

Episode #005 – The Nature Of Nature

The Infinite and the Beyond

An esoteric podcast for the introspective pagan mind hosted by Chris Orapello
www.infinite-beyond.com

❖ Show Introduction

- Its Wednesday, May14^h 2009 Thanks for joining us again. MM, BB, 93, hello and welcome to the fifth episode of “The Infinite and the Beyond,” an esoteric podcast for the introspective pagan mind. Where we explore a variety of topics which relate to life and one’s unique spiritual journey. I am your host Chris Orapello.
- Intro music by George Wood.
- In this episode we discuss very many things. We have a talk about the nature of magick. We listen to another track from The Evolutionaries. We continue with our journey through the Kybalion. We learn about Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers in *A Corner in Occult*. And to close, we ponder the nature of nature.
- Glad to be back after six weeks since the combocast with Haunted NJ and I want to say welcome to any new listeners I’m happy you found the show and hello again to old listeners. Nice to have you all back for the fifth installment of The Infinite and the Beyond. I hope you all find this episode thought provoking and enjoyable!

❖ Announcements

- Happy belated Beltane or Samhain! Whether you’re descending into Fall or emerging into Spring may the up and coming months be stress free and filled with love, happiness, and positive growth. Brightest Blessings to you all!
- The show finished in the top ten in the Religious and Spirituality category on Podcast Alley by the end of April. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for the show and I hope to have your continued support this month on Podcast Alley.
- If you happen to subscribe to the show via iTunes be sure to rate and review the show as this feedback will help strengthen the show standing in the eyes of the iTunes Gods. Thank you to Nocciva and to Fox from Pagan Parents on the Edge for leaving wonderful reviews of the show on iTunes!
- And for those of you on Pagenspace.net... Just so you know, I have been completely unable to log into Pagenspace.net. So, if you’ve friended me or messaged me on there, and have yet to hear from me, this is why. I can’t log in and I can’t contact anyone on that site for help. It seems to be having a lot of problems right now. If it doesn’t change them I may just abandon what I have on there because I can’t do anything about it. Sorry to those who friended me and who joined the group page on there, but my hands are tied on this one.

- Oh and if you recall back in episode 1 my mentioning the documentary “The Mindscape of Alan Moore” about comic book author Alan Moore, just as a follow-up to that mention, Alan Moore was interviewed on episode 4 of The Disinformation Podcast back in the beginning of March.
- Attention New York City listeners, Dan Sturges Paranormal Lecture series is happening @ the Polaris North Theatre 245 W 29 Street 4th floor between 7 & 8th Ave New York, NY 10001
 - ◆ \$15 in advance \$20 at the door
 - ◆ May 31, 2009 with Al Rauber
 - ◆ June and July lectures as well
- And for those local to Philadelphia, the 108th Annual Student Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts opened to the public Friday, May 8 2009 and is in the Samuel M.V. Hamilton Building. If you don’t know, the school is located at the intersection of Broad and Cherry which is just two blocks north of City Hall. As a graduating Masters student I have work in the exhibition along with the other second year Graduate students and the 3 and 4 year certificate students. It was a big event and if you’re in the area you should go and check it out! I believe its \$6 to get in and the show will be up until May 31st.
- Also Pax over at the Chrysalis Blog has declared this June to be International Pagan Values Blogging Month and he already has a handsome list of people participating in his blogathon, including yours truly. *WinkWink* He has posted about it on his blog of which a link will be found in the show notes. So, if you’re interested in participating or partaking of the event please check it out. It’s a great idea which will inspire new thought and growth in the international community and from the looks of it, it may become a yearly event. So check it out!

❖ **Thank You!**

- (Background Music: “The Eternal” by Lumiloop)
- It’s been over a month so there are a lot of thank-yous to dole out.
- Thank you to Amanda from Ontario, Tressa from Venlo, D. Boden from Ireland, Robin from England, Samantha from the UK, BlindPig93 from San Antonio, Antony, Jeremy, and Oraia the Sphinx from Media Astra Ac Terra Podcast for joining the show Frappr map.
- Thank you to Ptoner from Belfast for joining the show frappr map as well but for also for being the first listener to join the show forum! Glad to have you there and I’m looking forward to what you have to say. Just to let everyone know that the show forum and the new chat room, can be accessed through the show website. Did I say chat room? Yes I did! Come by and visit the new show chat room and talk with me and other listeners of the show. Help make The Infinite and the Beyond your pagan community.
- Thank you to HadesArchon for using the chess.com link supplied on the about page of the show website to challenge me to a game of chess. I’m just sorry I won due to time, let’s do a rematch!

- Thank you to the many new faces on the Facebook group as well as on PaganSpace.net. The group on Facebook has really exploded with members in the last month. Thanks to everyone who joined!
- Thank you to Douglas Hornick from Niigata City, Japan who alerted me to a problem with the third episode. Apparently something happened with the hosting company which affected one’s ability to download the third episode. Thanks Doug for informing me about that glitch as I would not have known otherwise. This reminds me, if anyone ever has a problem with downloading the show, please be sure to let me know.
- And thank you most of all to all the patient listeners of this podcast. It’s been a while since I did an episode and I want to say I’m sorry, but the last month was insanely busy. I had my thesis paper due which can be read on the art website at www.chrisorapello.com; I had to get my work ready for the Annual Student Exhibition at school, I moved in with my girlfriend, and I graduated. Every night and weekend was consumed by everything that was going on which kept me from being able to work on the show so I apologize. If you happen to follow or read the show blog you knew all this already as I had been posting about it on there. If you ever have a question about what is going on with the show check the blog as I post everything show related there and like the forum and the chat room, the blog can be accessed via the show website.

❖ As of Late...

