

BAPHOMET



Who is Baphomet?

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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Who is Baphomet?

Baphomet is an enigmatic, goat-headed figure found in several instances in the history of occultism. From the Knights Templar of the Middle-Ages and the Freemasons of the 19th century to modern currents of occultism,

Baphomet never fails to create controversy.

But where does Baphomet originate from?

Most importantly, what is the true meaning of this symbolic figure?

This article looks at the origins of Baphomet, the esoteric meaning of Baphomet and its occurrence in popular culture.

Throughout the history of Western occultism, the name of the mysterious Baphomet is often invoked. Although it became a commonly known name in the twentieth century, mentions of Baphomet can be found in documents dating from as early as the 11th century.

Today, the symbol is associated with anything relating to occultism, ritual magic, witchcraft, Satanism and esoterica. Baphomet often pops up in popular culture to identify anything occult.

The most famous depiction of Baphomet is found in Eliphas Levi's "Dogme et Rituel de la Haute Magie", a 1897 book that became a standard reference for modern occultism.

- ◆ What does this creature represent?
- ◆ What is the meaning of the symbols around it?
- ◆ Why is it so important in occultism?

To answer some of these questions, we must first look at its origins. We'll first look at the history of Baphomet and several examples of references to Baphomet in popular culture.

Origins of the Name

There are several theories concerning the origins of the name of Baphomet. The most common explanation claims that it is an Old French corruption of the name of Mohammed (which was Latin-ized to "Mahomet") – the Prophet of Islam.

During the Crusades, the Knights Templar stayed for during extended periods of time in Middle-Eastern countries where they became acquainted with the teachings of Arabian mysticism.

This contact with Eastern civilizations allowed them to bring back to Europe the basics of what would become western occultism, including Gnosticism, alchemy, Kabbalah and Hermetism.

The Templars' affinity with the Muslims led the Church to accuse them of the worship of an idol named Baphomet, so there are some plausible links between Baphomet and Mahomet.

However, there are other theories concerning the origins of the name.

Eliphas Levi, the French occultist who drew the famous depiction of Baphomet argued that the name had been derived from Kabbalistic coding:

“The name of the Templar Baphomet, which should be spelt kabalistically backwards, is composed of three abbreviations: Tem. ohp. AB., Templi omnium hominum pacts abbas, “the father of the temple of peace of all men”.

1. Arkon Daraul, an author and teacher of Sufi tradition and magic argued that Baphomet came from the Arabic word Abu fihama(t), meaning “The Father of Understanding”.
2. Dr. Hugh Schonfield, whose work on the Dead Sea Scrolls is well-known, developed one of the more interesting theories.

Schonfield, who had studied a Jewish cipher called the Atbash cipher, which was used in translating some of the Dead Sea Scrolls, claimed that when one applied the cipher to the word Baphomet, it transposed into the Greek word “**Sophia**”, which means “*knowledge*” and is also synonymous with “*GODdess*”.

Possible Origins of the Figure

The modern depiction of Baphomet appears to take its roots from several ancient sources, but primarily from pagan GODs. Baphomet bears resemblances to GODs all over the globe, including Egypt, Northern Europe and India.

In fact, the mythologies of a great number of ancient civilizations include some kind of horned deity. In Jungian theory, Baphomet is a continuation of the horned-GOD archetype, as the concept of a deity bearing horns is universally present in individual psyches.

Do Cernunnos, Pan, Hathor, the Devil (as depicted by Christianity) and Baphomet have a common origin?

Some of their attributes are strikingly similar.

The ancient Celtic GOD Cernunnos is traditionally depicted with antler horns on his head, sitting in “lotus position”, similar to Levi’s depiction of Baphomet. Although the history of Cernunnos is shrouded in mystery, is usually said to be the GOD of fertility and nature.

In Britain, an aspect Cerenunnos was named Herne. The horned GOD has the Satyr-like features of Baphomet along with its emphasis on the phallus.

Pan was a prominent deity in Greece. The nature GOD was often depicted with horns on its head and the lower body of a goat. Not unlike Cerenunnos, Pan is a phallic deity. Its animalistic features are an embodiment of the carnal and procreative impulses of men.

Eliphas Levi's Baphomet

In 1861, the French occultist Eliphas Levi included in his book *Dogmes et Rituels de la Haute Magie* (Dogmas and Rituals of High Magic) a drawing that would become the most famous depiction of Baphomet: a winged humanoid goat with a pair of breasts and a torch on its head between its horns.

The figure bears numerous similarities to the deities described above. It also includes several other esoteric symbols relating to the esoteric concepts embodied by the Baphomet. In the preface of his book,

Levi stated:

"The goat on the frontispiece carries the sign of the pentagram on the forehead, with one point at the top, a symbol of light, his two hands forming the sign of Hermeticism, the one pointing up to the white moon of Chesed, the other pointing down to the black one of Geburah.

*This sign expresses the perfect harmony of mercy with justice. His one arm is female, the other male like the ones of the androgyn of Khunrath, the attributes of which we had to unite with those of our goat because he is one and the same symbol. The flame of intelligence shining between his horns is the magic light of **Pope Sylvester II and the Devil** (1460).*

In Christianity, the devil has similar features to the pagan GODs described above as they are the main inspiration for these depictions. The attributes embodied by these GODs became the representation of what is considered evil by the Church.

The Devil Card from the Tarot of Marseilles (15th century). This card's depiction of the devil, with its wings, horns, breasts and hand sign is undoubtedly a major influence in Levi's depiction of Baphomet.

Goya's 1821 painting "Great He-Goat" or "Witches Sabbath". The painting depicts a coven of witches gathered around Satan, portrayed as a half-man, half-goat figure.

The universal balance, the image of the soul elevated above matter, as the flame, whilst being tied to matter, shines above it. The ugly beast's head expresses the horror of the sinner, whose materially acting, solely responsible part has to bear the punishment exclusively; because the soul is insensitive according to its nature and can only suffer when it materializes.

The rod standing instead of genitals symbolizes eternal life, the body covered with scales the water, the semi-circle above it the atmosphere, the feathers following above the volatile. Humanity is represented by the two breasts and the androgyn arms of this sphinx of the occult sciences."

In Levi's depiction, Baphomet embodies the culmination of the alchemical process – the union of opposing forces to create Astral Light – the basis of magic and, ultimately, enlightenment.

A close look at the details of the image reveals that each symbol is inevitably balanced with its opposite. Baphomet himself is an androgynous character as it is bearing the characteristics of both sexes: female breasts and a rod representing the erect phallus. The concept of androgeniety is of a great importance in occult philosophy as it is representative the highest level of initiation in the quest of becoming “one with GOD”.

Baphomet’s phallus is actually Hermes’ Caduceus – a rod intertwined with two serpents. This ancient symbol is has been representing Hermetism for centuries. The Caduceus esoterically represents the activation of chakras, from the base of the spine to the pineal gland, using serpentine power (hence, the serpents) or Astral Light.

“The Science is a real one only for those who admit and understand the philosophy and the religion; and its process will succeed only for the Adept who has attained the sovereignty of will and so become the King of the elementary world: for the grand agent of the operation of the Sun, is that force described in the Symbol of Hermes, of the table of emerald; it is the universal magical power; the spiritual, fiery, motive power; it is the Od, according to the Hebrews and the Astral light, according to others.

Therein is the secret fire, living and philosophical, of which all the Hermetic philosophers speak with the most mysterious reserve: the Universal Seed, the secret whereof they kept and which they represented only under the figure of the Caduceus of Hermes.”

This depiction of Baphomet by Eliphas Levi’s from his book Dogmes et Rituels de la Haute Magie (Dogmas and Rituals of High Magic) became the “official” visual representation of Baphomet.

Baphomet is therefore symbolic of the alchemical Great Work where separate and opposing forces are united in perfect equilibrium to generate Astral Light. This alchemical process is represented on Levi’s image by the terms Solve and Coagula on Baphomet’s arms.

While they accomplish opposite results, Solving (turning solid into liquid) and Coagulation (turning liquid into solid) are two necessary steps of the alchemical process – which aims to turn stone into gold or, in esoteric terms, a profane man into an illuminated man.

The two steps are on arms pointing in opposite directions, further emphasizing their opposite nature.

Baphomet’s hands form the “sign of Hermetism” – which is a visual representation of the Hermetic axiom “As Above, So Below”.

This dictum sums up the whole of the teachings and the aims of Hermetism, where the microcosm (man) is as the macrocosm (the universe). Therefore, understanding one equals understanding the other.

This Law of Correspondence originates from the Emerald Tablets of Hermes Trismegistus where it was stated:

“That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above and that which is Above, corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing”.

