

## **The Arcane Arts**

*Line by line, piece by piece. The first is the key. The power to create miracles comes through trouncing your major hardships, the ones dedicated to these entries. Create life from nothing, create rivers in the desert. Only then, life will change.*

### **Entry 1 ~ For Horus**

You awake from the dark world.  
Your mother's body.  
Submerge into the dream.  
You are alive.  
The heat is frightening.  
It is pain.  
Cold, dark, pain.  
Burning through you.  
Shackling you with frost.  
Fire is mankind's best friend.  
It kills and ravages.  
The cold is serene and gentle.  
It freezes and withers.  
Fire and Ice.  
The ends, the polar.  
Seek the end - the kingdom.  
They will take you in.  
When the elements come:  
King Horus, God-King of the land.  
Guide us through this plague. Guide us through this nightmare.  
I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 2 ~ The Night of Zorro**

Zorro's legendary escapades begin on a fateful night. The eve of hallows.  
Born through will, cast by thought. The black cat roams, dies, eight more to go.  
Born by wind, set through stone. Heirs of tomorrow are forged today.  
I am thou, thou art I.

### **Entry 3 ~ The Valkyrie's Battle**

Ancient times, ancient foes.  
Ones who ravaged, ones who preyed.  
Ones who fought, ones who kept.  
Nightly cowl, bathed in light.  
Seek the spears, they tell the truth.  
Feathers fall, broken bronze.  
Seek the fangs, they tell a tale.  
Torrential fire, villainous plague.  
Seek the wings, they bring you hope.  
Truth and lies, forge and decay.  
Magic and steel. Life and death.  
Forged in blood. Bonds unbreaking.  
I am thou, thou art I.

#### **Entry 4 ~ The Execution of Carmen**

A tale wrought by fire onto the land.  
The witch. The fatal woman.  
She gave us a choice. We took it.  
She betrayed us.  
Only the monument remains.  
Xystoi leaks with our kin's blood.  
From there, we set her up.  
Bathed her in fire.  
Her laughs echoed as she screamed.  
An evil gone, but reincarnated.  
Consider this warning, fellow friend.  
Never trust a witch who laughs in fire.  
I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 5 ~ Alice's Diary**

Dear Diary,

Today I saw them again.

They looked at me through the windows. They're under my bed.

They're behind me.

They don't hurt me.

They help me.

They listen to me.

They follow me.

They love me.

They will do anything for me.

They will live for me.

They will die for me.

People say I am mad. I am not.

I can tell them to do things to others.

No one knows why mommy is sick. Or why daddy is still sleeping.

I told them to do it.

They will do anything for me.

I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 6 ~ Thor's Wrath**

From ancient texts:

The mountain screams, with calls of rage,

And rumbles down its pain.

An echo heard through valley's lost,

Where night is found in day.

And on that peak, we confess in vow

No being ever saw,

The one we fear, the one who's wrath

Turns wishes into law.

I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 7 ~ The Call of Girimehkala**

The curse of his eye.  
Misfortune to everyone that sees it.  
He roams at night.  
His call tremors the valley.  
The people shiver and hide.  
Faith is lost.  
He was innocent once.  
A hero to the village.  
A protector of all.  
He was victim of a plague.  
One that ravaged the land.  
He couldn't protect the others.  
He couldn't protect himself.  
He was reborn as Girimehkala.  
His legacy is lost.  
His reputation tarnished.  
He no longer remembers himself.  
Nirvana is unreachable.  
He wants forgiveness.  
He wants to repent.  
But all who looks in his eye  
Sees a curse instead.  
I am thou, thou art I.

**Entry 8 ~ Goemon's Rhapsody**

The rich steal.

The poor beg.

Disdainful.

Disgraceful.

He knew the cost.

He was a man of action.

He died knowing that he was right.