- Battlestar Gallactica has ended and I actually liked the ending. I know some people probably had some issues with it, but I was glad to see them address all of the lingering mysteries in the show, tie everything together, and actually provide the series with a conclusion. I particularly got a kick out of the Blade Runner reference where William Adama was sitting in the room strapped in to what looked like a lie detector and was being asked random questions by some official man to see whether or not he was a cylon. *laughs* If you didn’t know Edward James Olmos, the actor who played Admiral Adama was in the movie Blade Runner so you know the reference was intentional and probably a point of humor for those making the show. And if you have yet to see the starter movie for the new series called Caprica, check it out! It looks like it’s going to be another great television show.
- During the time since the third episode, some you may have noticed or even listened to the combocast that my girlfriend Tara and I did with some of the guys from Haunted New Jersey. It wasn’t a usual episode for any of us since there was a band rehearsing in the other room which made any EVP analysis or conversation difficult. It was nice to see Garrett and Gordon again. Since The Infinite and the Beyond has a structure and segments which its listeners enjoy and look forward to, I labeled the episode as being a combocast with Haunted New Jersey and gave it its own show graphic to distinguish it from regular show so as not to confuse or mislead any of you listening. It was even a hard decision for me to number it as one of the show episodes because it is so

different from one of the regular shows, but at the same time I wanted it to fall in line with the show archive chronologically for the sake of future listeners. So, it became episode #004.

- And if you haven't checked out the combocast, you should! It's a really fun episode to listen to. We'll be doing more in the future from time to time as they are a nice contrast to the regular episodes of The Infinite and the Beyond while introducing the listeners to the guys of Haunted New Jersey. The next combocast is planned for sometime during the summer.
- *Crowley* horror movie written by Bruce Dickenson from Iron Maiden...

❖ Segway

- We're going to take a short break and when we come back we're going to explore The Nature of Magick. I think this will give even you experienced practitioners something to think about. So, catch you on the flip-side.

❖ Promo and Bumper

- Promo from Lakefront Pagan Voice with Scarlet
- Promo: A Witch's Primer with Ariel
- Bumper from Dee of Pagan FM

❖ Segment: The Nature of Magick

- (Background Music: “Telepathic Communication” by Alexandre Falcao)
- I suppose that it wouldn't be too assumptive on my part to imagine that most listeners of this show already have an understanding of magick, what it is, how to use it, and the various ways in which one can perform and apply magick in their daily life. But for the benefit of any listener who may be new to this concept of magick of which there are some, allow me to explain it to you before we go into some of the greater issues surrounding the nature of it.
- In its most rudimentary form, magick is about creating change through the application of will. Like in many situations, in order for us to initiate change we have to act and in order to act we have to will ourselves to do so. This is how conscious beings initiate change in the world, but to create change via magick we need to do a little more because not only is magick about action, it is also about projection. By projection I mean sending our will into the cosmos with the intention that it will manifest in the world.
- This act of projection can be done in many different ways and with a variety of techniques. No one technique is superior or more effective in and of itself; it just may work better for the individual as opposed to the use of another since we're all different in that regard.

- Since magick is about focusing and manifesting the will of the individual, it is primarily a mental act, which can be enhanced or triggered via physical objects or methods which serve as tools to the practitioner. The method used is up to the individual as are the tools and words which may or may not be incorporated into one’s magickal working. These elements are all symbols in themselves since they stand for things which go to serve the focus of the will and aid in the outcome of the working. Symbols speak to our subconscious mind and help to align it with the conscious mind during workings. This is because while the conscious mind is focusing on the object, the subconscious mind is focusing on the meaning and purpose of the object in regards to the magickal working.
- Most magickal techniques are what are referred to as being sympathetic magick which applies the theory of *like attracts like and like produces like* making them techniques of association. Meaning if I create a thing to represent something in my life, whatever I do to that thing is transferred to that which it represents. In honor of mother’s day, the childhood chant “step on a crack, break your mother’s back” is similar to this idea though I never managed to break my mother’s back. Just kidding. The magickal altar also represents this as well, as being a surface for manifestation. On a side note, my altar is set up to embody the divine order of existence and so if my altar becomes disordered and cluttered then this will/may, in turn, draw disorder and cluttered into my life.
- One of the things needed to perform magick successfully is a change in the perception of the practitioner since the individual cannot feasibly address the cosmos if they are too consumed with the thought that they are simply in a room and doing something which they feel is somewhat absurd or foolish on some level. Thoughts such as these may be deterrents as they will diminish the effect and or the reality of magick in the eyes of the practitioner. Because if one is working magick then it would be expected that on some level they view what they are doing as being legitimately real. To illustrate this change in perception, it is in some way similar to what one does when they pray. If you don’t think deity will hear you when you pray then why do it? So when we pray, we do so knowing that we can be heard by the divine when we speak to it regardless of where we are or the conditions under which we are praying. This change in perception allows us to make a connection that exists outside of ourselves and beyond what we are experiencing in our immediate surroundings.
- **(Introduce: New Music for the exercise)**
- To further illustrate this notion of perception, try this little exercise: With your eyes open, recognize that you are a point in space. Where are you? Is it a room? Are you in a car? Or an open building? Are you acknowledging and processing the ceiling above you, the walls around you, or the floor beneath you without even realizing it? Can you feel the space around you with your mind? Go ahead and try... Now expand your mental awareness and acknowledge beyond where you are and what you can see around you. Try and feel what exists outside of where you are. Now feel where you are within your state or country. Are you on the eastern, southern, western, or northern most edge? Are you in the middle? ...Now, where are you on the

planet? What exists to the distant east, south, west, and north of you? What exists beyond the horizon? Don't just think about it, acknowledge that it is there in relation to where you are now; know that as I speak to you and the other listeners out there that we are all underneath the same sky.... Now expand your awareness to the vast cosmos... Are you realizing that you are upon a giant object that is spinning through space even though you can't feel it? Are you realizing that beneath that object, upon which you are on, there is an infinite emptiness which extends out into what we only know of as limitless blackness? In acknowledging this, do you now feel different? You should. I actually feel a little dizzy right now just talking about it. Our awareness does so much for us as people of this planet. Often times we are lulled into only taking in that which we can immediately observe and experience with our senses, regardless of the greater universe that we each exist within on a daily basis, we usually forget that it is there until nightfall when we can then see it for ourselves. And often our opinions and understandings about the world color and effect our perceptions as well.

➤ **(Music: Bring back “Telepathic Communication” by Alexandre Falcao)**

➤ Previously I mentioned prayer which is often similar to a magickal evocation or incantation. An important prayer which illustrates this point is the *Our Father* of the Catholic faith:

◆ *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

➤ Though this is a short prayer, this beginning section is an introduction as it lets the individual reciting the prayer and the deity hearing the prayer, know that they are being addressed. Similar to introducing the leader of a country, there is a name given and then an acknowledgement of them. The prayer continues...

