

= The Satanic Bible =

The Satanic Bible is a collection of essays , observations , and rituals published by Anton LaVey in 1969 . It contains the core principles of Satanism , and is considered the foundation of its philosophy and dogma . It has been described as the most important document to influence contemporary Satanism . Though The Satanic Bible is not considered to be sacred scripture in the way the Christian Bible is to Christianity , LaVeyan Satanists regard it as an authoritative text as it is a contemporary text that has attained for them scriptural status . It extols the virtues of exploring one 's own nature and instincts . Believers have been described as " atheistic Satanists " because they believe that God is not an external entity , but rather something that each person creates as a projection of his or her own personality ? a benevolent and stabilizing force in his or her life . There have been thirty printings of The Satanic Bible , through which it has sold over a million copies .

The Satanic Bible is composed of four books : The Book of Satan , The Book of Lucifer , The Book of Belial , and The Book of Leviathan . The Book of Satan challenges the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule , and promotes Epicureanism . The Book of Lucifer holds most of the philosophy in The Satanic Bible , with twelve chapters discussing topics such as indulgence , love , hate , and sex . LaVey also uses the book to dispel rumors surrounding the religion . In The Book of Belial , LaVey details rituals and magic . He discusses the required mindset and focus for performing a ritual , and provides instructions for three rituals : those for sex , compassion , or destruction . The Book of Leviathan provides four invocations for Satan , lust , compassion , and destruction . It also lists the nineteen Enochian Keys (adapted from John Dee 's Enochian keys) , provided in both Enochian and translated to English .

There have been both positive and negative reactions to The Satanic Bible . It has been described as " razor @-@ sharp " and " influential " . Criticism of The Satanic Bible stems both from qualms over LaVey 's writing and disapproval of the content itself . LaVey has been criticized for plagiarizing sections , and accusations have been made that his philosophies are largely borrowed . The Satanic Bible has been heavily condemned as dangerous , particularly to adolescents . Attempts have been made to ban the book in schools , public libraries , and prisons , though these attempts are somewhat rare .

= = History = =

There are multiple stories of the birth of The Satanic Bible . In the introduction to the 2005 ? present edition , High Priest Peter H. Gilmore describes LaVey as having compiled The Satanic Bible on his own from monographs he had written about the Church of Satan and its rituals . Gilmore lists a number of people who influenced LaVey 's writings : Ayn Rand , Friedrich Nietzsche , H. L. Mencken , the members of the carnival with whom LaVey had supposedly worked in his youth , P. T. Barnum , Mark Twain , John Milton , and Lord Byron .

LaVey 's estranged daughter Zeena Schreck , in an exposé about both her father 's religion and past , attributes the birth of The Satanic Bible to a suggestion by Peter Mayer , a publisher for Avon . According to Schreck , Mayer proposed that LaVey author a Satanic bible to draw from the popularity of the 1968 horror film Rosemary 's Baby , which had caused a recent rise in public interest in both Satanism and other occult practices . Schreck states that , aided by Diane Hegarty , LaVey compiled a number of writings he had already been distributing : an introduction to Satanism , a number of short essays , a guide to ritual magic , and articles he had previously published in The Cloven Hoof , a Church of Satan newsletter .

Either to meet length requirements set by the publisher or out of agreement with the ideas , LaVey and Hegarty borrowed heavily from writings by other authors . These included a social Darwinist book published in 1890 entitled Might Is Right by Ragnar Redbeard , as well as Dee 's Enochian keys from Aleister Crowley 's The Equinox , modified to replace references to Christianity with those to Satan . Some accuse LaVey of paraphrasing the Nine Satanic Statements from Rand 's Atlas Shrugged without acknowledgement , though others maintain that LaVey was simply drawing inspiration from the novel . LaVey later affirmed the connection with Rand 's ideas by stating that

LaVeyan Satanism was " just Ayn Rand 's philosophy , with ceremony and ritual added " .