The mastery of this life force, the Astral Life, is what is called by modern occultists “magick”.

The practice of magic – either white or black – depends upon the ability of the adept to control the universal life force – that which Eliphas Levi calls the great magical agent or the astral light.

By the manipulation of this fluidic essence the phenomena of transcendentalism are produced. The famous hermaphroditic Goat of Mendes was a composite creature formulated to symbolize this astral light.

It is identical with Baphomet the mystic pantheos of those disciples of ceremonial magic, the Templars, who probably obtained it from the Arabians.”

Each of Baphomet’s hands point towards opposing moons, which Levi calls the Chesed and the Geburah – two opposing concepts taken from the Jewish Kabbalah. In the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, the Sefirot, Chesed is associated with “kindness given to others” while Geburah refers to the “restraint of one’s urge to bestow goodness upon others, when the recipient of that good is judged to be unworthy and liable to misuse it”.

These two concepts are opposed and, as everything else in life, an equilibrium must be found between the two.

The most recognizable feature of Baphomet is, of course, its goat head. This monstrous head represents man’s animal and sinful nature, its egoistic tendencies and its basest instincts.

Opposed to man’s spiritual nature (symbolized by the “divine light” on its head), this animal side is regardless viewed as a necessary part of man’s dualistic nature, where the animal and the spiritual must unite in harmony. It can also be argued that Baphomet’s grotesque overall appearance might serve to ward off and repel the profane who are uninitiated to the esoteric meaning of the symbol.

The Magician tarot card displaying the Hermetic axiom “As Above, So Below” In Secret Societies

Although Levi’s 1861 depiction of Baphomet is the most famous one, the name of this idol has been circulating for over a thousand years, through secret societies and occult circles. The first recorded mention of Baphomet as a part of an occult ritual appeared during the era of the Knights Templar.

The Knights Templar

It is widely accepted by occult researchers that the figure of Baphomet was of a great importance in the rituals of the Knights Templar. The first occurrence of the name Baphomet appeared in a 1098 letter by crusader Anselm of Ribemont stating:

“As the next day dawned they called loudly upon Baphometh while we prayed silently in our hearts to GOD; then we attacked and forced all of them outside the city walls.”

During the Templar trials of 1307, where Knight Templars were tortured and interrogated by request of King Philip IV of France, the name of Baphomet was mentioned several times.

While some Templars denied the existence of Baphomet, others described it as being either a severed head, a cat, or a head with three faces.

While books aimed for mass consumption often deny any link between the Knights Templar and Baphomet, claiming it to be an invention of the Church to demonize them, almost all reputed authors on occultism (who wrote books intended for initiates) acknowledge that the link. In fact, the idol is often referred to as "the Baphomet of the Templars".

"Did the Templars really adore Baphomet? Did they offer a shameful salutation to the buttocks of the goat of Mendes? What was actually this secret and potent association which imperilled Church and State and was thus destroyed unheard? Judge nothing lightly; they are guilty of a great crime; they have exposed to profane eyes the sanctuary of antique initiation.

They have gathered again and have shared the fruits of the tree of knowledge, so that they might become masters of the world. The judgement pronounced against them is higher and far older than the tribunal of pope or king:

*"On the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die," said GOD Himself, as we read in the **Book of Genesis**.*

Yes, in our profound conviction, the Grand Masters of the Order of the Templars worshipped the Baphomet and caused it to be worshipped by their initiates; yes, there existed in the past and there may be still in the present, assemblies which are presided over by this figure, seated on a throne and having a flaming torch between the horns.

But the adorers of this sign do not consider, as do we, that it is a representation of the devil: on the contrary, for them it is that of the GOD Pan, the GOD of our modern schools of philosophy, the GOD of the Alexandrian theurgic school and of our own mystical Neo-platonists, the GOD of Lamartine and Victor Cousin, the GOD of Spinoza and Plato, the GOD of the primitive Gnostic schools; the Christ also of the dissident priesthood.

This last qualification, ascribed to the goat of Black Magic, will not astonish students of religious antiquities who are acquainted with the phases of symbolism and doctrine in their various transformations, whether in India, Egypt or Judea."

Freemasonry

Shortly after the release of Levi's illustration, the french writer and journalist Léo Taxil released a series of pamphlets and books denouncing Freemasonry, charging lodges with worshipping the devil. At the center of his accusations was Baphomet, which was described as the Mason's object of worship.

In 1897, after causing quite a stir due to his revelations on French Freemasonry, Léo Taxil called a press conference where he announced that many of his revelations were fabrications.

Since then, this series of events has been dubbed the “Léo Taxil Hoax”. However, some would argue the probability that Taxil’s confession may have been coerced in order to quell the controversy involving Freemasonry.

Whatever the case may be, the most likely connection between Freemasonry and Baphomet is through symbolism, where the idol becomes an allegory for profound esoteric concepts. The Masonic author Albert Pike argues that, in Freemasonry, Baphomet is not an object of worship, but a symbol, the true meaning of which is only revealed to high-level initiates.

“It is absurd to suppose that men of intellect adored a monstrous idol called Baphomet, or recognized Mahomet as an inspired prophet.

Their symbolism, invented ages before, to conceal what it was dangerous to avow, was of course misunderstood by those who were not adepts and to their enemies seemed to be pantheistic. The calf of gold, made by Aaron for the Israelites, was but one of the oxen under the layer of bronze and the Karobim on the Propitiatory, misunderstood.

The symbols of the wise always become the idols of the ignorant multitude. What the Chiefs of the Order really believed and taught, is indicated to the Adepts by the hints contained in the high Degrees of Free-Masonry and by the symbols which only the Adepts understand.”

Aleister Crowley

The British occultist Aleister Crowley was born about six months after the death of Eliphas Levi, causing him to believe that he was Levi’s reincarnation. Partly for this reason, Crowley was known within the O.T.O., the secret society he popularized, as “Baphomet”.

“Les mystères de la franc-maçonnerie” (Mysteries of Freemasonry) accused Freemasons of satanism and worshipping Baphomet. Taxil’s works raised the ire of Catholics.

The British occultist Aleister Crowley was born about six months after the death of Eliphas Levi, causing him to believe that he was Levi’s reincarnation. Partly for this reason, Crowley was known within the O.T.O., the secret society he popularized, as “Baphomet”.

Here’s Crowley’s explanation of the etymology of the name Baphomet, taken from his 1929 book *The Confessions of Aleister Crowley*:

“I had taken the name Baphomet as my motto in the O.T.O. For six years and more I had tried to discover the proper way to spell this name. I knew that it must have eight letters and also that the numerical and literal correspondences must be such as to express the meaning of the name in such a ways as to confirm what scholarship had found out about it and also to clear up those problems which archaeologists had so far failed to solve....

One theory of the name is that it represents the words ????? ??????, the baptism of wisdom; another, that it is a corruption of a title meaning "Father Mithras".

Needless to say, the suffix R supported the latter theory. I added up the word as spelt by the Wizard. It totalled 729. This number had never appeared in my Cabbalistic working and therefore meant nothing to me. It however justified itself as being the cube of nine.

The word ?????, the mystic title given by Christ to Peter as the cornerstone of the Church, has this same value. So far, the Wizard had shown great qualities! He had cleared up the etymological problem and shown why the Templars should have given the name Baphomet to their so-called idol. Baphomet was Father Mithras, the cubical stone which was the corner of the Temple."

Baphomet is an important figure in the Thelema, the mystical system he established at the beginning of the 20th century. In one of his most important works, Magick, Liber ABA, Book 4, Crowley describes Baphomet as a divine androgyne:

"The Devil does not exist. It is a false name invented by the Black Brothers to imply a Unity in their ignorant muddle of dispersions. A devil who had unity would be a GOD ... 'The Devil' is, historically, the GOD of any people that one personally dislikes ... This serpent, SATAN, is not the enemy of Man, but He who made GODs of our race, knowing Good and Evil; He bade 'Know Thyself!' and taught Initiation.

He is 'The Devil' of the Book of Thoth and His emblem is Baphomet, the Androgyne who is the hieroglyph of arcane perfection ... He is therefore Life and Love. But moreover his letter is ayin, the Eye, so that he is Light; and his Zodiacal image is Capricornus, that leaping goat whose attribute is Liberty."

The Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica, the ecclesiastical arm of Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.), recites during its Gnostic Mass "And I believe in the Serpent and the Lion, Mystery of Mystery, in His name BAPHOMET." 13 Baphomet is considered to be the union of Chaos and Babalon, masculine and feminine energy, the phallus and the womb.

The Church of Satan

Although not technically a secret society, Anton Lavey's Church of Satan remains an influential occult order.

Founded in 1966, the organization adopted the "Sigil of Baphomet" as its official insignium.