◆ *Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

➤ This second section is then where the individual requests something of the deity, stating terms, and returns that will be followed and awarded to them which is then finished with the word 'Amen' which means “so be it,” “truly,” or “verily.” It is a statement of agreement, but also one of finality and projection. Making that which was said an affirmation of truth or even similar to a form of conjuration, being similar to the Wiccan, “So Mote it Be.”

➤ I'm not picking on Catholicism, so please don't think so. I decided to use a prayer from a non-pagan religion to illustrate how another religion utilizes magick in some form or another as it is a necessary aspect of religious dialogue and interaction with divinity and the manifested world. For example: all religious cleansings and blessings are also acts of magick, The lighting of candles for people, and most if not all forms of religious rites are as well, just to name a few more.

- One of the other elements required to work magick is one’s magickal intent. This implies a pure knowledge of one’s needs and desires. It is the sole reason behind the working because it is the motivator, but it is also the desired outcome of the working. Determining one’s intent is not always easy to do since what we think want may not actually be what we want, not to mention the host of potential outcomes which may result as a manifestation of one’s intent which is where qualifiers come in to ensure a proper focus and desire. An example of a qualifier would be adding “with harm to none” at the end of stating one’s intent and would be used to fortify that you know what you want as much as what you don’t want in regards to an outcome.
- So, with a regard for the effectiveness of magick, a carefully composed magickal intent, a selected process or technique, and a finishing element whether it be an *Amen* or a *So Mote it be*. A conclusion which seals the working for the practitioner and indicates that the working is over. This certain ending should be realized with the notion that their intent will now result and manifest in their life as having been desired.
- Now that we have a basic understanding of magick, this then lead us to where I want to be with this discussion which is a sticky area regarding the reality and nature of magick. An issue that many have pondered and one which no answer can be determined. That being, if we didn’t work a particular magickal working would things have manifested in a similar way and manner anyway? Did the magick actually work or are we simply acknowledging something as being its manifestation?
- Much like religion, magick is subjective and a lot of what it is to us is determined by our perception, but since we can’t observe what would have happened had we not performed a particular magickal working, we’ll never be able to determine its actual effect in the world unless we have access to a time machine or the sudden ability to jump into the past and alter it, like in the movie *The Butterfly Effect*. I for one would rather have a time machine like the flying DeLorean equipped with the Mr. Fusion at my disposal, but that’s another issue in itself... (ah, Mr. Fusion...)
- What is reality then to the magickian? Should one live purely objectively or subjectively? Or can we have both? On one hand we often can’t dispute the feelings we get from magick and its effects, as some are just too personal and they will always remain that way. But yet on the other hand magick could just be in our heads and something which we choose to see in the world. Regardless of your feelings on the matter we all live through our minds and our perceptions will always be subjective to us. At what point do we allow the subjective to be a seeming ‘objective reality’ as far as we are concerned? Can some things be indisputable even to our selves regardless if they can be disputed by others? Even a materialist is a victim to their subjective mind, they just require more substance and explanation, of which addresses their current knowledge enabling them to fortify their understanding. To put it another way the veil before their eyes just exists at a greater distance from where they stand. You have to wonder how subjective is objectivity? After all, how many times in history has science reconfigured our objective reality? I always like to remember that at one time the world was flat and covered by

a dome until of course our knowledge exceeded our previous understanding upon which an adjustment had to be made in our understanding. Now the world is a sphere which routinely spins around the sun within a great cosmic soup, of what is now referred to as dark matter? Who knows? One generation’s understanding is the next’s one’s amusement. My point that our perceptions affect many areas of our life many we don’t often realize.

- In this way we can view science as humanity’s means of escaping the subjectivity of the mind.
- I never studied philosophy to the extent that many of you may have and some of you may be thinking, “Really? No kidding, because you’re not realizing blah, blah, blah...” Which is fine, if this is the case please let me know because I would like to benefit from your insight as much the other listeners may.
- To continue, because we can observe and recognize any apparent relative result as a manifestation of our magickal workings, is Magick a self-fulfilling prophecy? I suppose a complete opposite result may prove otherwise, but one could also just interpret this as a mistake on their part as if they did something wrong in the working. Of course then there are absurd magickal requests which in themselves defy the laws of the manifested world and will never manifest because they are physically impossible. Magickal manifestation, like us, is a physical phenomenon; we can only witness its results on the physical plain. If we want something to occur outside of ourselves then it will form in conjunction with the world and not simply appear out-of-thin-air as is often portrayed in stories or on TV.
- Another issue, which was raised in Episode #002, in regards to magick is if we have a personal connection with the divine, do we need magick? Cannot the divine provide us with what we need as we need it? Would not they simply know our needs before we make a request? I suppose they would, but I can also agree with the need to ask, or perform a magickal working if a change is needed in my life especially if I possess the ability to create that change. I’m not asking these questions or having this discussion to spoil anyone’s beliefs or practices, but this is what happens when one really looks into their practices, and even over analyzes them; exploring what they do and why they do it. Unfortunately, the prevailing problem being that when we pose a question in regards to something which can’t ultimately be proven or debunked is that we can never find a proper answer, or for that matter truth. In turn, to prevent a feeling of loss or frustration by our lack of answers, we are forced to find comfort in the mysteries we uncover in relation to the questions we ask and when and where on our journey we decide to stop asking and accept the unknown for what it is.
- So, the nature of magick is something which exists within our being and in our perception of the cosmos and may be something which we observe or take note of in the world around us, but may not be entirely provable as an objective reality. But, whatever it is, it is a form of communication which we will go into further when we discuss the first principle of the Kybalion later in this episode.

❖ Music?

- Back in episode #003 I played “Simple Pleasure by The Evolutionaries and I accidentally said that it came from the album *We are evolving*. I was mistaken. That track actually came from the album *The Shape of the Exterior* which was released in 2007. And to make up for that mistake, and because I just like the song, I would like to play a track from their album *Normalized*. Here is *Fade* by The Evolutionaries.
- (Play Song)
- If you liked what you’ve heard from The Evolutionaries so far then be sure to check them out at www.the-evolutionaries.com where you can download free mp3s that they make available or purchase their albums.