= = = Publication history = = =

Originally published in paperback by Avon in 1969 , The Satanic Bible has had thirty printings and has never gone out of print . A hardcover edition was published by University Books that same year but has now been out of print for decades . In 2015 , William Morrow published a new hardcover edition of the book combined in a single volume with its companion work , The Satanic Rituals , and marketed under a special arrangement by Rabid Crow Arts and Graphics . The main content has not changed throughout the editions , although the dedication was removed after several printings and the introduction has changed several times . The Sigil of Baphomet has been printed on the cover since the original publication . The Satanic Bible has sold over one million copies since its initial release . It has also been translated into Danish , Swedish , Spanish , Finnish and Turkish .

= = Content = =

= = = Dedication = = =

Though it is no longer included in current printings of The Satanic Bible , early printings included an extensive dedication to various people whom LaVey recognized as influences . LaVey 's primary dedication was to Bernardino Nogara (misprinted as " Logara ") , Karl Haushofer , Grigori Rasputin , Basil Zaharoff , Alessandro Cagliostro , Barnabas , Ragnar Redbeard , William Mortensen , Hans Brick , Max Reinhardt , Orrin Klapp , Fritz Lang , Friedrich Nietzsche , W. C. Fields , P. T. Barnum , Hans Poelzig , Reginald Marsh , Wilhelm Reich , and Mark Twain . The secondary dedication named Howard Hughes , James Moody , Marcello Truzzi , Adrian ? Claude Frazier , Marilyn Monroe , Wesley Mather , William Lindsay Gresham , Hugo Zacchini , Jayne Mansfield , Frederick Goerner , C. Huntley , Nathanael West , Horatio Alger , Jr . , Robert E. Howard , George Orwell , H. P. Lovecraft , Tuesday Weld , H. G. Wells , Sister Marie Koven , Harry Houdini , Togare (LaVey 's pet lion) , and the Nine Unknown Men from The Nine Unknown .

= = = Introductions = = =

Throughout the various printings of The Satanic Bible , it has included introductions by various authors . The first edition (in print from 1969 to 1972) included an excerpt from an article by Burton H. Wolfe , an investigative journalist and biographer of LaVey , entitled " The Church that Worships Satan " . Wolfe provides an extensive biography of LaVey and a history of the Church of Satan . He mentions Rosemary 's Baby as contributing to the popularity of Satanism , though he does not claim LaVeyan Satanism to have directly influenced its creation . From 1972 until 1976 , the introduction to The Satanic Bible was a piece by Michael A. Aquino , who later went on to found the Temple of Set with a number of members of the Church of Satan . He gives a detailed analysis of the Satanic philosophies , and dispels myths about LaVeyan Satanism . He explains that it is not " devil worship " , and that LaVeyan Satanists in fact reject the worship of external gods completely . He too provides a brief background on LaVey , explaining how LaVey brought some of the knowledge he had acquired while working with the circus to his religion . Wolfe again wrote the introduction for the 1976 to 2005 editions of The Satanic Bible . It included some of the same content as the 1969 version , with an expanded biography of LaVey and more information on the various conflicts between other religions and LaVeyan Satanism . Since 2005 , The Satanic Bible has contained an introduction written by Gilmore , High Priest of the Church of Satan . In this introduction , he discusses his discovery of LaVeyan Satanism and his relationship with LaVey . He then goes on to provide a detailed biography of LaVey and addresses allegations that LaVey falsified much of the story of his own past . The introduction also provides a history of The Satanic Bible itself , as well as that of two other books by LaVey : The Satanic Witch and The Satanic Rituals .

