We’d rather say that **certain evil authorities exerting their powers have strong influences over human beings in this or that locality or exercising dominion over human affairs and undertakings through a certain object or objects in this or that locality**. Or for brevity, we can say that “**evil spirits are attached to this place or object.**”

Observation #3: Act of Disownment

In our examination of the Ritual (p. 27) we mentioned the importance of the *energumen’s Solemn Renouncement of Unholy Soul Ties* (on page 23ff of Fr. Cabading’s book) before the *Minor Exorcism Prayer of Pope Leo XIII*. However, I also suggested the need to have a *Prayer of Disownment of Cursed Objects*. **Why is this important?**

Without prejudice to the importance and efficacy of all the renouncement prayers required of the afflicted as found on pages 23ff and the prayers pertaining to the **Disposal of Infested Objects** on pages 336ff of Fr. Cabading’s book, I propose a separate prayer that will declare in the strongest possible way the afflicted person’s **solemn and official renouncement of ownership** of possibly infested objects. After this renouncement of ownership may the cited prayers in the handbook be said to complement the act of de-consecration of the objects.

Rationale of the Renouncement of Ownership

1. The Renouncement Prayer section (pp. 22ff) includes: **The Breaking of Unholy Soul Ties, The Breaking of Ungodly Vows, Pacts or Contract, and the Renouncement of Involvement With Unhealthy (Demonic) Music**. Minor Exorcism Prayers section (p. 40) includes: **Breaking of Unholy Seals and Consecrations, Breaking Curses and Spells, Breaking of Unholy Soul Ties, Links and Relationships, Breaking of Satanic Seal, Breaking of Generational Curses** and **Prayer to Ward Off Evil Spirits**. **The Prayers on Disposing of Cursed Objects** (pp. 336ff) , similarly include the breaking and dissolution of all curses, hexes, spells, etc.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



A thorough examination of all the said prayers will reveal that the prayers are forthrightly centered on renouncing, abjuring, recanting, retracting or withdrawing one's **relationship, engagement or participation** in the works of Satan, his influences, his sources, his minions, his works and trickery that resulted in the *energumen's* life of sin or the victim's suffering from oppression or obsession. There are thus elements of severing or cutting of all un-Godly ties and the breaking all of Satan's legal rights over the person, a place or a thing. These prayers are the most used by our team and the efficacy of each is almost immediate. Thus, I personally highly recommend the procedures laid out on pages 336ff with regards proper disposing of infested objects.

2. However, we could not discard the possibility (no matter how seemingly remote) that the demonic authority is being mediated through a piece or a set of objects that are cursed and, therefore, infested. Whether these objects are found and identified or remain hidden and unknown throughout the course of spiritual intervention, wisdom and prudence in spiritual warfare would dictate "blowing up" these "demonic bridges" as well.

3. We have probably given this piece of spiritual advice ourselves quite often in confession: *"If you truly want to turn over your life to God and live a chaste life after a good confession, get rid of all your pornographic materials; burn them. Have custody of your senses."* Similarly, you may have renounced Satan and all his works and have pleaded with God to break the curses and spells that may have come upon you. And yes, their efficacy is broken through God's power and mercy. But for **as a long as the objects through which the curses are being mediated are still intact and in existence, the demonic spirits latched onto these objects will continue to infest and oppress the rightful owner of the objects: you.** You are protected for now, being in the state of grace; but still therein the infested objects the preternatural powers **may** still lie in wait, ready to devour you in one fell swoop of your slip up. Remember, **res clamat ad dominum.**¹⁰⁰

4. The act of abandoning cursed objects, throwing them away or burying them without breaking them may not be enough especially when you own them. A *bulul* image you own - cursed with a sinister spirit of animism and multiple pagan deities attached to it - is still under your ownership whether you abandon it in a park, in a trash bin or bury it underground without breaking it into pieces. The preternatural infestation in your home where you used to keep it may be freed from demonic paranormal activities, but for as long as you are the owner of the object, demonic spirits may have a grand time oppressing you the moment you mortally fall out of grace.