❖ Contest Mention

- When I was going through the many items found in my apartment during the move, I came across some resin wall pentacles that I made which I couldn’t easily get rid of so I’ve decided to make some use of them by turning them into contest prizes for the show. They’re about eight inches or 20.32 centimeters in diameter, black and silver in color, and will be signed on the back by yours truly. The winner of the contest will be determined by a drawing. If you wish to be included in the drawing all you have to do is two things...
 - ◆ 1) Go to the show website and join the frappr map.
 - ◆ 2) Message me through the show website by visiting the contact page. When you fill out the form select Contest #005, provide an address to where the item can be shipped, and be sure that the name you used to join the frappr map is either used in your message or at least included so I know it’s you.
 - ◆ Make sure that your entry is in by (????????????) as I will do the drawing in the next episode.

❖ Show Segway

- Later in this episode we’re going to talk about The Nature of Nature as well as have our second installment to The Kybalion as we discuss the first principle of the text, the Principle of Mentalism, but first it’s time for Linda Holzer to play the sweet sounds of Mozart underneath a warm blanket of occult history with A Corner in the Occult.

❖ Segment: A Corner in the Occult “Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers”

- (Background Music: “Piano Quartet in g 3rd Movement by Mozart” performed by Linda Holzer)
- Hello and welcome to “A Corner in the Occult” Where we focus on one part or person from the history of occultism. In these regular segments, I touch upon many aspects of the occult and I hope to offer you something new or at least something to think about. The information presented is always done so in the best

manner possible in regards to its content and accuracy depending on the available sources. There is a lot in occultism that one may never choose to look into, and here you have the opportunity to learn about something which you may have never bothered to investigate. And oddly enough there are a lot of people who may not be that aware of whom today’s topic is on...

- Samuel Liddell “Macgregor” Mathers was born on January 8th of 1854 in London, England. Though his birth name was Samuel Liddell Mathers, the name Macgregor was added by Mathers later in life as a means of honoring his reported Scottish heritage. As a child he attended Bedford Grammar School. His father, William M. Mathers, had been a commercial clerk and died during Mathers’ early childhood after which his mother had moved from London to Bournemouth where they lived until her death in 1885.
- In his early life he held an interest in boxing and fencing, but as an adult Mathers was an unusual individual for the times he was living in. He was a strong vegetarian, an anti-vivisectionist, and an early fighter for women’s rights all of which were possibly adopted by him due to his association with Dr. Anna Kingsford, a friend of his, who also held similar values. And unlike virtually every other man of his time, Mathers was a non-smoker. Also according to William Butler Yeats, aside from having a passion for magic, Mathers also studied “the theory of war” a peculiar interest despite his other apparent passions and values of which were previously mentioned.
- In 1877 Mathers became a Freemason and was initiated into Hengest Lodge No. 195 located in Bournemouth. He was sponsored by E.L.V. Rebbeck, who was a well-known real estate agent at the time. In less than 18 months Mathers became a third degree Master Mason, which for the time was fast unlike in some jurisdictions of today.
- It is said that Mathers was introduced to Freemasonry by Frederick Holland who was a Rosicrucian, possibly a Freemason himself, and who was even reported to be one of Mathers’ neighbors in Bournemouth. Holland was also a student of Alchemy and the Qabbalah and is even said to have introduced Mathers to Occultism of which during this time was found to be a common interest of those individuals who participated in the many esoteric and fraternal organizations of the time.
- Though after only five years as a Master Mason, Mathers resigned from his mother lodge in 1882 to apparently pursue his occult studies which caused him to join the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia also referred to as the S.R.I.A. a decision most likely influenced by Frederick Holland. It was in the S.R.I.A. where Mathers met Dr. William Robert Woodman and William Wynn Westcott who, apart from being Rosicrucians, were also Freemasons. This meeting would then cultivate one of the most influential esoteric organizations of the 20th century, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. In 1885, Mathers moved to London and joined Anna Kingsford's Hermetic Society. As a member he delivered his first major lecture, and published his translation of *The Kabbalah Unveiled* with help from William Westcott.

- In 1887 Mathers met Mina Bergson who was the sister of Nobel prize winning philosopher Henri Bergson and in 1888 his primary occult legacy would begin to unfold. It was during this time that Mathers was contacted by William Westcott in regards to a mysterious cipher manuscript that he received from a friend. The manuscript outlined a curriculum and grade system dealing with Hermeticism, the Qabalah, Astrology, Occultism, Alchemy, Geomancy, and Magick. This legendary document would become the foundation for the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and Mina Bergson would go on to not only become the first initiate of the Order, but she would also become Mather's wife in 1890.
- Mathers was initially contacted by Westcott to take what was outlined in the manuscript and turn it into a fully functioning system. Mathers is often credited with authoring the many rituals and degrees of the Order as well as its teachings. Along with the previously mentioned traditions Mathers also include Enochian magic and Egyptian mythology into the themes and rituals of the Order.
- Along with fellow Rosicrucian William Robert Woodman, Westcott and Mathers founded Isis-Urania temple in London of 1888 which was the first temple of the Golden Dawn. Isis-Urania is where the details regarding the structure of the Golden Dawn and its rituals were worked out in the early years of the Order and the success of this temple led to the formation of Amen-Ra Temple which was founded in Edinburgh during 1893.
- Since his marriage three years prior, Mathers assumed leadership of the Order due to the death of William Robert Woodman in 1891 who was previously placed in charge of the Order due to his status in the local esoteric and fraternal communities.
- While in the Golden Dawn, Mathers used two mottos. One was his Outer Order motto being the motto of the MacGregor clan and the other comes from a Mars talisman. The first being S.R.M.D. which stands for S' Rioghail Mo Dhrem, meaning "Royal is my race." And the other being D.D.C.F. which stands for Deo Duce Comite Ferro, meaning "God as my guide, my companion a sword."
- Shortly after assuming leadership of the Order, Mathers moved to Paris in 1892 where he primarily lived the rest of his life, apparently running the Golden Dawn through letters and occasional visits. Though within ten years time the growing order would split due to internal conflict between its members causing Mathers to assemble those who remained loyal to him into a new order which he called the *Alpha et Omega*.
- Mathers died on November 20th of 1918. His death was reportedly due to influenza of which there was an epidemic at the time, though this detail is unconfirmed.
- During his life Mathers was a prolific writer and translator of many occult and esoteric texts, some of which include *The Key and Lesser Key of Solomon the King*, *The Book of the Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage*, and *The Grimoire Armadel*. His other writings can be found within the many remaining source books on The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. And concepts of magic and ritual as written out by Mathers through the

Golden Dawn have become core elements of many other religious and magickal traditions including both Wicca and Thelema and nearly all forms of modern High Magick.

