The Lock and Key

It is known in some academic circles that at a strange and unique tome exists among the list of odd metaphysical reference material that is currently available today. It should be said that it is not a single volume, but two books, one which contains a translation of an older, apparently non existent tome and the other which is a key for deciphering the first. The translated material which is encrypted and requires the key to be of any use, seems to be a grimiore or book of shadows, of which, only one copy exists and has been destroyed or otherwise lost to the ages. Speculation that the original book was the spell book of an ancient Russian sorcerer is popular when researching the rumors that surround this interesting set of books. The person who did the translation and subsequent encrypting of the original book is unknown, however due to certain phrasing in Old East Slavic and its apparent translation into a more modern Russian dialect, some have suggested the translator to be of Russian ancestry. Who ever did this translation, obviously had a copy of the original volume but the original has never surfaced on the normal or black markets. There are some wild tales about the books origin however these claims have never been fully substantiated and at the moment there is no physical evidence that these claims are fact. The mystery surrounding the books origin and the unknown translator are trivial in comparison to the unbelievable notions that comprise the actual content of this archaic mystical tome.

The Lock and Key first surfaced in 1922, found in the Boston apartment of a Mr. Stewart Brooks when police were called by neighbors reporting that Mr. Brooks had been wailing in his apartment for hours. Mr. Brooks was found covered in his own blood from self inflicted wounds and wailing uncontrollably. Books was taken for evaluation and subsequently committed to the Roxbury Sanitarium where he died in 1954. Mr. Brooks never recovered from the mental break he had and, as such, was never able to divulge any information about the origin of the books found in his apartment. Curiously, Mr. Brooks was known to draw a specific set of spiral patterns which another patient Ms. Agatha McGinley also drew in an identical fashion. The two had never met and had never had any contact within the hospital that would have allowed them to collaborate on the symbol or see one another's drawings. Regardless, the drawings are identical.

The books were confiscated by the police and later released to the Roxbury Sanitarium in hopes that somehow they would help Mr. Brooks regain a grasp on reality or help his doctors understand the root of his mental illness. Dr. Stanton Pellegrin, Mr. Brooks’s doctor, spent years trying to understand why this man, who had, prior to his mental break, been a solid and practical accountant of good repute, would suddenly descend into madness. Dr. Pellegrin’s theory was that the book was the catalyst for the break. He spent much of his time researching the book and attempting to find it’s origins. Much of what we know about these books is a result of the research Dr. Pellegrin has done on the subject. It was Dr. Pellegrin who contacted colleagues at the fabled Miskatonic University’s Oren Library to study and possibly identify the original work that the translation was derived from, it was never determined however and the lone copy of the books remains at the Oren Library in the restricted section.

The book, which is regarded as a spell book rather than a reference, makes some very wild claims and offers spells which, if we can believe them to be true, boast some very astonishing results. The writer of the tome is clearly an acolyte of a malevolent deity, named in the book as “Yerg SothEth”, who appears to be associated with the traversal of dimensions and time itself. Other such books have named the same deity as “Yog SethEth”, “Yog-Sothoth”, “The Opener of Ways”, “Guardian of the Gate”, “Eater of Souls” and other various names dealing with traveling or opening gateways into other dimensions. This book asserts that through the rituals provided within that one could travel into other dimensions or even backward and forward in time. There is a specific ritual as well which allows the caster to travel to the same dimension that this blasphemous god exists in and become a servitor to the evil entity. Upon returning, the caster would be imbued with the power of the dark god for the purpose of opening a gateway between our plane of existence and its. This would effectively user in the ruination of all mankind.

Most rational researchers into the subject believe the entire mystery surrounding the books to be an elaborate hoax, however there are some very compelling arguments to the validity of these books as an authentic translation of an ancient and dubiously potent book which to this day has not been discovered. Some say that the book is in the possession of some family that has kept this dark secret for ages and will continue to do so, some believe the the book is buried with its original writer in the haunted and deadly “De Beulen Huis” graveyard in Denmark, while the vast majority believe it to be a fake. The books are presently in the care of the Oren Library at the Miskatonic University in Arkham Massachusetts, they are in the restricted section. There have been an oddly numerous amount of attempted thefts of these books and they are no longer available for viewing.

The Lock and Key

Language: Encrypted (Can be deciphered with the use of the Key, once deciphered, the text is a mix of English, Hebrew, Latin and Russian. Rolls for each of these languages must be made)

Sanity Loss: 1d4/1d8

Mythos Rating: 25

Cthulhu Mythos: +3/+6

Study: 30 weeks

Spells: Call/Dismiss Yog-Sothoth, Contact Deity: Yog-Sothoth, Create Gate, Voorish Sign, Summon/Bind Servitor of the Outer Gods, Dedication to the Opener

New Spell:

Dedication to the Opener: Upon casting the spell the caster is transported to Yog-Sothoth who will imbue the caster with his essences and transform the caster into a servitor of Yog-Sothoth. Once this transformation is complete the caster is transported back to his/her original location. The caster will have powers granted by the deity but is now a slave to Yog-Sothoth and will be driven by the desire to bring Yog-Sothoth into the casters plane of existence.

The caster gains the ability to, send dreams, dominate and manifest themselves as a shadow which can exist up to 100 feet from the casters location.

The caster is also horribly deformed by the transformation, the extent of this deformation is at the keepers discretion.

Casting: The caster spends 1d8 sanity and 1d8 magic points, they must also successfully cast a Create Gate spell. A symbol is drawn on the ground and once cast the caster steps into the symbol and is transported to Yog-Sothoth.