

So You Want to Be a Goetic Shaman?



by pAmphAge

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“Is this the most up to date version?”

This is version 1.0, released 11/20/2006. The most up to date version of this document can always be found at: pamphage.com.

“What’s this about all about then?”

The goal of this small e-book is to be as concise and simple as possible. The less said, I believe, will leave the message clearer in the long run though at first glance some things seem to remain unstated. But all is here, in a practical and concise manner, on how to empower yourself with the ability to affect the very fibers of your reality and reshape them into your heart’s innermost, perfect desire.

Warning: After you experience the manifested results from your first Goetic Working, you will return an enjoyable and heartfelt gift back to the universe in confirmation of a harmonious transfer of energy.* It is unnecessary to explicitly state this because the initiated Shaman will learn these things instinctively through practice, but by mentioning it I hope to set the tone for this piece. Goetic Shamanism is about altering and transforming energies, not about getting a free ride.

So without further Ado...

“What is the Goetia?”

“Goetia refers to a practice which includes the Invocation or Evocation of demons, and usage of the term in English largely derives from the 17th century grimoire Lemegeton Clavicula Salomonis, or The Lesser Key of Solomon. Also sometimes seen as Lemegeton Clavicula Salomonis Regis (The Lesser Key of King Solomon)” — From *Wikipedia.org*

What is Shamanism?

“Shamanism refers to a range of traditional beliefs and practices that claim the ability to diagnose and cure human suffering and, in some societies, the ability to cause suffering. This is believed to be accomplished by traversing the *axis mundi* (‘center of the world’) and forming a special relationship with, or gaining control over, spirits.” (*Ibid.*)

What is a Shaman?

“In contrast to animism and animatism (‘everything has a soul’), which any and usually all members of a society practice, shamanism requires specialized knowledge or abilities. It could be said that shamans are the experts employed by animists or animist communities.” (*Ibid.*)

What is a Goetic Shaman?

A Goetic Shaman is someone who uses Goetic *daemons* (also *demons*, *genii*, or *intelligences*) in an invocatory, shamanistic manner. The Goetia is most commonly used in High Magickal settings, but in Goetic Shamanism the entheogen *Salvia Divinorum* is the catalyst employed to bring the magickal student into direct and intimate contact with the daemons.

What is Salvia Divinorum?

The Latin name *Salvia divinorum* literally translates to “sage of the seers” and has long been used by the indigenous Mazatec shamans for healing during their spirit journeys. The plant is found in isolated, shaded and moist plots in Oaxaca, Mexico. (*Ibid.*)

Who are you and how did you come up with this?

Pamphage is my online pseudonym as well as my magickal name and motto. I’ve had it since I was about 15 years old when I dubbed myself with it while still living in New Mexico. Pamphage means *omnivorous* or *all-devouring*.

I have been practicing ritual magick since 1988, and developed this method out of practicality for an intense and real need for material plane results. First drilled in Golden Dawn and Thelema I then experimented with LSD and Goetic demonology throughout the 1990s with good results—but not optimum.

It wasn't until I tried Salvia Divinorum in 2004 that I discovered the ideal link to the shamanic world. Salvia is a much cleaner, safer, and compacted trip than a more traditional LSD, psilocybin mushroom, or peyote experience. These other methods are not as reliable in getting people “across the abyss” and they also have unwanted side effects which Salvia does not. **

Goetic Inovation:

Step 1:

Get comfortable with Salvia Divinorum. Learn what brings you to level 4 or 5 of the SALVIA Scale. The SALVIA Scale, though being somewhat arbitrary, still comes in handy as a roadmap for new students:

In the SALVIA Scale, S-A-L-V-I-A stands for:

Level 1: Subtle changes

Level 2: Altered state

Level 3: Lightly altered state

Level 4: Vivid

Level 5: Immaterial

Level 6: Amnesiac

Level - 4 “V” stands for VIVID visionary state. Complex three-dimensional realistic appearing scenes occur. Sometimes voices may be heard. With eyes open, contact with consensual reality will not be entirely lost, but when you close your eyes you may forget about consensus reality and enter completely into a dreamlike scene. Shamanistic journeying to other lands—foreign or imaginary; encounters with beings (entities, spirits) or travels to other ages may occur. You may even live the life of another person. At this level you have entered the shaman's world. Or if you prefer: you are in “dream time.” With eyes closed, you experience fantasies (dream like happenings with a story line to them). So long as your eyes are closed you may believe they are really occurring. This differs from the “eye candy” closed-eye imagery, of level 3. (From *The Salvia Divinorum's User Guide*)