The Sigil of Baphomet was probably heavily inspired by this illustration from Stanislas de Guaita's La Clef de la Magie Noire (The Key to Black Magic).

According to Anton Lavey, the Templars worshipped Baphomet as a symbol of Satan. Baphomet is prominently present during in Church of Satan rituals as the symbol is placed above the ritualistic altar.

In *The Satanic Bible*, Lavey describes the symbol of Baphomet:

“The symbol of Baphomet was used by the Knights Templar to represent Satan. Through the ages this symbol has been called by many different names. Among these are: The Goat of Mendes, The Goat of a Thousand Young, The Black Goat, The Judas Goat and perhaps the most appropriately, The Scapegoat.

Baphomet represents the Powers of Darkness combined with the generative fertility of the goat. In its “pure” form the pentagram is shown encompassing the figure of a man in the five points of the star – three points up, two pointing down – symbolizing man’s spiritual nature.

In Satanism the pentagram is also used, but since Satanism represents the carnal instincts of man, or the opposite of spiritual nature, the pentagram is inverted to perfectly accommodate the head of the goat – its horns, representing duality, thrust upwards in defiance; the other three points inverted, or the trinity denied.

The Hebraic figures around the outer circle of the symbol which stem from the magical teachings of the Kabala, spell out “Leviathan”, the serpent of the watery abyss and identified with Satan. These figures correspond to the five points of the inverted star.”

In Conclusion

Baphomet is a composite creation symbolic of alchemical realization through the union of opposite forces. Occultists believe that, through the mastery of life force, one is able to produce magick and spiritual enlightenment.

Eliphas Levi’s depiction of Baphomet included several symbols alluding to the raising of the kundalini – serpentine power – which ultimately leads to the activation of the pineal gland, also known as the “third eye”. So, from an esoteric point of view, Baphomet represents this occult process.

However, over time the symbol has come to signify much more than its esoteric meaning. Through controversies, Baphomet became, depending of the point of view, a representation of everything that is good in occultism or everything that is evil in occultism. It is, in fact, the ultimate “scapegoat”, the face of witchcraft, black magick and Satanism.

The fact that the symbol is rather monstrous and grotesque has probably helped propel the symbol to its level of infamy as it never fails to shock organized religions while attracting those who rebel against them.

Since gaining widespread recognition in popular culture, the image of Baphomet is now used as a symbol of anything regarding occultism and ritualism. In corporate-owned mass media, which has ties with secret societies, the figure of Baphomet appears in the oddest places, often to audiences too young to understand the occult reference (Secret Arcana’s sister site Vigilant Citizen documents the occurrences of Baphomet and other occult symbols in music videos, movies and fashion).

Is Baphomet used in pop culture as a symbol of the power of the occult elite over the ignorant masses?

The Sigil of Baphomet, the official symbol of the Church of Satan features the Goat of Mendes inside an inverted pentagram.

After centuries of myths, hoaxes, propaganda and disinformation on both sides of the spectrum, can we truly answer the original question posed by this article: "Who is Baphomet?"

Is it a symbol of Satan or of spiritual enlightenment?

Is it a symbol of good or evil?

The answer lies within the symbol itself: **It is both.**

In Egyptian mythology, Toth Hermes was a mediating power between good and evil, making sure neither had a decisive victory over the other. Baphomet represents the accomplishment on this cosmic task on a very small scale, within oneself.

Once perfect equilibrium is attained on a personal level, the occult initiate can point one hand towards the heavens and one hand towards the earth and pronounce this hermetic axiom which reverberated through millenniums:

"As Above, So Below".

- i) **Eliphas Levi:** Dogmes et Rituels de la Haute Magie
- ii) **Arkon Daraul:** A History of Secret Societies
- iii) **Eliphas Levi:** Dogme et Rituel de la Haute Magie
- iv) **Albert Pike:** Morals and Dogma
- v) **English translation of the Emerald Tablet**
- vi) **Manly P. Hall:** The Secret Teachings of All Ages
- vii) **Malcom Barber and Keith Bate, Letters from the East:** Crusaders, Pilgrims and Settlers in the 12th-13th Centuries
- viii) **Op. Cit. Levi**
- ix) **The Confessions of Léo Taxil:** April 25 1897
- x) **Albert Pike:** Morals and Dogma
- xi) **Aleister Crowley:** The Confessions of Aleister Crowley
- xii) **Aleister Crowley:** Magick, Liber ABA, Book 4
- xiii) **Helena and Tau Apiron:** "The Invisible Basilica: The Creed of the Gnostic Catholic Church: An Examination"
- xiv) **Anton Lavey:** The Satanic Bible

What does Baphomet mean?

[Baphomet](#) is a term that was originally associated with an idol that the Knights [Templar](#) were said to have worshipped. Later, *Baphomet* was incorporated into other [occult](#) traditions as a powerful figure, often depicted as a winged man with the head of a goat.

Where does Baphomet come from?

Baphomet has reportedly been in use since at least the 1090s, when it appeared in an early Crusader's letter. The name itself, although certainly not its modern image, may have been connected with Islam, as chroniclers referred to mosques as *Bafumarias*.

Some think *Baphomet* is a corruption of *Mahomet*, an alternate spelling of *Muhammad*, although many other cryptic origin theories have been provided.

Regardless of its specific origins, *Baphomet* got much more attention after the **Knights Templar**, a medieval **Catholic military order**, were interrogated under the [Inquisition](#).

Under torture, some admitted to worshipping a pagan idol named *Baphomet*. This figure didn't have a consistent appearance or nature and not all Templars admitted to worshipping it.

It's unclear whether *Baphomet* actually had anything to do with the Templars' activities, whether it was an accusation the Church created to lend more weight to their other charges of heresy, or whether the admissions were simply tortured out of them.

Baphomet fell into relative obscurity for some time, but was reborn in 19th-century occult works, thanks especially to Eliphas Lévi. In the mid-1850s, Lévi published a picture of *Baphomet* in his book *Dogmas and Rituals of High Magic*. The illustration greatly inspired *Baphomet's* current incarnation; it was a human-goat amalgamation referred to as the "Sabbatic Goat".

This depiction would go on to influence the iconic Rider-Waite tarot card image of the Devil. In some occult, mystical, or religious traditions, ***Baphomet* is a [deity](#) that represents the sum of the entire universe and all its opposing forces.**

Aleister Crowley and Baphomet

Eliphas Levi's *Baphomet* was also [adopted by Aleister Crowley](#), most famously in his Gnostic Mass. The deep symbolic nature of *Baphomet* fit well with Crowley's interpretations of Renaissance and Medieval ritual magick.

It also incorporated familiar elements of binary cosmology that supported Crowley's hermetic ideology.

Crowley described *Baphomet* as a divine androgyne, representative of mystical perfection through a union of opposites. He also equated this union of opposites to that which occurs when a sperm and egg join. This line of thought, triggered by his reflections upon *Baphomet*, was profoundly influential in Crowley's theories of sex magick.

Crowley also connected ideas of suppressed knowledge and secret worship, thus Baphomet, with Satan. He argued that contrary to traditional Christian thought, Satan represented “not the enemy of Man, but He who made GODs of our race, knowing Good and Evil; He bade ‘Know Thyself!’ and taught Initiation.

He is ‘The Devil’ of The Book of Thoth and His emblem is BAPHOMET, the Androgyne who is the hieroglyph of arcane perfection... He is therefore Life and Love.”

Baphomet Today

Today, the Baphomet in the form of Eliphas Levi’s Sabbatic Goat is one of the most recognizable occult images in the world, with strong ties to artistic and popular culture.

It directly inspired the iconic Devil card from the [Rider Waite Tarot system](#). The Sigil of Baphomet, depicting the Sabbatic Goat within an inverted Pentagram, has been adopted as the modern Church of Satan’s logo.

Baphomet also made the news recently when members of the Satanic Temple attempted to have an eight foot tall Sabbatic Goat statue erected beside the Monument of the Ten Commandments at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

With its long and deeply symbolic history, Baphomet is a powerful icon that garnishes fear and respect to this day.

Baphomet has been transformed by time and culture into a rich icon of our modern occult heritage.

It also serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers of state-sponsored, religiously justified oppression.

Incest

We will be facing a serious family issue head-on, with prayers and the Word of GOD.

Incest is defined as: *“The crime of sexual intercourse or cohabitation between a man and woman or male or female who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.”* Now you can add homosexual relationships between family members too. That’s what the world has come to.

Incest is one of the worst things that can envelop a family or individual. Because of the nature of it which is having sexual relations with your family member or close relative, it is usually a form of violent rape.

Why?

