



The Moorish Root of Montauk

Noble Drew Ali & the Secret War for Human Consciousness

What connects a Black American prophet, Aleister Crowley, Sufi mystics, the Montauk Project and an underground counterculture of Moorish adepts? This investigation follows a forgotten esoteric lineage through a century of occult rebellion and contested history.

By ROBERT BLACK

There is a history behind our so-called history that you cannot even conceive of. History has a deeper base. The periphery that we know as history is not the reality. Behind our so-called history continues another history, a deeper one about which we know nothing.

– Osho aka Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh

In the spring of 1904, Cairo became the setting for one of the most infamous occult transmissions in modern history. English ceremonial magician Aleister Crowley had arrived in the city on honeymoon with his wife Rose. Rose had no occult training, yet in March she began telling him that “they” were waiting for him, identified the god Horus as the source, and named Aiwass as the messenger. Crowley took the instruction seriously. On 8, 9 and 10 April, alone in his apartment between noon and one o’clock, he wrote down what a voice dictated to him. The result was *The Book of the Law*.

Rudolf Hess, meanwhile, was growing up in Alexandria, born there to a wealthy Bavarian merchant family. The boy slipped away to watch the local Sufi mystics, and stood mesmerised by dervishes and street fakirs performing feats of physical endurance and psychic manipulation. After the First World War, Hess

...he retrieved the uncorrupted spiritual knowledge needed to dismantle the materialist control systems of the West.

joined the Thule Society in Germany and rose to become Hitler’s deputy.

A third man was also in Egypt early last century. Timothy Drew, a merchant mariner born in North Carolina to freed Black slaves in 1886, reached the country by sea. Moorish oral tradition holds that his parents belonged to the Ikhwan al-Safa, a secretive Muslim society, and had met the itinerant Sufi teacher Jamal al-Din al-Afghani in America around 1882.

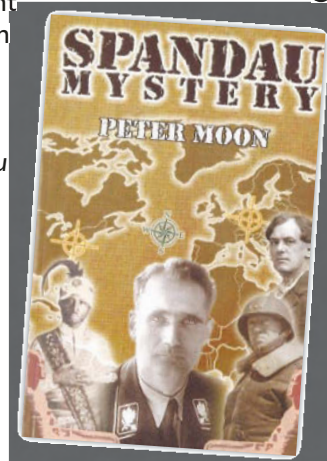
Peter Moon, in his historical novel *Spandau Mystery*, points to the strange synchronicity of Drew, Crowley and Hess residing in Egypt at around the same time. According to Moon, Drew received initiation at the Great

Pyramid, where he retrieved the uncorrupted spiritual knowledge needed to dismantle the materialist control systems of the West. Crowley wanted the authority of a new aeon and wrote the basis of a new religion in three days. Hess left Egypt but never left the occult behind, moving from the dervishes to the Thule Society and, as Hitler’s deputy in the Third Reich, to astrologers, dowsers and the study of dreams.

Drew, who returned home as Noble Drew Ali, sought the secret science that would free human consciousness. He founded the first Muslim movement to take hold among Black Americans and, as this article will reveal, the parent of a stranger one. He was, as Peter Lamborn Wilson described him, “an American prophet... a thought of Allah clothed in flesh.”

THE BLOODLINE AT THE END OF LONG ISLAND

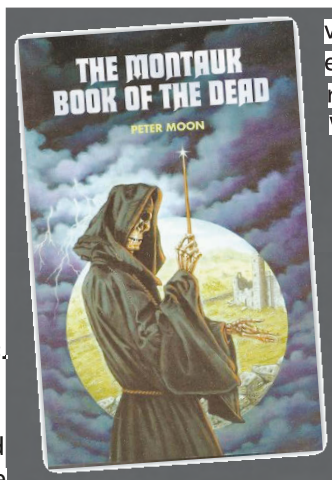
Four decades after Crowley’s Cairo working, the United States Army built a coastal defence station on the eastern tip of New York’s Long Island. Camp Hero, established in 1942, is now a 754-acre state park dominated by a massive Cold War radar dish. The giant dish points skyward and



has fuelled decades of local rumour (see article below).