Level - 5 “I” stands for IMMATERIAL existence. At this level one may no longer be aware of having a body. Consciousness remains and some thought processes are still lucid, but one becomes completely involved in inner experience and loses all contact with consensual reality. Individuality may be lost; one experiences merging with God/dess, mind, universal consciousness, or bizarre fusions with other objects—real or imagined (e.g. experiences such as merging with a wall or piece of furniture). At this level it is impossible to function in consensual reality, but unfortunately some people do not remain still but move around in this befuddled state. For this reason a sitter is essential to ensure the safety of someone voyaging to these deep levels. To the person experiencing this the phenomenon may be terrifying or exceedingly pleasant; but to an outside observer the individual may appear confused or disoriented. (*Ibid.*)

“How do I take Salvia?”

a) I recommend Salvia Divinorum dried leaf (any variety will do) if you have hearty lungs and can hold in the Salvia for two consecutive hits of 25-35 seconds each. This method truly gives the most balanced, yet intense trip of all the methods. However, not everyone can handle this somewhat rigorous hit schedule.

b) Extracts, 5x-20x. Extracts are defined with a multiplication scale of their concentration, i.e. 5x extract is five times more potent than the same amount of dried leaf. I recommend you experiment with the lowest concentration first and see which you like best.

The problem with the extracts is that they often take you all the way to level 6 (Amensic) of the SALVIA Scale. This is NOT desirable, so you must practice taking just the right amount to open the window on levels 4-5 only.

The good news with extracts is that we don't have to hold in the Salvia nearly as long. You should only need to hold in a single hit for 20-25 seconds for 5x extract, 15-20 seconds with 10-12x extract, and maybe around 10-15 seconds for 20x extract. It depends on the size of your hits so only practice will make perfect.

[“Wait, Pamphage! A quick question: What can I use to smoke Salvia out of that is handy and cheap?” See footnote †.]

c) Sublingually. This is by far the least desirable of the possible methods *for our purposes*. Chewing gives a great experience on the lower astral realms, but it will NOT take you across the metaphorical “abyss” into the *axis-mundi*, unless you were to chew it for days and months on end like the ancient shamans had time to do. I will, however, assume that you are like me and don't have anywhere this kind of leisure time.

The liquid extracts that can be bought are perhaps a little better for more quickly getting one “across the abyss,” but frankly they cost a fortune for most aspiring Shamans if they are going to be doing regular work.***

Either method is similar in that you shouldn't swallow anything, but rather to let it soak into your bloodstream through the lining of your mouth.

For the rest of this guide, I am going to assume you are NOT ingesting sublingually, but are instead, smoking by one of the above two methods.

Practice with as many methods as you deem necessary until you find one that you are comfortable with, and that can consistently take you to the “Vivid” and “Immaterial” levels of the SALVIA Scale.

Very well, let's move on—

Step 2:

Choose a daemon from the Goetia. Any will do, but if you get a bad vibe from the description, then skip those for now and pick one that excites you and yet does not overly frighten you in any way.

Step 3:

You must carve, paint, or otherwise imprint the sigil of the spirit into some material form. Gold, lead, parchment, seashell, tree bark, etc., are all traditional depending on the type of working and what is available.††

For your first working I recommend black permanent marker or paint upon a silver dollar. Silver is an inexpensive material that works well as a “magickal container” in almost any situation.

After drawing/painting the sigil (however stylized you wish, but keep the essentials clear), I also suggest you add a clear coat of nail polish over the outside so that the pressure and sweat that occurs when you tightly grip the talisman does not smear or ruin your design.

Now that you have accomplished steps 1, 2 and 3, you are ready for the real challenge. We will fully invoke a daemon into our astral aura and charge the talisman with his or her energy.

In other words, we are about to let a demon take possession of us, and then force it into a “genii bottle.”