Because, usually, one of the partakers will resist it because of the abhorrent nature of the act.

So usually incest comes along with rape and violence. Family lines have been destroyed for eons because of this simple act of selfishness and lack of control. Nowadays you read of mothers making sex tapes with their own children, inbreeding with their own children and all what not. You see small children whose parents have left pornography carelessly around in the house and they watch it and the only person they can practice it with is their little sister or brother.

Unfortunately, victims of this callous crime are too traumatized to come forward for spiritual help and so their lives are virtually destroyed. Parents, especially mothers have to be discerning and alert, to wrong trends in the house. A child walking with the wrong gait may have been assaulted. The trusted boyfriend who you live to take care of your child will take advantage of you because you are using him as a crutch and he knows you might turn a blind eye.

The drunkard husband or drug-using husband, the unusually close relationship, or pornography loving husband is a prime candidate. You need to be alert.

There are numerous examples of incest in the Bible. The most commonly thought-of examples are

- the sons/daughters of Adam and Eve (**Genesis 4**),
- Abraham marrying his half-sister Sarah (**Genesis 20:12**),
- Lot and his daughters (**Genesis 19**),
- Moses’ father Amram who married his aunt Jochebed (**Exodus 6:20**),
- and David’s son Amnon with his half-sister Tamar (**2 Samuel 13**).

It is important to note, however, that in two of the above instances (Tamar and Lot) one of the parties involved was an unwilling participant in the incest.

It is important to distinguish between incestuous relationships prior to GOD commanding against them;

Leviticus 18:6-18; New King James Version (NKJV) “None of you shall **approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover.** She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. **The nakedness of your father’s wife you shall not uncover; it is your father’s nakedness. The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. The nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. The nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, begotten by your father - she is your sister - you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she is near of kin to your father. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law - she is your son’s wife - you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother’s wife; it is your brother’s nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.”**

After GOD’s Commands had been revealed, any case of incest became abominable. Until GOD commanded against it, it was not incest. It was just marrying a close relative.

We know that Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters in addition to Abel, Cain and Seth (**Genesis 5:4**) and if there was only one original family, then the first marriages had to be between brothers and sisters.

Such marriages, in the beginning, were not harmful. **Incest is dangerous because inherited mutant genes that produce deformed, sickly, or moronic children are more likely to find expression in children if those genes are carried by both parents.** Certainly, Adam and Eve, coming from the creative hand of GOD, had no such mutant genes. Therefore, marriages between brothers and sisters, or nieces and nephews in the first and second generations following Adam and Eve would not have been dangerous.

Incest affects your church

Even if it isn’t happening among your members right now, chances are good that incest is still having an effect on someone in your congregation.

About one girl in 10 and about one boy in 70 is a victim of incest at some time.

Few victims speak up even as adults.

Shame and guilt still keep them silent. It is estimated that for every person who seeks help, 10 do not. Their silence does not mean that their problems are insignificant or less devastating than those of victims who do seek help. Their hurts may be worse because they have no outlet for them. These silent sufferers need to be led out of this darkness.

Incest strikes at the very heart of salvation. It loads the victim's soul with undeserved guilt, creates in her such a self-loathing that she shrinks from the Saviour and all but destroys her capacity to form a whole relationship with GOD. Even after the victim has come to Christ, she often remains spiritually crippled, unable to accept GOD as her Father.

The problems do not end when the incest stops. The scars can last a lifetime and may be a factor in leading her to marry an abusive or otherwise unfit spouse.

- Broken homes,
- child abuse,
- alcoholism,
- drug abuse,
- psychological problems,
- health problems,
- and even suicide attempts

... are frequent latent symptoms that may haunt the victim in her adult life.

A licensed clinical social worker who specializes in incest counseling estimates that 20% of the patients in the psychiatric hospital where she works have been victims of incest.

The spiritual devastation that results from incest is appalling. Parents stand in the place of GOD to their children. It can be nearly impossible for someone so damaged by a parental figure to form a faith relationship with GOD. **Faith is trusting GOD.**

Incest is treachery, the betrayal of a child's trust by someone who stands in the place of GOD. The victim may feel so vile and degraded that she dare not approach GOD; she may feel that she has no worth even to Him.

Even after an incest victim has accepted JESUS, her faith relationship can remain crippled. Guilt remains; she feels somehow deserving of punishment and shame. Often she fears that her sin is truly beyond the forgiveness of CHRIST or that CHRIST may reject her for it. Praise GOD that He meets us where we are, so that this crippled faith can still grasp His hand.

Often **bitterness and hatred remain** in the victim's heart. These are directed not only at the offender but at herself and at those who were instrumental in the situation or who simply did not help. As long as these feelings are cherished, her relationship with CHRIST is in trouble.

These are major soul wounds that hinder the work of grace. Victims can go to secular counselors for help with some of their incest-related problems, but most will need a mature, Spirit-filled Christian counselor to help them accept GOD's Grace, lay their burdens at the foot of the cross and permit the wounds to heal.

Helping victims find healing

The basic steps involved in bringing incest-caused wounds to the cross are conviction, justification, sanctification and forgiveness.

Healing begins as the Holy Spirit convicts the victim of her need of the Saviour. Even a Christian incest victim needs to be led to recognize this need again and again along the way to healing.

Often the victim feels guilty for the incest. She may feel that she is responsible for it because she did not say no and because she did not tell on the offender. She may also have enjoyed the attention (often the only type of attention she ever got from the offender), or she may believe that her participation broke up the family. She may believe that she committed a crime against the offender's spouse. Many offenders ensure their victims' silence by telling them that what they are doing is bad and that they will get in trouble if they tell anyone else. The fact that such guilt is undeserved does not make it any less real. It cannot be dismissed as a figment of the imagination. JESUS, who delivers us from the guilt of our sins, is able also to deliver us from the guilt of sins committed against us.

But a sense of shame, defilement and utter worthlessness can make the victim fear to approach CHRIST. Remind her that JESUS healed lepers who were considered unclean and defiled. He befriended the outcasts and the despised. He lifted up the ones who were caught in sin and said, *"Neither do I condemn thee."* If JESUS did not condemn these people, He will not condemn an incest victim.

The victim needs to forgive the offender before her wounds can be fully healed. This is not because GOD is unwilling to heal, but because hatred and bitterness keep the wounds open. Forgiveness is not a mere formality. It must be based on the victim's understanding of herself and the offender in the light of the cross.

This is where sanctification comes into the picture. We must forgive, but we do not have the ability. Only the forgiveness of JESUS is that strong. Through the work of sanctification, He offers His strength to us in place of our weakness, His ability to forgive in place of our hate and anger. When the victim is ready to take this step, CHRIST will provide the ability for her to forgive completely.

One additional step is important when dealing with a married woman. Often the victim's problems lead to marital problems that perplex, anger and frustrate her husband. Such marriages have a staggeringly high rate of failure. If the husband can be led to understand the root cause of the marital problems and give his support to his wife, the marriage may well be restored. If he meets her with kindness and understanding, he can help her learn to trust again. At this point they should be counseled together.

Be prepared to help

Here are 10 tips to help you prepare to meet the needs of incest victims:

1. Become informed. The references in the article "Victims of Trust" in this issue of Ministry provide a good starter list of books on incest.
2. Be prepared to give liberally of your time. In, helping incest victims, short, rushed, or irregular sessions can be disastrous. Deep hurts cannot be helped in a few short talks; neither can griefs that have shaken and torn a life apart be helped by the further instability of irregular scheduling. Remember that it has taken untold courage for the victim to seek help.

She has risked great shame and condemnation in coming to you. Superficial interviews, advice to come back at a more convenient time, or promises to work her in when you have extra moments may very well send her right back into silent suffering. If this happens, you will not likely get a second chance to help her. In view of the eternal consequences involved in an incest situation, you need to spend quality time with the victim promptly and regularly.