== Preface ==

LaVey explains his reasons for writing The Satanic Bible in a short preface . He speaks skeptically about volumes written by other authors on the subject of magic , dismissing them as " nothing more than sanctimonious fraud " and " volumes of hoary misinformation and false prophecy . " He complains that other authors do no more than confuse the subject . He mocks those who spend large amounts of money on attempts to follow rituals and learn about the magic shared in other occult books . He also notes that many of the existing writings on Satanic magic and ideology were created by " right @-@ hand path " authors . He tells that The Satanic Bible contains both truth and fantasy , and declares , " What you see may not always please you , but you will see ! "

== Prologue ==

The prologue to The Satanic Bible begins by discussing the concept of gods , good and evil , and human nature . It includes the Nine Satanic Statements :

Satan represents indulgence , instead of abstinence !

Satan represents vital existence , instead of spiritual pipe dreams !

Satan represents undefiled wisdom , instead of hypocritical self @-@ deceit !

Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it , instead of love wasted on ingrates !

Satan represents vengeance , instead of turning the other cheek !

Satan represents responsibility to the responsible , instead of concern for psychic vampires !

Satan represents man as just another animal , sometimes better , more often worse than those that walk on all @-@ fours , who , because of his " divine spiritual and intellectual development , " has become the most vicious animal of all !

Satan represents all of the so @-@ called sins , as they all lead to physical , mental , or emotional gratification !

Satan has been the best friend the church has ever had , as he has kept it in business all these years !

The Nine Satanic Statements outline the basic ideology of LaVeyan Satanism , and have become some of the guiding principles of LaVeyan Satanism . They also served as a template for later publications by LaVey , such as his 1987 " Nine Satanic Sins " . Ayn Rand 's influence on LaVeyan Satanism is apparent in the Nine Satanic Statements , leading some , namely Nikolas Schreck , to assert that the Statements are simply unacknowledged paraphrase of Rand 's thoughts . These accusations have been disproved , however .

== The Book of Satan ==

Much of the first book of The Satanic Bible is taken from parts of Redbeard 's Might Is Right , edited to remove the racism , anti @-@ Semitism , and misogyny present in the original version . It challenges both the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule , advocating instead a tooth @-@ for @-@ tooth philosophy . LaVey , through Redbeard , strongly advocates social Darwinism , saying , " Death to the weakling , wealth to the strong ! " Humans are identified as instinctually predatory , and " lust and carnal desire " are singled out as part of humans ' intrinsic nature . The Book of Satan suggests a hedonistic outlook , saying , " I break away from all conventions that do not lead to my earthly happiness . " Indulgence is endorsed , and readers are encouraged to make the most of their lives . It criticizes both law and religious principles , instead suggesting doing only what makes one happy and successful . LaVey continues to denounce other religions , and he rails against what he considers to be arbitrary definitions of " good " and " evil " . Religion is criticized as a man @-@ made construct , and the reader is urged to question everything and destroy any lies that he or she uncovers . Long @-@ standing lies that are believed to be irrefutable truths are identified as the most dangerous . The last part of The Book of Satan is an adaptation of the Christian Beatitudes , changed to reflect the principles of LaVeyan Satanism .

== The Book of Lucifer ==

The Book of Lucifer contains the majority of the philosophy of The Satanic Bible . It details how Christianity has taught that God is good and Satan is evil , and presents an alternate view . It describes that the concept of Satan , used synonymously with " God " , is different for each LaVeyan Satanist , but that to all it represents a good and steadying force in his or her life . Believers have been called " atheistic Satanists " because of this lack of belief in external gods , but others identify as antitheistic . Satan is seen to LaVeyan Satanists not as " an anthropomorphic being with cloven hooves , a barbed tail , and horns " , but as a force of nature that has only been described as evil by other religions . Satan is viewed as a metaphor or a symbol , not as a being to be worshipped .

LaVey rejects the idea of prayer , instead urging Satanists to take action to fix a situation instead of asking for a solution . The seven deadly sins are advocated , on the basis that they all lead to personal pleasure . He says that Satanism is a form of " controlled selfishness " , in the sense that doing something to help another will in turn make one happy . The Golden Rule is again mentioned , and LaVey suggests altering it from " Do unto others as you would have them do unto you " to " Do unto others as they do unto you " so that if someone is treated poorly , he or she can respond viciously . The Book of Lucifer also contains a list of " The Four Crown Princes of Hell " (Satan , Lucifer , Belial , and Leviathan) and of seventy @-@ seven " Infernal Names " , representations of Satan from various cultures and religions . They are the names that , according to LaVey , are most useful in Satanic rituals .