The US military abandoned the site long ago, but the legend of the Montauk Project has only grown since, eventually inspiring the subterranean horrors of Netflix's *Stranger Things*. Conspiracy researchers say the radar concealed a warren of underground laboratories where rogue operatives pumped electromagnetic pulses into the atmosphere to tear open portals between dimensions. In these bunkers, they allege, kidnapped children underwent psychic conditioning in an attempt to manipulate time and the fabric of reality.

Author Peter Moon began in-



vestigating these claims expecting a history of runaway physics and Cold War overreach. He found something stranger, hiding in plain sight. By searching the genealogical records of the local Montauk tribe, Moon concluded that the royal Pharaoh family of Long Island descends from pre-Columbian Moorish explorers.

Moon holds that this suppressed lineage upends the accepted historical timeline and reveals an ancient global war over human consciousness and planetary energy. In books such as *The Montauk Book of the Dead*, he places Noble Drew Ali at the centre of this secret war, links Moorish heritage to the energetic epicentre of the

Montauk experiments, and accuses historians of deliberate erasure. Ali himself revealed the connection by wearing a Cherokee feather in his fez.

To understand how Long Island became a battleground, go back to 1492. In January of that year, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella drove the last Moorish rulers from Granada, ending seven centuries of Muslim rule in Spain. While Europe stagnated, Moorish cities such as Córdoba, Toledo and Granada housed the libraries of the ancient world. Moorish scholars preserved the mathematics, astronomy and alchemy of Egypt and Persia, mapped the stars, studied the science of the soul, and synthesised this knowledge into a secret doctrine known as Moorish Science.

The newly unified Spanish crown seized these archives and redirected

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THE DISH AT THE END OF LONG ISLAND

Drive to the eastern tip of Long Island, past the last motel in Montauk, and you reach a state park with a fence. Behind the fence is a radar dish 126 feet across, mounted on a concrete tower eight storeys high. The ground has been military since 1942, when the Army built Camp Hero as a coastal gun battery against German submarines. The Air Force took it over in 1951 as a radar station, raised the great dish around 1960 to spot Soviet bombers and give New York City half an hour's warning, and switched it off in 1981. The land passed to the state in 1984 and opened as a park in 2002. That is the official guidebook account.

Most old military bases are stripped when they close. This one kept the biggest piece of

hardware. The state says the local fishermen asked for it because the dish makes a better landmark than the lighthouse. If that is true, it has convinced almost nobody.



HOW THE STORY STARTED

In 1992 a Long Island electrical engineer named Preston Nichols and a publisher named Peter Moon published a small book titled *The Montauk Project: Experiments in Time*. Nichols said he had recovered memories of working in laboratories beneath Camp Hero in the 1970s,

years after the base officially closed. He said the work began as mind control and ended as time travel.

The dish was the key. According to Nichols, it had been tuned to broadcast at frequencies that acted on the human brain. Below, in

a room, sat the Montauk Chair, a device that took the thoughts of a psychic named Duncan Cameron and made them solid. Cameron could think a thing into being. One day he thought a monster into being, and it tore through the base. The project was shut down, the tunnels were filled with concrete, and everyone's memory was wiped. Nichols alone remembered.

WHERE IT CAME FROM

The Montauk story did not appear out of nowhere. The Philadelphia Experiment, the story of a Navy destroyer made invisible in 1943, with sailors fused into the steel when it came back, began with the letters of a mysterious drifter called Carlos Allende in the 1950s, then became a book in 1979 and a Hollywood film in 1984.

Then, in 1989, a man named Al Bielek stood up at conferences and said he had been on that ship. He said he had jumped overboard

and landed at Montauk in 1983. Montauk became the second chapter of Philadelphia, and Bielek became the bridge between them.

Four more Montauk books followed through the 1990s. Each added more mysterious synchronicities and inexplicable, fantastic accounts. Nazi scientists, Aleister Crowley, Wilhelm Reich, pyramids under the Point, and finally the Moorish material that the accompanying article draws on.