3. Be attentive. The victim may find it hard to talk. She may stammer, hesitate, lapse into silence and cry. Do not prod her for details or interrupt her in order to hurry the proceedings. Gently lead her to continue. Once this gentle leading has given her some confidence, the session will begin to move more quickly. After the victim has gotten enough confidence to talk freely, she may find it very hard to get to the point. If you are inattentive to or impatient with this rambling, you will do damage in two ways. First, you will miss important details that could prove valuable in counseling. Second, she may notice the inattentive attitude. Many incest victims are convinced that they are so degraded that no one cares to deal with them. Inattentiveness or impatience by the minister serves to confirm the victim's low opinion of herself.
4. Accept the victim's feelings. To dismiss guilt by saying "Now, you know you have done nothing wrong, so just put that notion aside and stop dwelling on it" is to reject the very real feelings and problems of the incest victim. Such a course puts the very topics she most needs to discuss off-limits. It puts help out of her reach. Whatever problem she has is real to her. Treat it as real.
5. Same-sex counseling is best. Men should counsel with men and women with women. It is easier for one to speak of such things to a counselor of the same sex and also more in harmony with Bible principles. But a woman should never be denied badly needed help because a sister is unavailable to counsel with her. Delays and frustrations that increase the victim's suffering can well have eternal consequences.
6. Carefully govern your emotions.
Strong emotions should not always be expressed. Expressing your horror and revulsion may frighten or shame the victim away. Expressing anger toward the offender or mourning for the victim can lead her to dwell on these emotions and make it difficult for her to leave them at the cross. The counselor needs to show kindness, understanding, acceptance and sympathy.
7. *"If a brother or sister be naked and destitute, . . . and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful... ; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15, 16).* We tend to deal with human problems on the simplest possible level. A few scriptures and uplifting thoughts and a word of prayer will not work a cure. They will only tantalize a thirsty soul without giving a single drop of relief.
8. Recommend a trained therapist or counselor, preferably a Christian one. Unless you are a trained therapist it is unlikely that you can meet all the needs of the victim. Most county mental health units provide low-cost or free help. It is wise, however, for the pastor or another Christian worker to continue counseling the victim on her spiritual problems and her relationship with GOD. Spiritual and secular needs should be met simultaneously.
9. Do not be afraid to take measures to ensure the safety of a child victim. Voluntary separation of the parents and even legal intervention are not too strong measures to take when the safety of a child is at stake.

Many workers feel that the breaking of the family unit, perhaps even the removal of the child from her home by the authorities, is too great an evil; but it is not so evil when the alternative is physical, mental and spiritual damage to a child. Seek peaceable means. Determine whether or not the offender is still present, then find out what the attitude of the parents is and act accordingly. Use tact if at all possible, but always put the welfare of the child first.

10. Pray without ceasing. Incest counseling is a spiritual battle. Incest is a tool of the devil for keeping souls away from their heavenly Father, for denying them the hope of salvation. Evil angels fight to hold these victims. You cannot succeed in freeing them unless you let JESUS fight the battle for you.

The great need

There is a great need for better education, understanding and counseling training among our workers. Not only pastors but medical workers, teachers and college students need to become better informed about incest. Whether or not you know it, there are people near you who are suffering the results of incest. Please take the time to prepare to help them when they come to you.

INCEST – The Family Secret

This is the true story of the actual experiences of a woman who was on staff for many years here at Last Days Ministries. After much prayer she chose to remain anonymous in respect for the other members of her family and because of the relationships she is trying to rebuild. - Melody Green

Sexual abuse within family circles is one of the worst kinds of crimes. If a thief broke into your home and stole some of your possessions, you would immediately report it to the police.

- ❖ *But what if someone was able to break into your life and steal your feelings of self-worth, cripple your ability to trust others and beat you down until you were bruised with fear?*
- ❖ *What if you were a child and that “someone” was your father or brother or grandfather or uncle?*

I was five years old the first time I remember anything sexual happening between my dad and me. The moment he told me, “*Don’t tell,*” I knew that what Daddy was doing was wrong! I can’t remember how often these encounters happened, but I do remember how I feared and hated them! The awkwardness, the repulsion and the resentment ...

Incest may be the one secret that holds its victims in the tightest chains of all. Confusion, guilt and fear create a dungeon from which there seems to be no escape. The nightmare of incest lasted nine years for me, yet even after the physical abuse ended I was still a prisoner. For years I tried to deny what happened, hoping I could make it all go away. But like someone caught in quicksand, the harder I struggled, the deeper I sank ... until I finally found the One Hand that could pull I me out from my pit of torment.

What is Incest?

First, I want to clarify what incest *is not*. When speaking of sexual abuse, I'm not talking about normal physical affection between parents and kids Hand holding, hugs, kisses and good-natured fooling around are all *essential* ingredients in a loving family. Without healthy affection, parents and children alike will miss much of the warmth and security that GOD intends family members to express to each other. Incest is something altogether different.

In its strictest definition, incest is sexual intercourse between people who are too closely related to marry. It also includes other sexual acts such as fondling, molestation and exhibitionism, since these too, leave deep and lasting emotional scars. In my case my father was the offender, but it can often be another family member. Abuse by stepparents or close family friends also falls into this category because of the child's trusting relationship with them.

Sexual abuse happens in families of every social, economic and ethnic background - *not* just among the poor and unreligious. Many molesters appear to be upstanding members of their community and church. Sadly, most cases go unreported, so the full extent of this problem remains hidden.

Of the known sexual abuse, 75% is committed by the children's own parents. The victims are usually girls between 8 and 12, with 20% under seven. There are also many young boys abused by both men and women. One girl out of four and one boy out of ten will be sexually assaulted at least once by the age of 18 - and for those trapped in the nightmare of incest, the average period of abuse is seven years. The hurt and long-term effects are understandably alarming. In recent studies, 70% of the prison inmates and 90% of the prostitutes interviewed had been molested as children.

“Don't Tell!”

Physical force or severe threats are rarely needed to take advantage of children, or keep them from telling. Though innocent, they feel dirty, ashamed and “different,” sensing the wrongness of the situation. As a young child, I was too afraid to tell anyone what was going on. Even at 18, when a very trusted friend asked me if my father ever abused me, I **strongly** stated that he hadn't! I didn't want to embarrass my dad or **myself**. Shame and fear work together to keep a stranglehold on a child's ability to call out for help. The fear of losing daddy's love, breaking up the family, or telling and not being believed is enough to keep most children quiet.

Abusers become experts at manipulating these young emotions: *“If you tell, I won't love you anymore”* or *“Mommy will leave if she finds out.”* One woman shares, *“I was trapped. My father threatened to leave if I didn't do what he asked. He'd left once before and Mom had a breakdown. I couldn't risk that.”*

But there's a deeper reason children don't tell. Incest is much, much more than the violation of a child's body. It's the **ultimate betrayal of their trust** in the very people who are supposed to be their protectors, comforters and closest friends. While they are suffering perhaps the most severe form of emotional abuse, their loyalty and love for their abuser make it nearly impossible for them to speak up.

When a child *does* get up enough courage to tell someone, many times their parents or friends respond to their claim with horror, disbelief, judgment, or denial. One woman recalls, *“I'm 45 years old. My grandfather molested me until I was 13 and told me never to tell anyone. I can vividly remember telling my mother when I was 10 that I didn't want to visit my grandparents anymore because my grandfather touched me. Mother said, ‘Don't be silly.’ Neither she nor my grandmother did anything. The guilt I've felt! How do I keep from hating my family for this?”*

My own Story

People may say *“Silence is Golden,”* but not the silence that was between my dad and me. When anything sexual happened, I began pretending I was asleep - but we both knew I wasn't. This “sleeping” made things easier for me. Since I supposedly wasn't conscious I didn't have to deal with the situation. The next day was always strange. Silence again. Neither of us acted like anything unnatural had gone on ... but it had! I felt trapped.

Silence was not golden to me! Silence between my dad and me ... silence between me and those who might have helped.

I was about 14 when my dad stopped - but unfortunately, things didn't stop there for me! The secret visits of the past haunted me and my memory became my enemy. Part of me was just a hurt and confused child, but deep inside there was another part - a very angry part!

The Rampage of Revenge!

By the time I was 15 I was on a course of self-destruction. Drugs, bad friends and thoughts of suicide filled my life. My dad's abuse left me with some twisted concepts of life in general, including the false idea that the way to be loved, approved of and accepted by men was through my body. I believed the lie that men only wanted "one thing," and it was my ammunition as I waged my own private war of suspicion and cruelty towards all men. The following years were filled with so many boyfriends that I can't even remember all their names. I'd lure them in through my dress and actions, then abruptly cut them off. I was driven by the burning desire to somehow "get even." My life was a wreck, but I'd just about convinced myself that my dad's abuse would not affect me. But to the contrary, my past *controlled* me for years.

Then, when I was 21 and in the midst of my deepest hurts, my whole life changed. I believed in JESUS as a young child, but walked away from Him in rebellion as I grew older. Now I heard about JESUS again - and how He came to bring Good News to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted and proclaim freedom to the captives. Afflicted, brokenhearted and captive - I surely qualified! I opened my heart to JESUS once again and as I gave my life to Him, He started a wonderful healing in my heart.