The Book of Lucifer contains a long chapter titled " Satanic Sex " , discussing Satanism 's view on sexual activity as well as misconceptions surrounding these views . He denies the belief that sex is the most important element in LaVeyan Satanism , and that participation in orgies or other promiscuous behavior is forced . He explains that sexual freedom is encouraged , but only in the sense that believers should be free to explore their own sexualities as they please , without harming others . Along with the rumors regarding Satanic views on sex , LaVey also addresses those about animal and human sacrifice . He explains that the only time a LaVeyan Satanist would perform a human sacrifice would be to accomplish two goals : to " release the magician 's wrath " as he or she performed a curse , and to kill someone who deserved to die . He considers the action of hurting another person a request to be destroyed , and explains that the Satanist is morally required to grant this request in the form of a curse . LaVey also says that a Satanist would never sacrifice a baby or an animal , as they are pure carnal beings and considered to be sacred . In The Book of Lucifer , LaVey outlines LaVeyan Satanism 's views on death . He explains that one who has lived a full life will dread death , and that this is the way it should be . He also does not agree with the idea of reincarnation . He encourages a strong will to live , comparing it to animals ' instincts to fight viciously for their lives . Suicide is discouraged except in cases of euthanasia , where it would end extreme suffering . Because the Satanist is considered his or her own god , birthdays are celebrated as the most important holidays . Following one 's birthday in importance are Walpurgisnacht and Halloween . Solstices and equinoxes are also celebrated .

== The Book of Belial ==

The third book of The Satanic Bible describes rituals and magic . According to Joshua Gunn , these are adapted from books of ritual magic such as Crowley 's Magick : Elementary Theory . The Satanic Rituals , published by LaVey in 1972 , outlines the rituals more precisely , and contains the entire text of the Black Mass . LaVey begins The Book of Belial by defining magic as " The change in situations or events in accordance with one 's will , which would , using normally accepted methods , be unchangeable . " He explains that some of the rituals are simply applied psychology or science , but that some contain parts with no scientific basis .

LaVey explains that , in order to control a person , one must first attract his or her attention . He gives three qualities that can be employed for this purpose : sex appeal , sentiment (cuteness or innocence) , and wonder . He also advocates the use of odor . In the Book of Belial , he discusses

three types of rituals : those for sex , compassion , and destruction . Sex rituals work to entice another person ; compassion rituals work to improve health , intelligence , success , and so on ; destruction rituals work to destroy another person . LaVey advocates finding others with whom to practice Satanic rituals in order to reaffirm one 's faith and avoid antisocial behavior . He particularly advocates group participation for destruction rituals , as compassion and sex rituals are more private in nature . LaVey goes on to list the key components to successful ritual : desire , timing , imagery , direction , and " The Balance Factor " (awareness of one 's own limitations) . Details for the various Satanic rituals are explained in The Book of Belial , and lists of necessary objects (such as clothing , altars , and the symbol of Baphomet) are given .

= = = The Book of Leviathan = = =

The final book of The Satanic Bible emphasizes the importance of spoken word and emotion to effective magic . An " Invocation to Satan " as well as three invocations for the three types of ritual are given . The " Invocation to Satan " commands the dark forces to grant power to the summoner , and lists the Infernal names for use in the invocation . The " Invocation employed towards the conjuration of lust " is used for attracting the attentions of another . Both male and female versions of the invocation are provided . The " Invocation employed towards the conjuration of destruction " commands the dark forces to destroy the subject of the invocation . The " Invocation employed towards the conjuration of compassion " requests protection , health , strength , and the destruction of anything ailing the subject of the invocation . The rest of The Book of Leviathan is composed of the Enochian Keys , which LaVey adapted from Dee 's original work . They are given in Enochian and also translated into English . LaVey provides a brief introduction that credits Dee and explains some of the history behind the Enochian Keys and language . He maintains that the translations provided are an " unvarnishing " of the translations performed by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn in the 1800s , but others accuse LaVey of simply changing references to Christianity with those to Satan .