- Some of those individuals who studied under Mathers as a result of their involvement with him include Irish poet William Butler Yeats; author Bram Stoker; actress Florence Farr; and occult authors Arthur Edward Waite, Dion Fortune, and Aleister Crowley, just to name a few historic individuals who were all influenced by Mathers in some way or another. And Mathers’ legacy still continues to this day as his books are still made available and his rituals are still being utilized and applied by magickal practitioners all around the world.
- Thank you. This has been another Corner in the Occult.
- Suggestions for A Corner in the Occult are welcomed and encouraged so please be sure to contact the show online via the website or through the show forum.

❖ Pagan Podcast Promo

- Promo: Media Astra Ac Terra with Oraia Sphinx
- (Background Music:???)
- Thanks Oraia for making that promo for your show available online and thank you for playing this show’s promo in the recent episodes of your podcasts! If you haven’t listened to Oraia’s podcast Media Astar Ac Terra you should. It’s a new show and she always has some great insight and information to share as well as her own personal take on a subject or issue. She’s currently has five episodes and is based in Massachusetts. Her show, Media Astra Ac Terra can be found at <http://sphinx.libsyn.com/> or if you like visit the links page of this shows website and scroll down to Pagan Podcasts. You will find her show listed with the other available pagan podcasts that I have listed on the show website.

❖ Short Segment: Poor Eliphas Levi...

- I just want to revisit the Corner in the Occult segment on Eliphas Levi from Episode #003 because after listening to the segment several times I began to realize something about his ritual summoning of Apollonius of Tyana. And, yes I listen to my own show. I listen to it a lot actually. Hey, I’m an artist by nature and its customary for me to critique and analyze my own work. I mean, how am I able to improve if I don’t revisit my past and notice what worked and what didn’t. Anyway, I was listening to the segment on Levi and I found the details regarding his summoning to be extremely amusing.
- If you don’t recall he had been fasting for 21 days prior to performing the ritual. The room he did the working in was supplied for him by the woman who requested the working. The room was filled with smoke as a result of Levi burning wood in the chafing dishes and the spirit manifested itself while he conducted his summoning with his eyes shut. Upon seeing the spirit wrapped in a species of shroud Levi got unusually cold and found himself

unable to speak. He then pointed his ritual sword at the being to command it mentally to obey him upon which it vanished in the smoke filled room. Something then reportedly touched his arm causing it to go numb from the elbow down which caused him to lower the sword. The spirit then re appeared after which Levi then passed out.

- Judging from the retelling of the account, can you figure out why this was Levi’s only reported ritual summoning?
- HE GOT the CRAP scared out of him! LOL. Think about it. That’s why he went cold, couldn’t speak, got weak, and eventually passed out! And his arm probably went numb because of how tense and freaked out he was and feeling someone unknown touch his arm when he was suppose to be the only one in the room probably didn’t help. LOL. The situation he was in sounded strikingly similar to a late 19th century séance when a ghost, who looked a lot like the medium that was usually locked in a cabinet, emerged from the same cabinet to interact with those who attended the séance. The spirit who appeared in the room with Levi was probably the woman who requested the ceremony in the first place. Since she provided the room, it could have easily had somewhere for her to hide until she could make her presence known. Remember that the room was also filled with smoke and Levi had his eyes shut at one time during the summoning giving whomever the opportunity to walk out into the open. So, when you think about it, he was more than likely set up by someone! Reading Levi’s account of the experience now makes me laugh because I tend to feel that his explanation of the event was his way of covering his ass because he didn’t want to admit that he got so scared, but instead seems to attribute the physical effects that he experienced as him being under the influence of the spirit. I even wonder if I am right about him being tricked or that, judging from his story, if he even knew that he was set up in the first place.
- You know? Think about if you knew some arrogant magickian who claimed to summon demons on a regular basis why wouldn’t you get dressed up in a costume and try to scare him some night if you knew he was going to be summoning something?

❖ Short Segment: A little Tale of Will

- **(Previous music fades enter quiet ambient music with rain)**
- On Friday April 3rd, I woke up early and managed to meet the Brethren for breakfast. The guys of my lodge meet Friday mornings at a local diner for breakfast and on the days when I can crawl out of bed I’ll meet them. On this particular day, after having breakfast with them, upon getting in to my car to head to school, something inside said, “No, just go home and do work there.” It felt right after all, and I had my thesis to finish for the following Monday so it made sense to head home instead of going to school to work in my studio. Later that morning (**THUNDER**), the thunderstorm which had been predicted, hit the area, and an hour after that I received this email regarding the transit service I use for school.

- ◆ “Due to electrical problems, PATCO service has been suspended between Philadelphia and New Jersey. ...NJ Transit is honoring PATCO tickets.”

➤ Talk about Do What Thou Wilt! If I had gone to school my commute home would have been seriously inconvenienced. Glad I stayed home instead!

❖ Letters and Messages

- Since the last episode....
- We’ve had some great feedback on Podcast Alley and I want to say thank you to those who left comments for the show. Your support and messages are always appreciated.
- Andy Guithrie from Scotland wrote:
 - *Hi Christopher, I love your show keep up the good work, all the best and BB, Andy.*
 - (response adlibbed)
- VG Lovecraft wrote on Podcast Alley:
 - *Greetings, Chris! Wanted to let you know that I love the podcast thus far! I really appreciated your comments about coven membership in the last episode. I am an Eclectic Pagan, so I am neither Wicca nor Thelemite, though I have read some of Cunningham’s books. Many thanks for creating such an informative and entertaining podcast. Keep it up! Blessed Be!*
 - (response adlibbed)
- Rueben wrote (on Podcast Alley):
 - *Outstanding job! I wanted to congratulate you on your success with your podcast, I bought me a Zune about 2 months ago and have been looking through podcasts listed on the Zune website and found the Infinite and the Beyond. I instantly downloaded all the available episodes and have enjoyed listening to them. I have played them multiple times and listen to them regularly over and over. I just started today 3-5-09, listening to the Podcast (Pagan FM), and have enjoyed it. I wanted to say thank you for explaining the origins of Baphomet in episode two. That is the one I have listened to most. Just to let you know, I am a pagan individual who has respect for all people’s beliefs. My biggest problem I have had was with my family. My Dad is a born again Christian of 9 yrs. and I am both pagan and am gay, and my Dad just found out about the gay issue about 2 years ago but doesn’t know about my beliefs, and even though he doesn’t say he has a problem with it, I still feel the tension whenever I go around him. I have been in several wiccan groups and have ran into the same issue that you mentioned before about people bickering over who was in charge or who was lead. Another common thing I have noticed is that like in some of the churches I have been in, some wiccans at the groups put on show, it seems as though to get attention. I just want to say people, "Be yourself, be natural. If you’re putting on a show then you might be sending the wrong signals to those*