It didn't all happen overnight. My healing has been both a crisis and a process. The crisis was coming to a point of honesty, admitting my true feelings and looking to GOD for help in dealing with them. The process has been unlearning the wicked lifestyle I had become so good at and replacing it with right and GODly behavior. A little over seven years have gone by since I came to that crisis point and I'm now free from the pain and hatred that once ruled me. I couldn't have done it without the grace and the power that became mine through a deep relationship with JESUS. I now want to share some of the things the LORD took me through and perhaps answer some questions you might have, in hopes that it will help some of you who may be hurting at this very moment.

You are not Responsible

If you have suffered through sexual abuse your life has been drastically affected. But however much your experiences may affect your life - they don't have to **ruin it!** I am living proof of that. For me, I first needed to get rid of my wrong ideas about what happened. JESUS said, "*You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32). So let's start with the truth: **You are *not* responsible for the wrong choices of others.**

All abuse victims struggle with

- shame,
- false guilt
- and a horrible distortion of self-worth.

One woman who was raped by her brother said, *“Think of the lowest thing in the world and whatever that is, I’m lower.”* Many feel they must have somehow encouraged the abuse. I wrestled with these things myself.

I already felt dirty because of my father's abuse and to top it off, *he called me ugly names - making me feel like it was all my fault!* Another girl shares, *“I felt like there was something terribly wrong with me that other children didn’t have wrong with them. I knew this didn’t happen to everyone. I wondered what made me different. I thought there must be something I did to cause my dad to do this.”*

The fact is, to a child, sexual encounters result in confusion, guilt, repulsion and shame. It's definitely not the sort of thing a child asks for. After a lot of inner battles, I finally saw the truth: **I never would have initiated those encounters on my own.** My father decided to pursue a sexual relationship with me. It was **his** desire, not mine! You must release yourself from any false guilt you may have. I call it “false” because that's what it is. Put away forever the idea that you brought all this misery upon yourself. You were a child and you were a victim. **It was not your fault!**

But I did something wrong

Maybe you did something you knew was wrong and that thing led to your abuse. For example, perhaps Mom told you not to go to Grandpa's, but you went anyway ... and Grandpa molested you. Or you and your cousins were “playing doctor,” and the next thing you knew, your oldest cousin raped you. In situations of this type, it's true you may be responsible for doing *something* wrong - but no matter what situation you got yourself into, **you are not to blame for the wrong choices of other people.**

Look at it this way: If you left R1,000 on the kitchen table and a thief took it, you might feel foolish for leaving the money out, but you didn't **cause** that person to steal it. The sin was in **his** heart and he saw an opportunity to carry out his heart's desires. Someone more trustworthy would have put the money in a safe place until you returned. Your offender's choice to abuse you was just that - his **own** wrong choice. Someone more trustworthy would not have taken advantage of you no matter how tempting the situation may have been.

Maybe you enjoyed It

Probably one of the most difficult things to overcome is the feeling of guilt you have if you ever received any emotional or physical pleasure from what was going on. One woman states, *“What my father did made me feel dirty, but so did my own response. I think that caused even more guilt - the fact that there was some pleasure involved. At times it did make me feel good, up to a point. It was a progressive relationship and in the beginning it was pleasurable. It was attention from my dad. I'm sure all little girls love attention from their dads and so did I. That attention was special. But then as it progressed it was very frightening and painful and I felt used and worthless. In the end it all just worked together to give me that feeling of not being a whole, normal person.”*

It's vital for you to understand that feeling some enjoyment does not mean you are abnormal or to blame for the situation. In fact, it appears that **many victims** have experienced mixed feelings.

You can't escape the fact that you live in a physical body designed to respond in certain ways to certain things - and **all** children want approval and affirmation from authority figures.

You may have felt some physical or emotional pleasure at times but this does not mean you consented to be abused. You must get a hold of this truth: **You were just a child!** Children can be sexually curious at times, but no child **seeks out abuse**.

Where Was GOD?

Have you ever wondered where GOD was when you were being abused?

The Bible tells us, *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good."* (**Proverbs 15:3**). The truth is, it broke GOD's heart to see you suffer such injustice and endure such pain! He loves you more than you know and even while you were in your mother's womb He wanted you to have a future of knowing His love. But things don't always work out the way GOD would like them to.

Why?

Because He gave each of us the freedom to make our own decisions ... good and bad.

Just as you are not responsible for the wrong choices of others, neither is GOD. When GOD gave us the freedom to choose, He ran the risk of us using His freedom to destroy ourselves and hurt others as well. He **never** intended for people to be cruel and wicked - or for them to shut Him out of their lives. But He's had to watch people inflict pain on each other throughout history.

Why doesn't He stop it all?

Well, GOD could at any moment appear and say, "Enough!" He could wipe out every selfish, unkind and hurtful person from the face of the earth.

But where would that leave you and me?

Many of us would have dropped like flies years ago without ever finding the love of GOD.

He loves everyone equally and doesn't wish judgment on anyone. If we receive judgment it's because we brought it on ourselves by refusing to yield to the LORD and accept His grace. His last choice is judgment, because it's a final decision. GOD patiently endures great heartache and gives each of us time in hopes that we will come to see our great need for Him before it's too late.

JESUS knows what it's like to suffer innocently and unjustly. He can relate to your pain and He longs to comfort your sorrow. GOD's unselfish love for us sent His only Son to earth, to suffer and die so we could be forgiven and fully restored to a loving relationship with Him. GOD's love gives us the grace and the strength to have victory in every situation no matter how hurtful or devastating it may be.

There's a story of a father whose son was dying of a terminal illness. At the boy's bedside, he turned to his minister and said, *"I have one question for you and if you can answer it I'll be satisfied. Where is GOD right now?"* The minister thought for a moment, then answered gently, "I believe GOD is in the same place He was while watching His own Son suffer and die on the cross."

Opening the wound

At this very moment GOD wants to reach down tenderly into that little child's heart of yours - a heart that's been crushed under such a heavy load - and lift your burden.

- ◆ Open your wound of pain and pour out everything you feel to GOD.
- ◆ Be totally honest and share every hurt with Him.
- ◆ Tell GOD what happened.
- ◆ Tell Him how it made you feel.
- ◆ He wants to heal you and comfort your soul.
- ◆ He is waiting with open arms... arms longing to hold you and love you.
- ◆ Ask His forgiveness for the things in your own life that you know have been wrong and let Him cleanse you and heal you.

One of the most wonderful promises we have from GOD is that *"the blood of JESUS His Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7)

Not only will He forgive and cleanse you from your own sin, but JESUS will cleanse you and heal you from the hurtful effects of *other people's* sin as well. He's there for you right now... just call out to Him. *"Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; GOD is a refuge for us."* (Psalm 62:8)

Forgive and Live

For years I tried to bury my past, but it was like trying to hold a beach ball under water. It works, but not for long! The longer I tried to ignore my abuse and held bitterness in my heart, the more my life fell apart.

Why?

Because what I had buried, I buried alive!

Seven years after my abuse I was a mess and not just because my dad molested me - but also because I refused to forgive him. I used to think no more dad, no more problem! But that wasn't true. A large part of my problem was in my own heart. **Unforgiveness keeps us a slave to our past.** When we think we have a right to hold a grudge, what we don't see is that our grudge is really holding us!

There was no freedom in my life until I realized the ugliness of my own sin. I found it much easier to forgive others once I saw how much *I* needed forgiveness! The night I finally admitted to myself that I hated my dad, I admitted it to GOD as well.

I wasn't responsible for the abuse I suffered, but I saw I was responsible for my *own* sin - the rebellion, hatred and bitterness I allowed to fill my life. I told GOD I was deeply sorry for all of it and He was there for me! If a holy GOD was willing to show me mercy and forgiveness when I didn't "deserve" it, how could I withhold forgiveness from my dad? With this understanding, I decided to forgive. It was a choice. It's true, my dad didn't *deserve* forgiveness... but *none* of us do. Forgiveness is a gift. If you want to be healed from the wrong that's been done to you, you must forgive! Getting your own slate clear with GOD is the first step towards getting it clear with others.

The following questions will help you uncover any hurt or unforgiveness you may be feeling or suppressing. Grab a pen and paper and honestly answer the following:

1. Write down the name(s) of the person who abused you and the things they did that hurt you - sexual or otherwise.
2. What are your honest feelings towards that person?
3. What unloving things have you done to them - in reality *and* in your thoughts?
4. How are your relationships with people of the same sex as your offender? How do you feel about that sex and how have you treated them?
5. Have you in any way taken out your hurt on someone else or on yourself? This would include self-destructive patterns such as drug or alcohol abuse, depression, suicidal thoughts or attempts, etc.

Pray about your answers to these questions and let GOD show you any areas that He wants to change or heal.

Doing the "Impossible!"

Some of you might say, "Forgive the person who hurt me? **Impossible!**" Without GOD it would be, but JESUS said, "*With GOD all things are possible.*" (**Matthew 19:26**) When the chains of unforgiveness were broken in my life I wrote my dad to tell him. I asked **him** to forgive **me** for my hatred and rebellion.