= = Themes = =

= = = God and Satan = = =

The Satanic Bible often uses the terms " God " and " Satan " interchangeably , except when referring to the concepts of these as viewed by other religions . LaVey also occasionally uses the term " God " to refer to other religions ' views of God , and " Satan " or synonyms to refer to the idea of god as interpreted by LaVeyan Satanism , as when he writes , " When all religious faith in lies has waned , it is because man has become closer to himself and farther from ' God ' ; closer to the ' Devil . ' " Throughout The Satanic Bible , the LaVeyan Satanist 's view of god is described as the Satanist 's true " self " ? a projection of his or her own personality ? not an external deity . Satan is used as a representation of personal liberty and individualism . Satan is also used as a metaphor for the ideas connected with the early Christian view of Satan or the serpent : wise , defiant , questioning , and free @-@ thinking . LaVey discusses this extensively in The Book of Lucifer , explaining that the gods worshipped by other religions are also projections of man 's true self . He argues that man 's unwillingness to accept his own ego has caused him to externalize these gods so as to avoid the feeling of narcissism that would accompany self @-@ worship .

If man insists on externalizing his true self in the form of " God , " then why fear his true self , in fearing " God , " ? why praise his true self in praising " God , " ? why remain externalized from " God " in order to engage in ritual and religious ceremony in his name ?

Man needs ritual and dogma , but no law states that an externalized god is necessary in order to engage in ritual and ceremony performed in a god 's name ! Could it be that when he closes the gap between himself and his " God " he sees the demon of pride creeping forth ? that very embodiment of Lucifer appearing in his midst ?

Though at some points LaVey refers to Satan as a physical being , this is intended to encourage the Satanist 's " rational self @-@ interest . "

= = = Science = = =

Many of the ideas in The Satanic Bible are shaped around a secular , scientific view of the world . However , some of these ideas continue beyond present @-@ day secularism by implying that various occult forces are not supernatural , but rather thus far undiscovered by science . These forces are said to be manipulable by the practitioner of LaVeyan Satanism , a trait of the religion that has been compared with Christian Science and Scientology .

James Lewis argues that scientific themes are so prevalent in The Satanic Bible because LaVey was appealing to the authority of science to legitimize LaVeyan Satanism as a religion .

= = = Human nature and Social Darwinism = = =

Social Darwinism and the concept of " human nature " are ideas that are prevalent throughout The Satanic Bible . LaVey describes Satanism as " a religion based on the universal traits of man , " and humans are described throughout as inherently carnal and animalistic . Each of the seven deadly sins is described as part of human 's natural instinct , and are thus advocated . Social Darwinism is particularly noticeable in The Book of Satan , where LaVey uses portions of Redbeard 's Might Is Right , though it also appears throughout in references to man 's inherent strength and instinct for self @-@ preservation . LaVeyan Satanism has been described as " institutionalism of Machiavellian self @-@ interest " because of many of these themes .

= = Influence = =

The Satanic Bible is recognized as one of the key texts of modern Satanism . The Church of Satan requires that people accept " LaVey 's principles " before becoming members of the church . Many other Satanist groups and individual Satanists who are not part of the Church of Satan also recognize LaVey 's work as influential . Many Satanists attribute their conversions or discoveries of Satanism to The Satanic Bible , with 20 % of respondents to a survey by James Lewis mentioning The Satanic Bible directly as influencing their conversion . In Gilmore 's introduction , he lists a number of novels and films supposedly influenced by The Satanic Bible and LaVeyan Satanism . These include novels Rosemary 's Baby by Ira Levin and Our Lady of Darkness by Fritz Leiber , as well as films such as Rosemary 's Baby , The Devil 's Rain , The Car , and Dr. Dracula . Others have lauded The Satanic Bible as heavily influential on metal and rock bands such as Black Sabbath , Venom , King Diamond , and Marilyn Manson .