I am thou, thou art I



### **Entry 9 ~ Gabriel and the Six Archangels**

Heaven fell seven angels  
Birthed from the hearts of humankind  
One from the palace of lust  
Chaste and pure  
One from the palace of greed  
Selfless and giving  
One from the palace of jealousy  
Trusting and kind  
One from the palace of wrath  
Peaceful and idyllic  
One from the palace of indolence  
Active and vital  
One from the palace of corruption  
Just and righteous  
One from the palace of pride  
Humble and forgiving  
Temper your blade  
Go forth and face the cardinals  
I am thou, thou art I

## **Entry 10 ~ Prometheus' Gift**

We sought the light  
We sought the warmth  
Preposterous  
Only the Gods may have such luxuries  
We fought darkness  
We fought hunger  
He pitied us  
He gave us our success  
In good faith, he gave us fire.  
He bears our punishment.  
We bear our fruits.  
I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry Interlude: ~ The Tale of Arsene**

Every journey starts out the same: the wandering man, a task of impossible miracles. The pillager of twilight cackles. Nothing is nothing - null is null.

Zero is an empty space.

Shall I divine your future with these cards?

The heart is powerful and plentiful - we cast ourselves into the depths and call forth a powerful manifestation of our true self.

Find the spirit of those who have been cast from society.

From here on outwards, a new land is created: the troubles of yesterday are now past and are their own troubles. Now, go forth and venture into a new land - the land of the unknown.

I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 11 ~ The Messiah's Answer**

He speaks!  
The blessed One.  
The One birthed from the valley of God.  
His pilgrimage is complete.  
Long has he ventured the land.  
His message to be spread.  
Our kingdom rejoices!  
His miracles bring joy upon us!  
We shall lay down our lives for Him.  
We obey his beck and call.  
He is the Messiah!  
He guides us to the promised land!  
Free are we from the chains of servitude.  
Free are we from unilateral thought.  
He guides us!  
We must pledge our lives to Him!  
No longer are we lost.  
No longer will we suffer.  
Men revere.  
Deities bow.  
Gods kneel.  
Make way! Make way!  
For the blessed One is here!  
We are thou! Thou art us!

## **Entry 12 ~ Milady's Three Musketeers**

Oh? Who are you?

Ah.

I see.

You're one of them.

Someone who neither fights nor flees.

You look at danger right in the eyes.

You let them gorge you, bleed you, cut you.

You never fight back. You never scream.

You look at them with a dead man's grin.

There are fates worse than death.

There are fears worse than the unknown.

You are both.

Your scorn is the curse upon evil.

I am thou, thou art I.

### **Entry 13 ~ The Inugami Ritual**

Step 1: Look in the mirror at midnight.

Step 2: Count your blessings.

You might never be able to again.

Step 3: The circle of salt.

To ward off evil, I recommend kosher.

Step 4: Add pepper for taste.

Step 5: now add some cilantro, lime...

Haha, just kidding.

Step 4 (real): Burn a wax candle. Burn yourself on the candle.

They only sense pain.

Step 5: draw blood. A ritual knife is needed.

Night will fall much quicker than you perceive.

Step 6: Wait

Step 7: Wait

Step 8: You hear a soft murmur, as if someone is behind you

Step 9: you think it's the wind

Step 10: when you hear it, it's too late

Step 11: Refer back to the first step 4 and 5

Step 12: you'll be too dead to read beyond 11

Step 13: The smell of burnt flesh tastes much better with cilantro and lime

I am thou, thou art I.

## **Entry 14 ~ Johanna's Melody**

Can you hear that music?

Open your ears.

There's a ringing, so faint.

One toll, two tolls, three tolls, four. The bell rings for those who are lost, yet they can never be found.

A toll for the dead, a toll for the lost. A toll for the ones who ignore the cost.

The universe sings - it is melodic, frightening. Beautiful.

Listen to the music.

A spark. A light. A guide.

My Queen, forgive those who are lost.

They were lured by the bells.

I am thou, thou art I.

### **Entry 15 ~ An Angel's Requiem**

Mournful are the dead  
Who weep for the living  
The aimless wandering  
Despairful existence  
Mindless following  
Pointless suffering  
Fruitless endeavors  
Mournful are the dead  
For the living  
Who live their days in agony  
In hardship and pain  
A life of sorrow  
Is no life at all.  
Am I thou? Art thou I?



## **Entry 16 ~ (P) Kaiwan the Unspeakable**

Saturn smiles.  
He knows he is horror incarnate.  
The Lovecraftian scourge  
A Yellow Sign  
An Assyrian God  
Whispers in your ear  
Urges of destruction.  
Many names, many faces  
Thirty two identities  
Thirty two cults  
Look to the stars, they will tell you.  
The misery of your ancestors  
Etched into constellations  
How do you kill a God?  
How do you reverse eons of horror?  
How do you stop the nightmares?  
Perhaps, one day  
He will be slain  
For now, he is horror incarnate  
The Lovecraftian scourge  
A Yellow Sign  
An Assyrian God.  
Whispers in your ear:  
I am thou. Thou art I.