I could just as easily phrase it as something more clinical, “We are going to awaken an aspect of our subconscious in order to *activate certain neurological functions* within our psyche. We will then anchor this psychological state to a physical object.”

Step 4. This last step is the real nitty gritty:

Find a place where you can be alone (or with an *unobtrusive* “spotter”) for at least two hours if not an entire day or evening. The Salvia trip will only last five (5) minutes peak and another fifteen (15) or so lingering but you will often want to go back in for a follow up trip or two. For the remainder of our time, fertile Shamans frantically try to assimilate the vast amount of information they receive from Salvia and the daemons. People have been shocked to learn how much you can experience in a mere five minutes. Indeed one of the first lessons usually learned is to see time as non-linear and most definitely mutable in a number of useful ways.

A few precautions are in order due to the nature of Salvia and especially so in the case of working with daemons:

Lock your doors and otherwise block off access to any place that may be unsafe for you to go. People on Salvia often leave rooms for no apparent reason and bolt down hallways or streets. Generally, this is not out of fear, but out of some odd compulsion that makes perfect sense from your new Salvia-induced point-of-view. But whatever they are, as a Goetic Shaman you will quickly be learning to *suppress these outbursts* and any other type of break that will threaten your concentration upon the daemon.

Wherever you choose, and a bed is fine, make sure you feel safe and comfortable. Then begin.

Get your talisman (i.e. the material base with the daemon’s sigil upon it) and your loaded Salvia pipe and just relax for a spell.

Take your Salvia hit, and quickly lay the pipe aside safely. Now take the talisman and either stare at it the entire time, or close your eyes and hold it to your forehead. Both methods are similar but distinct. You can experiment which gives the most satisfying invocations. I generally start by looking and then part way through the trip, usually without conscious control, I close my eyes and press it to my forehead. The key here is to maintain concentration upon the talisman. Your concentration may wander to various timelines or other vivid visions, but there is an “underlying concentration” that is too uncanny not to recognize with a little practice. This other concentration is the one that concerns you. It’s the one that is dominant during a Salvia trip so I feel no need to overly differentiate it.

You must wrestle the demon into submission, which actually turns out to not be so much like “wrestling,” but instead is rather more like having intercourse in an abstract and “pure energy” type of way. Many other metaphors here would do just as nicely and after your first experiment you can come up with your own.

By and by, you must “conquer” the demon, which oddly requires nothing more than keeping one’s attention on the demon the entire trip. Sometimes “trips” will span several Salvia doses on the pipe over an extended time period.

This however is the difficult part. Kind of like **a bucking bronco** you will probably get thrown out of the trip on some random tangent again and again before you can stay focused on a daemon all the way through. If you are running off or otherwise find yourself not focused upon the talisman once you come out of the trip then you definitely got thrown off the bronco. You must build up your concentration and magickal will enough to stay centered the entire time.

Practice, Practice, Practice. I say this thrice, in warning and encouragement. Staying focused through an entire trip is the only difficult part of Goetic Shamanism. It can be done with practice. Those previously attuned to deep states of hypnotic trance like yoga or other forms of ritual magick will be a step ahead here, but a complete neophyte can learn just from practicing on varying dosages of Salvia.

The End.

“Wait! Wait! Wait! What’s going to happen?”

Ok, everyone’s “trip” will be different, but there are certain stages you may notice:

- 1) The familiar sense of the Salvia trip “coming on.”
- 2) You will cross the abyss. You’ll know this feeling from your Salvia practice runs. It happens when you cross over from your day to day consciousness into the Shamanic realm. Salvia is a lot like crossing over from the left side of your brain over to your right in the blink of an eye. But there is that little space between the hemispheres. That’s no man’s land. It’s the abyss.
- 3) Finding the daemon. This part is surprisingly easy, practically automatic, and really requires no effort at all provided you can maintain concentration upon the sigilized talisman.
- 4) Finally you will experience something that could be described as your energy pattern merged and

integrated with the distinct energy pattern of the daemon. This will most definitely include visions, hallucinations, and out of body experiences, but the center of it all will some sort of conceptualization that you are *communing* with a particular entity with a very real purpose and agenda to his existence—just like you, since at this point you are nothing but an energy pattern as well.