I also told him that because of JESUS, I totally forgave him. Making things right with those we've wronged is essential in the forgiveness process Whether you do it in person, by phone, or by letter ... it must be done! You may say "*But I was the one wronged!*" Yes, that's true, but if you only focus on what they did, you'll never be free. Forgiving others is the key to your own freedom. When we refuse to forgive, what we may really be saying is, "I'd rather stay hurt and bitter than be healed!" But GOD is there to comfort you and take away your pain if you will let Him.

Walking Free

All it takes is the turn of a key to set a prisoner free. But once they're out, there's an awkward period of readjustment. Forgiveness was the key releasing me from the prison of my past, but I needed to learn some things before I was really adjusted. Because I spent so many years walking in bitterness and resentment, my whole outlook towards men, sex and relationships needed a total overhaul. I needed to learn to treat men with respect rather than disgust. I needed to change my seductive behavior and learn about modesty and purity. And I needed to start looking to GOD to discover my true value - believing in His unwavering love and acceptance.

Piece by piece, the puzzle continues to fall into place and by the grace of GOD I'm now enjoying a happy and productive life, a fulfilling marriage and the freedom to tell my story - which is something I thought I'd never be able to do. Sure, from time to time the LORD shows me something more that needs to be restored in this area, but the major breakthrough has taken place. I've given my past to the LORD and I'm thankful He's brought me this far. Now my experiences, instead of just being a hindrance, can be used to help others who are hurting.

The Bible says, *"If any person is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* (II Corinthians 5:17) JESUS has made me a new person and given me a new life. I pray that you will find the same peace in GOD and forgiveness in your heart as I have. *"For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds," declares the LORD* (Jeremiah 30:17)

Setting the Captives Free

The following is devoted to giving further help and instruction to current victims of abuse, for whom there is help; their abusers, for whom there is hope; and for parents and responsible, caring citizens everywhere - who must look, listen and become involved.

Is someone abusing you right now?

If you're being sexually or physically abused, you must do something about it **RIGHT NOW!** You need to tell someone immediately and keep telling until you get the help you need.

There are people who will believe you - and they will help you. There is a way out of the nightmare you are in! If you don't know who to turn to, you can call

If you can't dial by yourself, just call 0 for the telephone operator and ask her to get the number for you. You can call day or night, seven days a week and they will get you help.

For those of you in other countries, call your local Police Department or Social Service Agency. And again, **KEEP TELLING** until you get the help you need!

Hope for the Abuser

Child abuse is a devastating sin, but it's **not** unforgivable. If you've abused someone there's an incredible burden of guilt and shame that weighs heavily on you. *Your* life has been affected as well. Your guilt cannot be hidden behind drugs, alcohol, or lies and it cannot be erased by just determining to "cope" with it. Whether it's in the past or something you're still practicing, you need the deliverance that only GOD can give you. You can't just "fix up" your old life, you need a brand new life from JESUS. You have been a slave to your appetites, but you can be set free if you are willing to pay the price. Though your actions have been wrong, there is somewhere you can go to be healed.

There is only one way to deal with this problem. The Bible says, *"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."* (Proverbs 28:13)

GOD **wants** to forgive you and pour out His compassion on you. He's the only One that can bring true peace and cleansing to your heart. But you **must** bring this problem out into the open.

First confess it to GOD, then to a trusted Christian counselor. If you are married, you will need to tell your mate as well, or your relationship will be based on lies. Then with all your heart, you must follow through with a decision to turn from your sin and **towards** GOD. *“Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD and HE WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON HIM... HE WILL ABUNDANTLY PARDON.” (Isaiah 55:7)*

GOD **delights** in being merciful and He is calling out to you right now. He says, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)* JESUS wants to lift your heavy burden of guilt. He wants to give you strength to overcome the power of sin in your life. There is **nothing** too hard for the LORD. He loves you just as much as He loves those you have hurt. He knows you are hurt too. You are a precious child to Him and He longs to cleanse you, heal you and fully make you His own. Admit your guilt to the LORD, asking Him to forgive you and allow JESUS to be the LORD of your life. For continued help and support, get involved with your local church or fellowship and commit yourself to be accountable to at least one mature counselor of the same sex to openly share your heart, your past and your prayers with on a regular basis. If you're **already** attending a church, you need to go to your pastor immediately and be totally honest.

Our Responsibility

How would you want others to respond if you were a child caught in the snare of sexual abuse?

JESUS said, *“Whatever you want others to do for you, do so for them.” (Matthew 7:12)* If you know or suspect sexual abuse in your family or anywhere else, you **must** do something about it. So many have chosen to “look the other way” that the government has **made a law about it**: If you know of a child abuse situation, you are legally responsible to report it to the authorities. **If you don't report it, you are breaking the law!** *“... do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11)* Child abuse is rarely an isolated incident and unless legal pressure is brought to bear, the abuser may go on for years abusing generations of children.

Signs of Child Abuse

It's easy to ignore signs that "something" might be wrong, but ignoring things won't change them. We don't want to breed undue suspicion, but this is a widespread problem and just being sensitive to things that seem out of place may mean the difference between a child's freedom or continued abuse.

Each situation is different, but the following things indicate some problems in general and could be warning signs of sexual abuse:

1. **Unusual** shyness or privacy regarding the body. Not wanting to undress in front of others at proper times may indicate feelings of an "unclean" body, or an attempt to hide tell-tale physical marks.
2. Sudden, extreme changes in behavior, such as reverting to bed-wetting or thumb-sucking, withdrawal, loss of appetite, nightmares, running away, failing at school, or a fear of adults, a particular person or place.
3. Unusual interest or knowledge of sexual matters, or expressing affection in ways inappropriate for a child that age. If a child is found instructing other children in sex-related play, he may be reenacting his own real life situation.
4. Torn or stained underclothing. Bleeding, abrasions, or swelling of the genitals or mouth.
5. Take note if you notice anyone showing affection to a child that appears sexual in nature, or making remarks about the child's body that seem out of order in terms of sexual attractiveness, etc.

If you discover an abusive situation, or if a child tells you he's been abused, it's **very important** that you offer loving support and reassurance. First of all, **believe** what he says. Children almost **never** lie about these things.

Be careful about your own reaction because a child can misinterpret your disgust or dismay as being directed towards him. Tell him that he didn't do anything wrong and that you are glad he told you. Finally, get help for the situation **immediately**.

Protecting Your Children

The key ingredient for protecting your children is open and honest communication with them in all areas - not just on the subject of sexual abuse. It's important your children know they can come talk to you about **anything**. Make time each day to find out how your kids are doing and what they are feeling - and be sure to really **listen**.

It's best when children learn about life in a natural, GODly, relaxed way - in terms appropriate for their age. As they grow we teach them names for their eyes, hands and feet - but we may fail to teach them about the "private parts" of their body. This can create a feeling of wrongness about what GOD designed to be beautiful. Your children will learn about sex from **someone**. The question is who, how and when. If you don't inform your children, they might be easier victims because they can be told "all the kids do this" and not know any differently. Seek GOD's wisdom and timing, but in general, if a child is old enough to ask, he's old enough to be told in terms he can handle and understand.

Training a child to **always** obey **every** adult can be dangerous. Your child needs to know that if an adult is asking him to do something he thinks is wrong or he feels “funny” about, it's okay to say “*no*” until he checks with you. Also, forcing your child to hug and kiss “Uncle Charlie” or others when he doesn't want to can be damaging. The message is: My authorities say I'm supposed to submit myself to things that are distasteful or uncomfortable to me. Children need to sense your protection. Remember, almost all child abuse is done by people the children know.

Teach your children that if someone ever says, “*Don't tell,*” “*Mommy will be mad,*” or “*It's a secret,*” they should come and tell you right away. Let them know you'll be glad they told you ... and be sure you are.

One particularly helpful concept is to talk to children about “good touch,” “bad touch” and “confusing touch.” You can simply explain: “Good touches” make you feel good; like hugs from mommy, petting your dog, or holding hands with daddy. “Bad touches” make you feel bad; like if a friend hits you, or if you are kicked at school. “Confusing touches” might start out good, but then make you feel bad or funny inside; like if you were sitting on someone's lap and then they started touching you in places you didn't like. Or if someone asked you to touch him somewhere that was scary for you.

Talk about these things with your children. Teach them that they always have the right to say “*NO*” - and to come tell you about it right away. A child needs to know that GOD made his body and that it's beautiful. But GOD gave his body to **him** and he doesn't have to let anyone touch his body in ways that make him feel funny, afraid, or bad.