around you". Well, I didn't mean to ramble on for so long as I have....srry. I wanted to say thank you again for the great podcasts, and keep up the good work. Oh, btw, my name is Rueben. Take care and blessed be.

- (response adlibbed)

➤ Darlene in CA posted on Facebook:

▪ *Hey Chris! Any news with the ghost cat?*

- *Yea, Darlene, I'm not sure what to make of the ghost cat. For the last week: I have been officially moved out of the apartment I was in. Though prior to moving, I removed the toys and they were removed for about a month while being there for a month. So, month on, month off with the toys. No movement occurred during that time, and after they were removed I never seemed to notice the cat. So, I'm not sure what to make of it.*
- *The other dilemma being that I always forget that my girlfriend is schizo-affective. So, she sometimes sees things that aren't there. She mentioned seeing the cat because it was something I had talked to her about on more than one occasion. So, I'm a little embarrassed that I forgot about her tendency to see things. I forgot to address the obvious situation before considering the paranormal, which is a mistake on my part.*
- *Though I'm curious to know if the new tenant will see anything or not since I still live in the building.*

❖ **Segment: "The Kybalion: Principle of Mentalism Part 1 (Chapters III, IV, V, VI, VII)"**

- (Background Music: "Exodus" by Alexandre Falcao)
- As we continue with our journey, let's now look at the second section of this segment as we make our way through the Kybalion.
- In chapter two we find a list of the seven principles which are then followed by short explanations of each principle which are then embellished on in the later chapters of the text. The first principle, being the Principle of Mentalism, has five accompanying chapters that serve to explain and lay the foundation for this core principle while beginning to address how this one principle filters into the other six.
- The text professes that the "ALL is mind and that the Universe is mental" insinuating that creation and the known world and universe is the product of consciousness or thought, that it is a manifested thought of divinity and the source for our existence.
- This idea then goes to support a religious reverence for nature and a view that nature is of the divine through which one can then use to further their understanding and relationship with divinity. This is because The ALL is all and The All is One.
- This idea also reveals that everything around us is a manifestation of thought, as thought is the first stage of manifestation for nothing which has come into existence has not done so without first being a thought. We see

this illustrated in the traditional elemental layout of the magick circle according to the Golden Dawn. Starting in the East and moving Deosil we go from air, to fire, to water, to earth. The thought (air) ignites action (fire) which causes emergence (water) which begets a manifestation (earth).

- Since the *ALL is Mind and the Universe is mental* this would then also imply that it can be engaged in communication. This is where magick, and other forms of spiritual communication come in as they operate as a means of focusing conscious intent into the cosmos to initiate a change or a manifestation of one’s will. This is also referred to in the text as *Mental Transmutation*, which is *the art of changing the conditions of the Universe*.
- Though I would be hard pressed to imply or insinuate that every occurrence in the world is the result of *The ALL* or of some form of Magick. Since, the natural world is contingent upon its own cycles and climate interactions and conditions which are self-sufficient for the most part. As I wouldn’t feel entirely comfortable saying that natural disasters are the product of *The ALL* or magickal consciousness as this would then imply that occurrences like hurricane Katrina, the tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand in 2004, or the earthquake in China, and any other such disaster were in some way asked for. Though I can’t deny that such occurrences are in fact the result of some form of physical interaction on some level as nothing happens in this world unless this is the case, including the manifestation of one’s intent since everything emerges from something in the manifested world.
- Regardless, The ALL is akin to the fifth element which is commonly called Spirit throughout much of western occultism and like the concept of Spirit, The ALL, has no identity like a Goddess or a God typically has. It is all encompassing and I would say is also beyond human comprehension. So, what we can theorize in regard to such a concept will ultimately fall short of grasping its entirety because it contains everything even that which we have yet to understand including ourselves. Also conceptually speaking, since The ALL is what it is, being infinite, eternal, and all encompassing, it will always be what it is and thus will be void of change. Our perceptions of what it is may change over time as our personal understanding of ourselves and existence grows, however The ALL will not change since it always is and always will be, regardless of our understanding of it. This is a tough concept to discuss because its pertains to something which is so far removed from our ability to understand, experience, or confirm it for ourselves, but if we feel as if we are able to interact with the cosmos then it must be conscious of our actions.
- The next principle we will be addressing will be the Principle of Correspondence. If you have any feedback about this segment or are reading The Kybalion and have some thoughts about this or any of the other principles, post them to the forum online which can be accessed through the show website.

❖ Pagan Podcast Promos

- Promo: Pagan FM

- Promo: Witchery of One
- (Background Music: “Drum and Bass” by Ted Tunes)
- Thanks to Dee and Heather from Pagan FM, Jay’ O Skully from Witchery of One, Ariel from a Witches’ Primer and Scarlet from a Lakefront Pagan Voice who you heard earlier, for providing me with those promos for your show. I really appreciate your support as well as your podcasts.

❖ Podcast Shout Outs!

- I would also like to give a shout out to some of the other podcasts out there.
 - Darkly Fey from the Darkside of Fey
 - Fox and Arrowind from Pagan Parents on the Edge
 - Garrett, Al, and Gordon from Haunted New Jersey
 - Gene and Bryan from Hometown Tales
 - Greywolf Moonsong from A Pagan Heart in Maine
 - Kia Dragon from Pagan Chaos Magic
 - Oseanna from Get Witchified
 - Sparrow and Mojo from The Wigglian Way
 - Tahlea Moonwater from the Geek Witch Podcast
- All Your hard work does wonderful things for the podcast community! Thank you so much and keep podcasting!
- If you haven’t listened to any of these podcasts, then please check them out by visiting the links page on the show website.

