

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALIA22

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The CirculoDorado.com team, interviews one of it's more regular contributors, with more than 20 years of magical work behind and first-hand witness of the magical evolution in Spain since the 80's: Alia22.

Q.- How was your introduction to the world of magic?

A.- Well, the truth is that since I was a little child it was part of me, my first related memory is from around when I was 7 years old. At that time I used to have many nightmares, lucid dreams, and hear things nobody else did, a normal thing in children. One day I decided that I had to control it and that's how everything got started. Later on, I found people that were truly High Magic Initiates and who provided help.

Q.- What does it mean to be an Initiate?

A.- There are several meanings, but I guess you ask about the difference between an initiated person and one who is not.

Q.- Yes

A.- There are two differences, one is that the Initiate has passed through an experience or has eventually realized that everything that he or she considers to be (thoughts, emotions, concepts, attachments, dislikes) what we call "ego" is nothing but a mask (a useful one) and that he or she is something more. This realization can be reached by anyone that is aware enough. The other difference lies in his or her expression; the initiate is able to think and transmit in symbolic terms, related to the tradition in which he/she has been trained.

P.- What is Magic?

A.- Magic is the Art of producing changes in conscience/perception (meaning oneself) and this changes then produce alterations in objective reality. As you can see, it's a very typical definition. Lots of people approach magic thinking it is an easy road and that you can get whatever you want just by reciting some enchantment in strange words. Nothing further from the truth: the effort required to achieve something by your own means, is the same effort you need to make your magic work.

Q.- While defining magic, you have used a definition very similar to Aleister Crowley's.

A.- Oh Aleister... Even though it's been a hundred years since Liber AL, it is still hard to speak about this figure without prejudices. Some worship him as a role model and other despise him and consider him a failed Initiate. Actually, Crowley's work was extraordinary, besides bringing to the west the current of the eastern tradition, he was able to create a new magical system and to establish a new magical formula. The workings of Magic cannot be properly understood without Crowley's contribution.

Q.- Besides announcing also the New Aeon of Horus or Aquarius.

A.- Indeed, Crowley considered himself the prophet of a new religion. But still he was a prisoner of his time (his behavior towards women was despicable). Nowadays, his character is being revised and that is good. Anyway everybody nows what the Aeon of Horus holds in store for us, the man of the future will be very different from what he is today, and we have barely started on the path. In these times you can say there is a transition, and like every transition, it will be hard.

Q.- Since Crowley's work, other currents have emerged, is this not a bit of a mess for the serious seeker?

Q.- Effectively, it can be complex at first, but I think part of the problem is that we are used to think there is only one current, or “way to get things done” that is the “correct” one, and by the same token, the rest are incorrect. What we have to find out is what “works for us” and what makes us feel at home.

Another factor to keep in mind is that each Magical Paradigm has its good elements and its bad elements. For example, Crowley's magick has always been accused of destabilizing, but what few people realize is that it's part of its essence on account of the large amounts of energy moves. Luckily, we have the Maat magick current, which is more stable and makes equilibrium possible more easily.

Q.- What would you recommend to someone about to enter into the world of magic?

A.- To start things off, I would suggest to look for quality information in books, this apparently simple task can become quite complicated, and the excess of banal information can confuse even more. There's a series of authors that always offer a sound choice: Regardie, Butler, Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicky, Kraig, Fortune, Crowley, etc. Another important point is to learn the basic classical rituals (often done in esoteric orders). It is also of great importance to know or at least realize, that there are people who practice magic and who are not charlatans, that is to say, that magic is Real and produces effects. Lastly a good dose of a sense of humor, of critical sense and the acceptance of change in oneself.

Q.- But there are also dangers in magic, right?

A.- Of course, magic is not for everyone, but for those people able to live with one foot here and the other on a “different reality” without this constituting a problem. I have known many that remained behind on the path, unable to discern the magical world from the earthly world and this has left them incapable of relating to others and lead a normal life.

Actually, what the magician does is explore his or her conscience. Magic enhances all that one is: pride, envy, fear, love, etc. If this process is not accompanied with a deeper understanding of why one acts one way and not the other, it ends up blowing in your face.

Q.- Magic and religion: are they the same?

A.- They are quite different things, that have been made to seem somehow related, so that the current dominant religion at any given moment was able to keep under control. The magical practice allows you to see that reality is more malleable than it seems to be, and if people become aware of this fact they are no longer so easy to control. For this reason, magic is only “legal” or socially acceptable if practiced within a religious framework. But anyone can have the belief of his/her choice and be able to practice magic, even if being an atheist.

Q.- But this clashes with the vision of many esoteric schools.

A.- Certainly, it is a thorny issue, one thing is experience in itself, and an altogether different matter is the religious interpretation we make of it, meaning that we may think that ritual 'x' has been successful because of God, or a saint we believe in, the devil, the great Mother, Horus, or any other thing of our choice. The truth is that without us, the ritual could not have been done and this seemingly silly fact should make us reflect.

Q.- Do you want to say that ultimately we are the ones that use all this elements.

A.- Rather, what I want to say is that without conscious beings there would be no gods that can be thought about, not at least the way we know, nor a magical system that can be made put to use. Individual conscience uses all these elements to communicate with the Universe.

Q.- So, the key element in this story is consciousness.

A.- That is the key, but the funny thing is that we don't know for sure what conscience is. Can the eye see itself?....

Q.- Which are the prevailing magical trends in the 21th century?

A.- The Chaos Magic approach, in which beliefs are used as tools, is very important. On the other hand, the Work with dark energies in Maat Magick is fundamental because we can begin to see a direct relation between Light work and working with darkness, and too much emphasis on Light work brings only unbalance.

If we talk about the work within Esoteric orders, in the last years of the 20th century we would need to mention S.O.L. (Servants of the Light, Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicky), Aurum Solis, the Temple of Set, and a few others. We should see how all of them evolve in the future.

Q.- How about Spain, how do you see the picture?

A.- Encouraging. During the 80's there was a boom in information and publications of great quality. The most important magical currents were brought to Spain by two persons: M. Lamparter (Sevilla) and J. Moreno (Madrid). This meant the entry of other alternatives, besides the rosicrucian and masonic lines we all know about. After that, came a period of silence and publications related to the new age and Angels (with all my respect). In this times, there is a new resurgence, aided by telecommunications and people of great talent, not only in Spain but also in Latin America.

Q.- Lastly, can magic make you happier?

A.- It makes you more aware, which is different.