The only warning here is to watch out for overly literal interpretations of your visions. Just as in a dream, people are often only symbolic of someone or something else in reality. In the beginning, it is considered wise to view everything as *symbolic*, though admittedly sometimes the persons in the visions *are* directly related to your eventual results. The problem is only an advanced Shaman will be able to easily divine the difference. Therefore assume that images of people we know are just masks for a deeper perception or desire. Failure to do so can cause obsession, or at the very least, grossly inaccurate premonitions.

“Don’t Go! How is the daemon going to know my intent?”

There is only one trick here and that is to pick an intent that we are utterly passionate about. No lukewarm hocus pocuses in Goetic Shamanism...only go for the gusto! Go after the dreams and fantasies that titillate you the most no matter how outlandish they may at first appear.

The intent will shine through clearly to the daemon as you stay focused upon him and the communion of your energies.

3) Your perceptions will start *shapeshifting* back into your day to day consciousness. By the time you can ask yourself, “Did I do it?” you will have crossed over the abyss once again to this side, i.e. your usual day to day manner of thinking and perceiving.

“Ok, well...so how do I know if I wrestled the demon into submission?”

Remembering that this is only a metaphor, you will know without a doubt when you have “wrestled the demon into submission” because you will feel the job is complete in some deeply satisfying way.

Often this feeling is one of “I have learned everything I can from this being and he or she understands all about me that he or she needs to know with which to better carry out my Will, and I theirs, for all proper exchanges in the universe are balanced and equal.”

Though relatively safe in almost all ways due to the caring nature of Salvia, this whole ordeal can still be pretty harrowing. I don’t recommend more than 2-3 trips a day as you will need a LOT of time to process and sort all the new information you will receive.

“What kind of religion is this and does it go against my religion?”

This is not a religion. *Goetic Shamanism is a technique*. It is a tool that can be used by someone of any faith, or lack thereof, if they are so inclined. No one is bound to any formal spiritual hierarchy or belief system despite what one may assume by reading through the more pedantic literature surrounding either the Goetia or Shamanism.

As far as the second part of your question, only you would know best, but it depends on your religion and how you interpret such things. If you want to treat these “daemons” as *aspects of your unconscious* and Salvia as a *catalyst* for releasing them then I doubt that goes against the precepts of any popular religion. However, if you stick to the antiquated, but psychologically viable belief that the daemons are actual spirits, or *demons* as it were, then I’d have to answer conversely.

Ok, it’s a technique, but does it fit well within any existing magickal belief system?

Carlos Castaneda is a good place to start because as far as mainstream publications go his works are by far the closest thing you are ever likely to get to a “Salvia Universe.” It’s simple to translate *his* shamanic experiences very directly into your own experiences on Salvia, even when Castaneda himself seems to have left his psychotropic drugs long behind.

It does take a healthy dose of metaphor and a commitment to getting through his voluminous catalogue of adventures to find the sections that are most congruent with your own workings, but his world indeed makes a fascinating and relatively comfortable landing spot for all your Goetic trips and experiences.

“In 1961 a young anthropologist subjected himself to an extraordinary apprenticeship to bring back a fascinating glimpse of a Yaqui Indian’s world of ‘non-ordinary reality’ and the difficult and dangerous road a man must travel to become ‘a man of knowledge.’ Yet on the brink of that world, challenging to all that we believe, he drew back. Then in 1968, Carlos Castaneda returned to Mexico, to don Juan and his hallucinogenic drugs, and to a world of experience no man from our Western civilization had ever entered before.”— From **Separate Reality**

Reading Castaneda can help sooth the confusion and spiritual growing pains that Goetic Shamanism awakens as our entire perception of reality is repeatedly broken down and built up again at the most basic levels. Indeed for our purposes here, we can say the *axis mundi* is *most ancient and primitive level of our psyche*.

Another useful paradigm in which to use Salvia is the belief system of Thelema. This involves the *worship of Nuit*, that is to say to have the *real or metaphorical* perception of the universe as a giant mother, symbolized by the infinite night sky. She shudders with birth pangs of joy every time one of her children experiences bliss within her arms.