= = Reception = =

Richard Metzger describes The Satanic Bible as " a razor @-@ sharp , no @-@ bullshit primer in natural and supernatural law . " David G. Bromley calls it " iconoclastic " and " the best @-@ known and most influential statement of Satanic theology . " Eugene V. Gallagher says that Satanists use LaVey 's writings " as lenses through which they view themselves , their group , and the cosmos . " He also states : " With a clear @-@ eyed appreciation of true human nature , a love of ritual and pageantry , and a flair for mockery , LaVey 's Satanic Bible promulgated a gospel of self @-@ indulgence that , he argued , anyone who dispassionately considered the facts would embrace . " The philosophy it presents has been described as " strident libertarianism " and " an obvious distillation of ideas common among members of the United States counter @-@ culture in the 1960s . " Joshua Gunn argues that the significance of The Satanic Bible as an occult item owes to its status as a " totem or a fetishized object in popular culture " , not the philosophy contained within . He argues that many erroneously categorize the content of The Satanic Bible as evil and depraved from the minimalist , dark cover design (composed of a purple Sigil of Baphomet and white text on

the front , and a photo of LaVey superimposed over the Sigil of Baphomet on the back) , the verbose , overblown style of the text , and the presence of the word " Satan " in the title . Contrary to this belief , he says , the philosophy presented by LaVey is " neither offensive nor surprising . "

Zeena Schreck has criticized The Satanic Bible as a financial endeavor suggested by Avon publisher , Mayer . She maintains that it contains large amounts of falsified information about LaVey 's past , and that much of the book is plagiarized from Redbeard 's Might Is Right , Dee 's Enochian Keys , and Rand 's Atlas Shrugged . Chris Mathews , in Modern Satanism : Anatomy of a Radical Subculture , describes The Satanic Bible as " hastily prepared " and cynical . Both Mathews and a 1971 article in Newsweek compare the ideologies presented in The Satanic Bible to Nazism : containing " unremitting focus on social elitism , appeals to force , and scorn for egalitarian principles " . Israel Regardie criticized LaVey 's alteration of the Enochian Keys in The Book of Leviathan as stupid and of lower quality than the original Keys .

The Satanic Bible has also received a large amount of criticism from people and organizations who find its content to be dangerous . Much of this criticism came during the period of " Satanic panic , " when Satanic ritual abuse was feared to be epidemic . Much of this media coverage , however , has been denounced as " uncritical and sensationalized . " Tom Harpur condemns the book as " blasphemous " and " socially seditious , " and blames it for causing an increase in gruesome violence , ritual abuse , and other obscene acts . Critics have also accused The Satanic Bible of encouraging violence and murder , particularly in young people considered to be impressionable . Dawn Perlmutter criticizes it for providing adolescents with bad messages and messages that can be easily misinterpreted . Possession of The Satanic Bible has been used by some studies to identify adolescents who are antisocial , and some warn that possession of the book is a warning sign of emotional issues . The Council on Mind Abuse took a very negative view of The Satanic Bible . Former Executive Director Rob Tucker warned parents to look for The Satanic Bible in their children 's bedrooms , saying , " You have to help the child fight this obsession like any other addiction " and " It 's like giving drugs to a kid who is already on the edge . " Attempts to ban the book from schools and public libraries have been made in various places around the world , and bans or limitations on the book in prisons have been repeatedly challenged in court . However , opposition to The Satanic Bible has rarely led to its removal ; these bans are rare . The book was banned in South Africa from 1973 to 1993 .