



### **Baphomet - An Esoteric Signification**

In contradistinction to all modern Occultists - be they self-described satanists, self-described followers of some Left Hand Path, self-described sorcerers, or something else - the Order of Nine Angles (O9A/ONA) has a unique tradition in respect of Baphomet, which is that Baphomet

(i) is a female name, used to describe a shapeshifting entity; a dark goddess to whom human sacrifices were, and are, dedicated and offered;

(ii) that this name most probably means *the Mother (Mistress) of Blood*;

(iii) that Baphomet is the mother and bride of Satan, and the mother of all the acausal entities - 'demons' - we know or have experienced over millennia.

(iv) that the now commonly accepted origins and meaning of Baphomet - such as those of Eliphas Levi et al - are esoterically incorrect.

As conventionally described Baphomet is (a) associated with a male idol rumoured to be connected to the medieval Knights Templar, and (b) associated with the figure - The Goat of Mendes - described and illustrated in works by Eliphas Levi, and subsequently by the Rider-Waite Tarot (Major Arcana XV) and the sigil used by LaVey et al, and (c) described by Crowley as male and derived

from Mithras.

As recounted in O9A esoteric aural tradition, and as iconoclastically described in an O9A MS dating from the early 1980s and included in volume I of Hostia, published in 1992:

The name of Baphomet is regarded by Traditional Satanists as meaning "the mistress (or mother) of blood" - the Mistress who sometimes washes in the blood of her foes and whose hands are thereby stained. [See The Ceremony of Recalling.]

The supposed derivation is from the Greek βαφή μητρὶς and not, as is sometimes said, from μήτιος (the Attic form for 'wise'). Such a use of the term 'Mother'/Mistress was quite common in later Greek alchemical writings - for example Iamblichus in "De Mysteriis" used μητρίζω to signify possessed by the mother of the gods. Later alchemical writings tended to use the prefix to signify a specific type of 'amalgam' (and some take this to be a metaphor for the amalgam of Sol with Luna, in the sexual sense). In the Septenary System, Baphomet, as Mistress of Earth, is linked to the sixth sphere (Jupiter) and the star Deneb. She is thus in one sense a magickal "Earth Gate" (qv. the Nine Angles), and Her reflexion (or 'causal' nature - as against Her acausal or Sinister nature) is the third sphere (Venus) related to the star Antares [...]

The Traditional depiction of Baphomet [is of] a beautiful mature woman (often shown naked) holding up the severed head of the sacrificed priest (usually shown bearded).

Which iconoclasm naturally led self-described modern Occultists to, yet again, criticize the O9A, even though such critics had (and have so far) never bothered to, or lacked the erudition and esoteric knowledge to, write a scholarly riposte to the evidence provided by the O9A. Evidence such as:

**βαφή:** dyeing, dipped in, stained; and a metaphor for blood, qv. Aeschylus, Πέρσαι, vv. 316-7

πυρρὰν ζαπληθῆ δάσκιον γενειάδα  
ἔτεγγ' ἀμείβων χρώτα πορφυρέα βαφῆ

**μητρὶς:** motherland; qv. Pausaniae Graeciae Descriptio, Book X, chapter 24, 2

μητρὶς δέ τοι οὐ πατρὶς ἔστιν

**μήτηρ:** mother; qv. Hesiod, Ἔργα καὶ Ἡμέραι, 563, where the expression 'mother of all' occurs:

εἰσόκεν αὐτίς γῆ πάντων μήτηρ καρπὸν σύμμικτον ἐνείκη

**μητις/μήτιος**: wise, skilled, craft. The form μήτιος occurs in Pindar, Nemean Odes, 3, 9

τᾶς ἀφθονίαν ὄπαζε μήτιος ἀμᾶς ἄπο

**μητρίζω**: possessed by the mother of the gods, Iamblichus, De Mysteriis, III, 9, 10

οἱ τῷ Σαβαζίω κάτοχοι καὶ οἱ μητρίζονες

Thus the O9A explanation of the origin of the term, and their various depictions of a female Baphomet, is far more plausible - esoterically, and otherwise - than the conventional explanations and depictions. Furthermore, it should come as no surprise that the O9A has for decades used the term Baphomet as one of their many tests for mundane-ness, since

"if someone uses, for example, the 'standard' accepted explanation of Baphomet, and Laveys inverted pentagram, it is a reasonable conclusion that they have just accepted such things as "truth". The ONA alternative - the ONA heresy in such matters - should cause them to pause, if, that is, they possess some genuine, innate, Occult ability; if they have the qualities to progress along the Sinister Path. The ONA alternative should set them thinking, for themselves; should point them toward doing their own research, and even using, developing, their latent Occult abilities."

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Image credit: A modern esoteric depiction of Baphomet. Banais, by Richard Moul

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