❖ Segment: The Nature of Nature

- (Background Music: “spaces” by 3vr3n)
- (Birds singing? Babbling brook?)
- In regards to the term nature, Dictionary.com says: na-ture /ney-cher/ –noun 1. the material world, esp. as surrounding humankind and existing independently of human activities. 2. the natural world as it exists without human beings or civilization. 3. the elements of the natural world, as mountains, trees, animals, or rivers. 4. natural scenery. 5. the universe, with all its phenomena. 6. the sum total of the forces at work throughout the universe. 7. reality, as distinguished from any effect of art: a portrait true to nature. 8. the particular combination of qualities belonging to a person, animal, thing, or class by birth, origin, or constitution; native or inherent character: human nature. 9. the instincts or inherent tendencies directing conduct: a man of good nature. 10. character, kind, or sort: two books of the same nature. 11. characteristic disposition; temperament: a self-willed nature; an evil nature. 12. the original, natural, uncivilized condition of humankind. 13. the

biological functions or the urges to satisfy their requirements. 14. a primitive, wild condition; an uncultivated state. 15. a simple, uncluttered mode of life without the conveniences or distractions of civilization: a return to nature.

- Wow. That’s a lot to swallow. There are further examples listed, but I think you get the idea. I want to preface this segment with the origins of the idea behind it (school) and to state that this is not meant to attack or debase anyone and their lifestyle, but merely to question, ponder, and explore the issues dealing with nature, the nature of nature, and living in harmony with nature, which are issues that most pagans tend to deal with in conjunction with their religious and or spiritual paths.
- The initial idea of this segment came from my seminar class at school, which is pretty much a weekly round table discussion session. We had a brief discussion of humankind living in harmony with nature, a key example being the Native Americans as they are often viewed in such a manner. This brief discussion started me pondering about the nature of humans and how I personally felt that humankind has always acted in accordance with its nature and if this were the case, what would it really imply to live in harmony with nature? Would not acting in accordance with our own nature mean by default that we were living in harmony with nature? If not, why? How could strictly conforming to the needs of the land and the planet be living in harmony with nature if we were possibly denying or acting contrary to our own nature? It’s been said before, that human beings are generally parasitic creatures, since we feed off of a host, in our case the host being nature and the natural world. Most human civilizations have developed with this approach and practice in mind, but yet in today’s world there are those who feel we should live in harmony with nature even if such a thought denies our very nature as animals of the natural world. The ideal comparison being once again, to the Native Americans who are felt to have lived in harmony with nature despite what anthropologists like Shepard Krech III reveals in his book *The Ecological Indian* which addresses the myth and history of the Native Americans.
- The Native Americans weren’t necessarily the peaceful earth loving peoples as they are often thought to be. They were people. They had a culture. They were a grouping of societies. They utilized their resources the best as they could. They hunted animals for food and materials and even hunted some animals into local extinction. Some had wars with other tribes in which raping and pillaging was often a practice. They produced their own form of waste and trash which was a reflection of their lifestyle and were by no means as environmentally cautious or mindful as often assumed or portrayed to be. The repercussions of their actions reflected their society, culture, practices, and limited technology. It was not that they once built large cities and had vehicles and were oil dependent, but one day managed to wean themselves from this seemingly familiar lifestyle in exchange for a smaller carbon footprint, to live in harmony with nature. They lived as they did because that is what they had and knew. So to resort to them as an example of living in harmony with nature in comparison to our own culture and society is a fallacy and one which has been propagated in the United States since the

famous anti-pollution public service announcement from *Keep America Beautiful* depicting the crying Native American appeared in the early 1970s. (of which a YouTube link for this commercial can be found in the show notes) This particular situation is a problem which stems from nostalgia. The past always appears better than the present which is a result of a selective memory coupled by fiction.

- If using the Native Americans as a standard is actually inaccurate, I think in order to address this issue we first have to determine what we mean when we refer to nature and our nature? In reference to nature, one often thinks of the outdoors, wild animals, rugged unspoiled landscapes, clean rivers, forests, hills, mountains, weather, storms, pretty much everything found outside of human society. We don't always think of animals being killed and eaten by other animals when the idea of nature is brought up and humans are rarely ever considered as being a part of that seemingly natural world despite the fact that even if we suppress the appearance and presence of nature it still exists around us and us within it. In contrast to this notion of nature, can we reference something more esoteric (?) in regards to what nature is? Could we also say that nature is simply that which is, or that which has occurred? As nature can also refer to that which happens according to the situation.
- With the idea of living in harmony with nature, what this implies may often be assumptive, but what are we really saying with this idea? Because, as creatures of this planet do we not already live in harmony with nature if we function in alignment with our own nature; would not this suffice by default? For if we are acting in accordance with our nature would not that then imply that we are living in harmony with nature? If not, then what is the nature of nature? Is it not something which comes naturally to all animals? And being of the earth, and born from nature, would not anything and everything we do naturally be in accordance with our nature and the natural world? Or is nature, and this notion of the natural, something outside us and something which we are lacking? Or is this notion of living in harmony with nature a result of our guilt as a species upon this planet? That we are, in fact, ashamed to be human so instead we create a false sense of idealized being one which we can illustrate, define, and reach for regardless of its actuality or practicality? Similar to an idealized beauty or attaining the perfect weight? The Western world is fascinated with ignoring natural human tendencies and completely content with implying that “We're not good enough,” “We're wrong.” But at the same time never seeming to notice the impracticality of the presented standard. You know what they say, “peer pressure's a bitch!”
- I'm not asking these questions to incite rage or anger, but to address some fundamental issues with this notion of living in harmony with nature. Because yes, I agree with being more ecologically friendly, reducing pollution, recycling, utilizing reusable shopping bags, and taking better care of the earth, but my concern is when the shame enters the scenario, the shame for simply being human, and the feeling that being human in today's world is somehow wrong or unnatural because that is all we will ever be.