Prayer of Release from Baphomet

(Freemasonry, the Occult, the New Age, Sexual Sin, Rape and so forth)

In the Name of Yeshua, I renounce and repent of all worship of the Baphomet goat GOD through my own sexual sin.

I renounce and repent of all worship of the Baphomet goat GOD through the sexual sin of my forefathers.

I confess and repent of my worship of Satan through sexual sin and renounce that worship, in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and repent of my involvement with the **zodiac stars**.

I renounce all **horoscopes** and reading of the stars.

I renounce and break all sun worship by my forefathers, in the Almighty Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break every effect of tarot card reading, clairvoyance and communication with the dead.

I repent of and renounce all worship of the planets, sun, moon and stars.

I renounce and break the GOD of mercury and the GOD of alchemy.

I break the spirit of clairvoyance off my life and command it to leave.

I cut all ties to Baphomet worship through freemasonry, druidism, the New Age, Mormonism and Hinduism in the Name of Yeshua.

I cut all ties to Baphomet worship through Islam.

I renounce and break every effect of the crescent moons of goat worship.

I renounce and break every effect and tie to the satanic bible and its **Baphomet seat**.

I renounce and break all **satanic magic, sex magic and sex alchemy**.

I renounce all curses of sodomy, bestiality and perversion that come from worshipping this, male, female and animal 'in-one', Azoth sexual deity.

I renounce and break every stronghold of sexual lust, sodomy, bestiality and perversion that has come down my (and my spouse's family line) and the family line of any other sexual partner in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break every tie to ritual abuse through worship of the goat-GOD.

I renounce and break every effect of the witchcraft symbolism of the **Baphomet-hand**.



I renounce and break every effect of the **black art and craft of the goat-GOD**.

I renounce and break **every tie to the goat**.

I renounce and break the **vows taken while sitting on the goat**.

I renounce and break every effect of the ceremony of **riding the goat**, the violence of that ceremony and the resulting fear.

I repent on behalf of my and my spouse's forefathers who have demonstrated their sworn loyalty to Lucifer through performing the **obscene kiss [kissing the goat's anus]**.

I renounce and break the effects of that kiss in Yeshua's Name and ask You Father to cleanse me of every vile effect that has come down the generation line.

I renounce the worship of satanic consummation, satanic ritual consummation and satanic ritual abuse.

I renounce and break off my life the **insanity** that comes from worship of the goat-GOD and **its spirit of bestiality**, in the Name of Yeshua.

I repent and break the **aphrodisiac of inflamed sexual lust** and **sexual addiction** coming from the **fire of the goat-GOD**.

I renounce and break the **seal of satan**, the **pentagram** on the forehead and the opening of the **psychic 'third eye'**.

I renounce and break off my forehead the **'Golden Triangle'** and its opening of the **psychic 'third eye'**, in the Name of Yeshua.

Father, I ask You to cleanse me from every dimension of the third eye and close that **psychic entry point**. I ask You to close all psychic entry points in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break off my life the **twisted horns of the goat-GOD** and all idolatry of and desire for the **twisted power of the goat-GOD**.

In the Name of Yeshua, I renounce and break every effect of the **horns of the goat-GOD** and break their power over my life and that of my family's life.

I smash the horns of satan off my life and that of my family's life.

I renounce and **break all brain damage** and **insanity** caused by the worship of this goat-GOD.

I renounce and break all fragmentation of the mind and personality in my family line and myself through the worship of the goat-GOD, bestiality and all abuse.

I break, bind and command to leave every power, principality, fallen angel, Nephilim and demon assigned to fragment my mind, in the Name of Yeshua.

I repent and break all **worship of the woman's breasts**, through the power of the goat-GOD and through **pornography**.

I renounce and break the **Baphomet tie to the woman's breasts to destroy, mutilate, maim and dismember**.

I renounce and break the **worship of female sexuality** especially through **pornography and oral sex**.

I repent of, renounce and break **masturbation**, known as the **mysteries of solitude**. I renounce the **mysteries of solitude**, I command the spirit of **masturbation** to leave me now, in the Name of Yeshua.

I repent, renounce and break the power of the **caduceus rod** over my life and its representation of **male sexuality and all sex, magic and death magic**.

I renounce and break the **power of the two snakes** around that rod and over my sexuality in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break the power of the **two snakes of that rod around my own spine** and command them to leave in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break every effect of **perverted sex and the poison of the two serpents**.

I renounce and break the **worship of the male phallic** and every compulsion and **lust to rape and to sodomise**, in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break the **desire to be sodomised and fantasy of being sodomised**.

I renounce and break every effect of being **the bride of satan** and being initiated and **sealed as the bride of satan** through rape and/or sodomy.

I renounce and break every effect of the **goat-GOD's cloven feet**, their uncleanness and their power to trample underfoot.

[Take a prophetic step forward as you renounce:]

I take myself out from **under the power of these feet** and declare the Baphomet goat-GOD is under my feet in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break every effect of being **terrorised by the goat-GOD** and I break all **night terror**.

I renounce and break the **false angel wings** of the goat-GOD, **all astral travel and every tie to the astral plane**.

I break the **wings of astral travel** and of the goat-GOD off my life.

[Men:] I renounce and break misogyny, the hatred of women and the wife I love, that comes from the goat-GOD. I declare I will not be a misogynist. I break misogyny off my life in the Name of Yeshua.

Or:

[Women:] I renounce and break misandry, the hatred of men and the husband I love, that comes from the goat-GOD. I break it off my life in the Name of Yeshua. I declare I will not be a misandrist in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break the spirit of the **misogynist and misandrist** off my life and command it and the spirit of **feminism and male chauvinism** to leave in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break misogamy, the **hatred of marriage**, that comes from the goat-GOD. I break it in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break **the absolute hatred of women**.

I renounce and break the **despising of men and the hatred** that comes from being used to satisfy their lust.

I renounce and break the **spirit of prostitution** that comes with **pornography** and the murder of the soul of the man through prostitution and the **absolute hatred of men**.

[Note: Pornography is prostitution because it is sex for money. It is not an excuse to say, as some have, "Oh but I did not pay for it". If for some reason someone had a freebie with a prostitute they would have still been with a prostitute.]

I renounce and break every effect of being **bathed in the darkness of satan** through the goat-GOD and sexual sin in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break every effect of the **death**

and hell of Apollyon coming from **pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, temple prostitution, sodomy, incest and polygamy** in the Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break the **spirit of whoredoms and prostitution** that comes with pornography.

I renounce and break **anger, rage and murder** that comes with Baphomet consummation and all satanic rape.

I renounce and break the **Baphomet symbolism of sex with a man, sex with a woman, sex with an animal and sex with a demon**. I break this perversion off my life in the Name of Yeshua.

I repent of, renounce and break all sex with **Incubus and Succubus demons** whether by invitation, through **masturbation** or otherwise.

I break the power of the **Incubus and Succubus spirits** off my life. I shackle and bind them and command them to leave in the Almighty Name of Yeshua.

[Fasting may be required to deal with either of these two demon spirits which can be a less than easy stronghold to deal with.]

I renounce and break every effect of **the Baphomet cross**, the grid of satan off my life. I break the **dedication to satan on that grid** and I take **myself off the grid** in the Almighty Name of Yeshua.

I renounce and break **every tie to Leviathan through Baphomet worship**.

I renounce and break every **effect of Kundalini and Kali**.

I renounce and break every effect of the **Lotus flame** coming out of the goat-GOD's head which I break off my life.

I renounce and break the **prince of devils, Om**, off my life.

I renounce and break every effect of the **bowing of yoga** and unifying with the spirit of the universe.

I renounce and break off my life the **seven chakras**, the **spinning wheels of yoga** and I close every one of those **psychic entry points**.

I renounce and break all **self-enlightenment, occult enlightenment and occult revelation – I renounce the mind of Lucifer.**

In the Name of Yeshua, I renounce and break every effect of **declaring ‘I am a GOD’.**

I renounce and break every effect of being in an **altered state of consciousness –** trance state

I bind every demon that came in through that state and command it to leave in the Almighty Name of Yeshua.

I bind and shackle every spirit of an **altered state of consciousness** and command them to leave me in the Name of Yeshua.

I ask You Father, to close **every psychic entity point or door to the astral plane and seal it closed.**

I bind and shackle **the spirit of the gatekeeper to the astral plane** and command it to leave me now in Yeshua’s Almighty Name.

I break every effect of these strongholds and I ask You Father, to cleanse me and seal every release in the Name of Yeshua.

Thank You Father, for delivering me.

Amen.

Priestly Blessing

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:27 *“In this way they are to put **My Name** on the people of Isra’el, so that I will **Bless** them.”*

