

Awakening the Dragon: Ego Death, Spiritual Power & the True Path of the Occult with Kurtis Joseph

Hey, and welcome to another episode of The Cult of You. I'm Adam Nox, your host. And today I have an exciting interview. And it's a great one because we get to start off the new year, depending, obviously, on when you're watching this, an interview with someone that I really enjoy, whose ideas I think are quite revolutionary in terms of the occult world.

It is the author of *The Black Magic of Ahriman*—one of the more groundbreaking occult works, especially in terms of the left-hand path. He's someone who has a very individualistic approach to his practice, someone who has brought together the practice of martial arts and the practice of magic, and really does away with a lot of the hoo-ha and fantasy work that's out there, and really boils down to the core ideas.

The creator of the Draconian Arcanum, and a teacher of the occult arts for quite some time, I'm speaking of no other than Kurtis Joseph—one of the more controversial occultists out there. In today's interview, you'll find a bunch of very powerful ideas. We explore not only the real risks of the occult path, but Kurtis also gives us very specific ideas on what to do practically when you experience instability or intense tragedy or darkness inside of your work.

We talk about the bridge between fantasy and embodied practice, and the difference between those who sell the image versus those who truly live the alchemical transmutation. We examine archetypes and initiatory truth, and I want to warn you—due to the timing of the call, there were a lot of communications and electrical interferences, so there are points where the sound kicks out a bit, but the ideas remain very audible.

Enjoy this interview, and please let me know if there's anyone else you'd like me to speak to, or subjects this inspires that you'd like to dive deeper into. You can email us via the site. Don't forget to subscribe to both the YouTube channel and Spotify. And if you are someone new to the path or an experienced veteran looking to reestablish your foundations, visit <https://thecultofyou.com> to sign up for further materials and teachings—only if that's something you find resonance with.

Till then, I'm your host Adam Nox. And remember to live deliciously.

A couple of questions have been burning in my mind that I wanted to ask you. My journey discovering more about you started off with *The Black Magic of Ahriman*, which was incredibly powerful. Then I started following your other ideas, and there was something you said in one of your videos introducing *The Draconian Arcanum*—you were talking about the certification program and mentioned the relationship between the 166 scales of the dragon and the 72 Goetic spirits.

The number system behind it just made perfect sense. What you're tapping into is clear access to something deeper. I've been begging in my heart to hear more about that. Would you mind talking a bit about it?

Within the context of the current I call Draconian Arcanum, we are not those who shun divinity. In fact, we embrace both sides of divine power. We consider potential itself to be divinity and give that potential a name—the One Dragon. Many would consider it Tiamat, the mother of all gods. In working within the Judeo-Christian paradigm of angels versus demons, you need a logical map.

I don't embrace duality. I believe in polarity. In the proper context, good and evil do not exist. Light and darkness, when used correctly, create harmony. Good and evil are the constructs of finite and corrupt minds. We understand the Tree of Night and Tree of Day are often taught as dual forces, but both maps are built on planetary spheres and energy. Mercury, for example, is still Mercury whether it's in retrograde or not. Its powers don't change. So this idea of two separate trees is illogical. When you put together the 72 angels and the 72 demons, you're looking at two polarities—two sides of a divine battery. Absolute light and absolute darkness are both blinding. Light casts a shadow. Nature teaches us that light and darkness are mutually dependent. How we use those forces to better ourselves is the key.

The modern left-hand path has a lot of psychological programming. The true left-hand path is about going against all paths—including what's currently labeled left and right. This isn't about supernatural intelligence. I'm just an average guy. This teaching is coming forth because the world is ready for it.

What's powerful about your work is the lack of ego. Ego death is central to your process, and I talk about this in my own work. The ego is built on duality—it's the subject of pleasure versus pain, fear versus love. It is a servant of contrast. As long as we create contrast inside ourselves, we lose touch with essential oneness.

To influence nature or others, I need rapport, connection, unity. I need to resolve duality within—both the Tree of Life and the Tree of Night. People aren't comfortable with ego death because it's painful. What's your take?

Ego death is taboo in the modern left-hand path largely due to LaVey's work. Many paths end with ego death, and that's terrifying. But they don't focus on reintegration. The Great Work is purifying self from societal programs that skew the ego and make it work against us. It's about purifying the ego and reintegrating it with divine potential anchored in flesh.

I'm not against pleasure or sin, nor against virtue or righteousness. All things have their place in proper context. Trouble comes from using them out of context. Sex is pleasurable, but indiscriminate indulgence can have consequences. Psychoactive substances? Use crystal meth, and you could end up addicted and on the street. These are choices.

Maintaining balance in the Great Work is key. Ego death hurts because we love suffering. Humanity is addicted to suffering.

Yes—when suffering meets a need, even significance, it becomes a reinforcing pattern. That's an abuse of power. I love that you touched on this.

I believe there's no light or dark—just mature or immature expressions. Lust, for instance: when immature, it's indulgent and scattered. But used as a signal for evolution, lust can drive personal refinement. Work on charisma, approach, self-improvement—it becomes a mature force. Unless you can stand inside the force without being ruled by it, you're being toyed with. And if you're ridden by the spirit, how can you work with the rest of the tree?

Exactly. The conscious and subconscious mind mirror the Tree of Day and Tree of Night. Creation is a process—the created is not the end. Magic is the act of aligning with the creative process.

By observing reality through both lenses, we begin to think with a whole head—seeing through the eye of the dragon. We see what *is*, not what should be, outside propaganda and religious tyranny.

Government and religion often serve the same control function. As magicians, we must have awareness. How do we align with this draconian current, this creative process? What mindset shift must occur?

This is why I make martial arts a prerequisite. Not Shaolin-level commitment, but the process of learning body movement aligns spirit and body. It teaches meditation in motion, presence, and energetic integrity. Once experienced, it can be replicated through daily life—washing dishes, interacting at work. Life becomes ritual. Your magic becomes real, grounded.

It's not about becoming a magician—it's recognizing you already are one.

When I teach meditation, I teach it standing. Not the typical stillness of a monk, but for the magician who needs to hold altered states while moving in ritual.

Yes—and you're activating energy and trance at the same time. Grounding energy while pulling it up from the Earth. Our feet's connection to Earth is crucial and often overlooked.

The occult is a science. Spiritual relationships are important, but so is energy matrix work.

Without working with the body's energy, you don't unlock the full spectrum of consciousness necessary to wield that spirit. What's your model?

The draconian way is to increase one's own power—hoarding treasure like the dragon. That treasure is life force. Through spirits, I seek knowledge to apply practically and become like them.

I'm not about fantasy. Much of occult marketing is delusion. “Evocation for sex, cars, money—just \$499!” That's not real. People don't take the art seriously because of this. They get stuck in identity constructs rather than doing the Great Work.

If you haven't sacrificed your ego, you don't have the power. You can't curse someone effectively if you haven't died and rebirthed yourself. And no, you can't just pray it away.

You've awakened inner powers that can't be exorcised.

This has been such a rich conversation. I wish we had more time, and I hope we can do another session soon.

Kurtis, thank you so much for your raw honesty and depth. For those ready to walk the true path—this episode was for you. And to everyone listening, stay focused, stay grounded, and above all else... live deliciously.