❖ Episode wrap up

- Well this concludes Episode #005 of The Infinite and the Beyond.
- If you have any thoughts about this episode or about what I've said in one of its segments please let me know by sending me a message through the website. www.infinite-beyond.com. Simply visit the contact page, fill out the form, and be sure to click the submit button when you're done. I may even read what you have to say on the air. Or if you prefer a public venue then, visit and join our online forum by clicking on the link at the top of the show website.
- If you liked this show and are interested in hearing more or subscribing then visit our website at www.infinite-beyond.com where you can find links to where this show can be found online as well as links to the show blog and forum. And by chance, if you use or prefer a particular podcast service provider that does not have this show listed, please let me know and I will be sure to add it to that provider for you.
- If you like, visit the about page on the show website and feel free to find me online at myspace, paganspace, coven-space, facebook, or even challenge me to a game on chess.com.
- **Show credits:**
 - To find an index of this show and other pagan podcasts visit The Pagan Podcast Index at <http://paganpodcastindex.wordpress.com/>
 - The several music tracks heard in this episode were
 - "Proteus" by composer George Wood
 - "Spring Fever" by Monika Herzig
 - "Voice from the Ether" by Ascian
 - "Telepathic Interplay" by composer Alexandre Falcao
 - "fade" by The Evolutionaries
 - "Piano Quartet in g 3rd Movement by Mozart" performed by Linda Holzer
 - "Exodus" by composer Alexandre Falcao
 - "Drum and Bass" by Ted Tunes
 - "Spaces" by 3vrn3n
 - "Universe Inside You" by Persian Paladin
 - "Some of the music provided tonight is from the PodShow Podsafe Music Network. Check it out at 'music.podshow.com'"
 - Remember that all notes for the show can be found at our blog which can be accessed through our website.
 - This show is happy to be a member of the Proud Pagan Podcasters which can be found at paganpodcasting.org
 - The Infinite and the Beyond and its segments are copyrighted by Chris Orapello.

- Thanks for listening, thanks for subscribing, and until next time Merry Part, Blessed Be, and 93!

Show Notes: Episode #005 – The Nature of Nature

❖ Show Summary:

- In this episode we discuss very many things. We have a talk about the nature of magick. We listen to another track from The Evolutionaries. The first show contest is opened for entries. We continue with our journey through the Kybalion. We learn about Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers in *A Corner in Occult*. We reflect on the Eliphas Levi segment from episode #003. I share a personal tale of Will. And to close, we ponder the nature of nature.

❖ Breakdown (1:15:24)

- (00:00) – Introduction
 - Music : “Proteus” by composer George Wood
- (01:24) – Announcements
 - Music: “Spring Fever” by Monika Herzig
- (05:22) – Thank You...
 - Music: “Spring Fever” by Monika Herzig
- (08:36) – As of Late...
 - Music: “Voice from the Ether” by Ascian
- (12:06) – Promos
 - Lakefront Pagan Voice
 - A Witches’ Primer
- (13:22) – Bumper
 - Dee from Pagan FM
- (13:32) – “The Nature of Magick” by Chris Orapello
 - Music: “Telepathic Communications” by Alexandre Falcao
- (28:48)- Pagan Spirit Gathering Commercial
 - Music : “Nature Boy” by The Catz in the Hatz
- (31:25) – Featured Music:
 - “Fade” by The Evolutionaries
- (36:15) – Contest: Resin Pentacle Draw
- (37:40) - “A Corner in the Occult: Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers” by Chris Orapello
 - Music : “Piano Quartet in g 3rd Movement by Mozart” performed by Linda Holzer
- (45:30) – Promo
 - Media Astra Ac Terra

- (47:04) – “Poor Eliphas Levi” by Chris Orapello
 - Music: “Reflections” by Guy David
- (50:05) – “A Little Tale of Will” by Chris Orapello
 - Music: “Octaderon” by Ambient Light
- (51:30) – Letters and Messages
- (57:38) – “The Kybalion: Principle of Mentalism” by Chris Orapello
 - Music: “Exodus” by Alexandre Falcao
- (1:02:10) – Promos
 - Pagan FM
 - Witchery of One
- (1:03:18) – Podcast Shout Outs!
 - Music: “Drum and Bass” by Ted Tunes
- (1:04:10) – “The Nature of Nature” by Chris Orapello
 - Music : “Spaces” by 3vrn3n
- (1:12:52) – Episode Wrap Up
 - Music : “Universe Inside You” by Persian Paladin

❖ **Music:** (in order of being heard)

- “Proteus” by composer George Wood - <http://podsafeaudio.com/jamroom/bands/1454/>
- “Spring Fever” by Monika Herzig - <http://monikaherzig.com/>
- “Voice from the Ether” by Ascian - <http://www.ascian.net>
- Alexandre Falcao - <http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=613461>
- “Fade” by The Evolutionaries - <http://www.the-evolutionaries.com/>
- “Nature Boy” by The Catz in the Hatz - <http://myspace.com/catzinthehatz>
- “Piano Quartet in g 3rd Movement by Mozart” performed by Linda Holzer - <http://www.ualr.edu/lrholzer/bio.shtml>
- “Reflections” by Guy David - <http://www.guydavid.com/>
- Octaderon by Ambient Light - <http://www.jonasthomen.com/>
- “Spaces” by 3vrn3n
- “Drum and Bass” by Ted Tunes - <http://podsafeaudio.com/jamroom/bands/939/ted-Tunes.php>
- “Universe Inside You” by Persian Paladin - <http://podsafeaudio.com/jamroom/bands/2644/>

❖ **Links**

- Paranormal Lectures in NYC - <http://www.meetup.com/paranormal-lectures-in-new-york-city/>
- The Evolutionaries – <http://www.the-evolutionaries.com>
- The Disinformation Podcast - <http://www.disinfo.com/podcasts/>
- Media Astra Ac Terra - <http://sphinx.libsyn.com/>
- K.A.B. Crying Indian Commercial: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7OHG7tHrNM>
- June 2009 International Pagan Values Blogging Month:
<http://chrysalis1witchesjourney.wordpress.com/2009/05/11/june-2009-is-international-pagan-values-blogging-month/>
- Pagan Spirit Gathering – <http://www.circlesanctuary.org/psg>

❖ **Credits**

- PodsafeAudio - <http://www.podsafeaudio.com/>
- Podsafe Music Network - <http://music.podshow.com>