Recommendation:

I recommend the following prayer to be said by the afflicted or the energumen prior to any renouncement prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. The priest who receives suspected or possibly demonically infested objects as surrendered items by the afflicted is encouraged to say the prayer as well. The priest is at liberty to shift to the personal

¹⁰⁰ In the spirit of "res clamat ad dominum" let us use another metaphor. Let us say, your enemy, under the spell of a preternatural authority due to the intense hatred toward you, bought a gun. So now he owns a gun that he loaded with bullets intended only for you. Through supernatural intervention (i.e., through faith-filled prayers) your enemy's hatred directed towards you is dissolved. This means that the hateful relationship between you and your enemy had been cut off effectively by God (i.e., accomplished by the breaking of spells and hexes). Preternatural powers are subjugated; you are now free on account of the restored supernatural relationship. However, the gun is still somewhere hidden loaded with bullets still intended and therefore "owned" by you; whether you know it or not. Remember, your enemy will always be your enemy (because the exorcism prayers do not eliminate Satan from existence nor can these prayers miraculously make the gun and bullets disappear from existence). Satan, the master of your enemy, just lies in wait with his deadly loaded gun for your next mistake to deliver you your own bullets. There's a reason our mistakes are called "mortal" sins, right? There must be a formal ritualistic way (something that even legalistic Satan would honor) of disowning these guns and ammunitions for your complete liberation from future oppressions. This should, of course, be accompanied by mindfulness of never ever reviving Satan's hatred or giving him another reason to mortally oppress you.

Peace! May the holy cross be my light! What you offer me is evil. Never tempt me with your vanities! May the dragon never be my overlord! Drink the poison yourself! Begone satan!



names of the afflicted in parentheses. It is highly recommended that the objects be set to flames if flammable, or destroyed, broken, or defaced to unrecognizable form soon after the liberation session when this prayer is said.

Solemn Act of Disownment of Infested Objects

In Your Most Holy Name, O Lord Jesus + Christ, my King and my God, I solemnly declare this act of abandonment of all forms of ownership, **(on behalf of N.)**, of all occult or non-occult objects, hidden or in the open, known or unknown **to me (to N.)**, that had been sent a curse through spitting, through the evil eye, through verbal or written curses, through taglocking curses and through binding.

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I sever all physical and spiritual ties and bondages to all these objects which are directly or indirectly infested through superstitions and ungodly beliefs, whether they were used actively or passively in occult, esoteric, or satanic practices for whatever ends or purposes, by wizards or warlocks, by witches or practitioners of magick, or by anyone person proficient or amateur in the practice of spell casting or hex binding.

O Lord, my God, through this solemn avowal annihilate all the demonic authority and power that is being mediated through these visible or invisible objects of preternatural infestation, oppression, obsession or possession, whether they are manufactured with gold, silver, any metal, made with gems, crystals or any mineral element, made on paper or cloth, created with threads or the bones and nails of humans or animals, of birds or insects, both living and dead, whether they come from the earth, or from a tomb, or come from seas or rivers, from enchanted sacred places like mountains or forests, whether they have been created by human hands or by nature with the purpose of being worshipped as gods or goddesses or any preternatural representations, or whether they have been wrapped with a nail or a needle or a pin, which have been linked with a hair, cotton or silk and linen or hemp or with a sac or with a rope and with some other plant, or have been mixed the evil-caster's saliva, blood or any bodily fluids, or bound by or mixed with any **of my (of N's)** personal belongings, or have been made with the boiling or gurgling of the water, or oil, and wood hollow or otherwise.

O Lord, my God, I solemnly declare **my (N's)** release from every form of spiritual attachment, cord, yoking, spiritual oppression, curse and condemnation that had formed and connected itself to **me (N.)** through the preternatural mediation of these infested objects, wherever they may be right now or wherever they will be in the future, hidden or in the open, and wherever or who so ever may take possession of these objects either through donation, trade, barter, or by buying or selling, or through chance or intentional foraging.

*I totally cut **my (N's)** rightful and legal ownership of these objects and willfully and freely surrender these objects and all their evil effects and influences, known or unkonwn, on **me (N.)** and on others to Your merciful hands, O Lord, my King and my God. (3x)*

O Lord, Jesus + Christ, my King and my God, through the prayer of all the Saints and the Mother of God, grant **me (N.)** Your peace and have mercy on **me (him/ her)**, Merciful One. Amen.♥



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