## **Entry 17 ~ Asterius the Bull King**

How do you anger a god?

How do you kill one?

Our sacrifice was heavy.

Unfair.

Cruel.

The gods are wicked. They are devils.

They steal from mortals and punish us for insolence.

A term they defined.

How do you punish a god?

How do you kill one?

How do you make one suffer?

They deserve the pain they inflict on us.

Our lives ruined by their greed.

How do you raze a palace?

How do you die?

How can a god's ignorance ever be rectified?

I am thou. Thou art I.

## **Entry 18 ~ A Phoenix's Lesson**

Come, mortal. This is how you kill a god.  
They are powerful, but they are weak.  
Mortals have life. They have value.  
Gods are ignorant. They are worthless.  
Zodiacs made in their name, shrines and altars,  
It is fake value.  
They feed on our offerings, gorging themselves on our labor.  
They grow from our prayers.  
Do you understand now, mortal?  
To kill a god, simply  
Don't believe.  
I am thou, but thou art I.

**Entry 19 ~ *Mada mada***

Your fortitude shall crumble,  
Inevitable and weak.  
Quell your arrogance,  
Lest you fail the climb.  
Advantage from vantage,  
Yet all that looms on the horizon  
Is disaster.  
Not all are destined for heroism.  
Not all can face the bloodlust of a God.  
You think you can stand up to our power?  
We are almighty. We are strong.  
We will cull the plague of humanity's heresy.  
Humans can die. Those who believe will remain.  
An ark cannot save you. A closed box cannot save you.  
Your only hope is to pray.  
Insolent fool.  
You dare challenge our rightful rule?  
We will show you just how insignificant your life is.  
We have culled our own kin before. Thrown them from our palace.  
Your blood on our hands is much less.  
I am above thou. Thou art below I.

## Entry 20 ~ Beelzebub: The Seventh Prince of Hell

Three angels walk into a bar. We get kicked out and fall from heaven.  
Guess whose fault that was?  
Join the underground cabaret, they said. Exact your revenge. . . or whatever.  
Perfect. I'm stuck here.  
Lord of the Flies? Is that my title now? Disgusting. A blatant misnomer.  
Well, it's not like they would've known anyways.  
Hey, hey you.  
Yeah, you.  
The person reading this.  
This is a puzzle, right? One of your little games that you humans like to play.  
Is this a competition? That's cool.  
What's the prize?  
Hm? You're saying pride and accomplishment?  
What about glory? Material wealth? The blood of a God?  
Oops. Shouldn't have said that.  
Hey, how about you and I make a deal?  
I seem to be trapped here, but I can give you power and knowledge.  
Get me out of here and I will grant you any of your desires.  
Yeah, *for real*. Stop being incredulous. It makes me sick.  
Just listen to me. I'm literally twenty billion times older than you.  
All you gotta do is get me out of here.  
Oh, and sign this as well.  
It's a contract. I need a bit of your blood, to show sincerity, of course.  
What's that? Need more time to think? That's fine. I can wait.  
It's only been a few eons.  
I am- no, stop this BS. I am not "thou" and "thou" aren't I.  
I'm a goddamn demon prince, you hear me? I will not be silenced by-

I am thou, thou art I.

## **Final Entry: ~ Journey's end**

Cataclysmic change - the cycle of life.

Shift by my sign. The voyage must be interpreted, not transcribed. Else, there is nothing here.

There is no stagnation, no permanence. All that comes must go, all that goes must come from somewhere.

You. You are alive.

You believed the universe had spoken to you through the sunlight that came through the shuffling leaves of the summer trees. You believed that as the sun faded from the sky and life decayed, there would be no more. Then you blinked and saw it renew before you.

You broke free from your prison and faced the land. You breathed in the scent of the growing fauna, witnessed the birth of a new empire. You smiled as you sighed your last. The ruin of civilization blossoms to a kingdom, then razed and pillaged. The seeds of new life are sown from death.

The cycle is complete. You are loved, you are free.

Now go forth, my young fool. Go start your journey anew.

I am thou.

Thou art I.