“Come forth, o children, under the stars, & take your fill of love! I am above you and in you. My ecstasy is in yours. My joy is to see your joy.” — From Chapter I, of **Liber AL: The Book of the Law**

Whatever spiritual background you set Salvia to, make sure it is one *where you feel the infinite possibilities in life can be yours*. Do not set Goetic Shamanism against a belief system or religion that you feel constricts you in any way.

“So all this stuff works, huh?”

Indeed, thus attested to by the continuing popularity of both shamanism and the Goetia. All I did was make a concise system whereby an adventurous man or woman can get results comparable to that of the greatest

yogis, mystics, and shamans, but with an intensity and speed congruent with living in a modern world.

“Can you prove it?”

That would be impossible in any scientific manner. I suppose what you can do is judge me on my contentment in the three main areas every human is most concerned with:

Wealth: I always have enough to do express any creative idea or intensely piquant desire. These things include things not only include the humanitarian and sublime but also the low and “selfish” perversions we’re all prone to now and again. Do What Thou Wilt is the only decree, but lest yet forget: *Love is the law, love under will.*

Health: I’d hate to jinx myself here, so let’s just say I haven’t had anything serious to hinder my enjoyment of the things that mean the most to me in life.

Relationships: I have a beautiful, devoted wife, who is exciting more ways than there are stars of Nuit. Our love is as vast as our passions are tempestuous.

“Kind of a cocky answer, don’t you think?”

Maybe. But my real point is that everyone should expect no less from their lives: The **summum bonum** *IS* attainable. Don’t accept less than **perfect happiness on your own terms.**

“Wait...one more thing. How will I recognize the results?”

- a) They will be intense. Whether coming one day or one year later, they should be revelatory, and almost frightening in some specifically perfect way. (You’ll also learn to be careful. Sometimes you may not be ready for what you *really* want.)
- b) Upon the arrival of the daemon’s results, often long after you left Salvia use behind, there will be **distinct signs** tied into the original visions you had with your invocation. Therefore *keep accurate notes of your daemon workings!* I guarantee you will want to look back on them later. Writing about Salvia trips, and Goetic Shaman trips especially, is not an easy task at first, but just use your imagination. Divine your own method of communicating the imagery you will receive. I personally paint abstract surrealist paintings where I converse with the demons through my brush.
- c) What you wanted on the deepest levels will manifest in the most peculiarly piquant ways. Quite often things “happen magickally” with innumerable “coincidences” stacked up on top of each other.

And that’s just about it.

If you have any serious questions or concerns feel free to contact me at pamphage@pamphage.com.

“At least tell me what to do with the silver dollar after I’m done charging it...”

It’s a fully charged and consecrated talisman. Keep it somewhere safe. It is potent indeed.

Footnotes:

*This free e-book is my gift back to the universe. You should never have to pay money for spiritual truth. Even Aleister Crowley espoused this. The magickal truths of this world are free for the seeing. Since the blind prefer gaudy, expensive things that glamour and gleam with false hopes and promises, there is no danger of magickal powers falling into the wrong hands.

**Salvia's side effects are usually nothing more than a light sense of well-being that lingers hour afterward. Also Salvia, at least at the time of this writing, is legal most places, whereas the other methods mentioned are most assuredly not.

*** Indeed for even many long standing practitioners. For while the Goetic side of "Goetic Shamanism" does indeed deliver on extravagant wealth if desired, many Goetic Shamans still prefer the practical independence of a more simple life much as our Shamanic forefathers did.

†† I'll tell you what to do: Take a used paper towel roll, poke a hole about 75% of the way down. Then take tinfoil; double fold a patch of it. Make a little bowl around your thumb with it. Stick it into the hole you made in the paper roll and seal it up with electrical tape. Suck on the end furthest from the bowl and make sure no air leaks by covering the back end of the paper towel with your free hand. This is now your "carb." Finish off by poking holes in the bottom of the tinfoil bowl with a needle.

†† Unlike High Magick where the magician is often unnecessarily burdened with odd and hard-to-come-by accoutrements. Goetic Shamans ALWAYS have what they need in their immediate sphere so long as they are attuned to notice it through their imagination and creativity. In other words: *Use what is around you.*

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