WHY PEOPLE KEEP COMING

There is a photograph of the base from the war years, revealing it was built to look like a fishing village. The gun emplacements were disguised as cottages, and a fake church steeple concealed the rangefinder. The place was pretending from the day it opened. The pretence and secrecy surrounding the place fuelled ru-



▲ Al Bielek



▲ Preston Nichols



mours, along with the bizarre tales told by the locals.

That may be why the story stuck. A base designed to look like something else is easy to imagine as something else. When the Duffer brothers wrote *Stranger Things*, their working title was *Montauk*. They moved the setting to Indiana but kept the underground lab, the psychic child and the creature. The series sent a whole new generation to stand at the fence and look up.

More than 350,000 people visited the park in a recent year. Some come for the beach. A good many come to see the dish.

WHAT WE CAN SAY

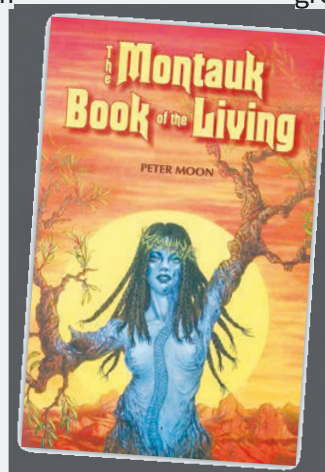
Camp Hero has kept its secrets well. The tunnels the state will show you are gun magazines from the 1940s, and the official surveys of the site list the usual military leftovers. That is what official surveys are for. Moon's later books go much deeper. In *The Montauk Book of the Living*, he writes of pyramids beneath Montauk Point and of a lineage older than the tribe. He also found that the Pharaoh family,

hereditary chiefs of the Montauketts, trace their bloodline to Moorish sailors who crossed the Atlantic before Columbus. If he is right, the radar was raised on ground the Moors had already claimed.

Stand at the fence at dusk and the dish is the last thing on the continent to catch the light. A machine built by the most rational institution on earth, for the most rational of reasons, points skyward from a headland that has been sacred to someone for as long as anyone can remember. The people who come do not talk much. They stand where the road ends and look up.

The Air Force watched the sky from here for thirty years. Nichols says the men below listened to something else. Ask a Moorish adept what a great dish on a power point at the edge of the sea is for, and he will tell you that the Air Force was the last to know. ▲

– Robert Black





◀ Attendees of the 1928 Moorish Science Temple Conclave in Chicago. Noble Drew Ali is in white in the front row centre. Above: Advertisement for a Moorish Holy Temple of Science event in 1927.

the wealth and learning of a fallen empire towards global expansion. Christopher Columbus sailed for the Americas that same year. Investigative journalist Peter Levenda writes in *Sinister Forces* that this sequence of events is “not a mere coincidence.” European colonialism launched from the ashes of Al-Andalus, and the conquerors buried the origins of this esoteric science while claiming its power for themselves.

Over the following centuries, the Western ruling class absorbed and institutionalised this occult knowledge, largely through Freemasonry and sundry secret societies. An old Masonic phrase acknowledges this transmission, “We came from the East and proceeded to the West.” British explorer Sir Richard Burton called Sufism the Eastern parent of Freemasonry. John Porter Brown, an American diplomat in Turkey in the 1850s and a Mason, recorded that the Bektashi dervishes regarded themselves as equivalent to Freemasons and were happy to fraternise with them.

Early American leaders recognised the power of this science. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were prominent Freemasons. In 1777, the Kingdom of Morocco became the first nation to recognise the independent United States.

...the conquerors buried the origins of this esoteric science while claiming its power for themselves.

Moorish lore holds that George Washington received a red flag bearing the Seal of Sulaiyman, a green five-pointed star symbolising the human microcosm and the harmony of creation. Masonic planners later embedded the same figure in the street grid of Washington, D.C., thereby inscribing a Moorish signature into the architecture of the US capital.

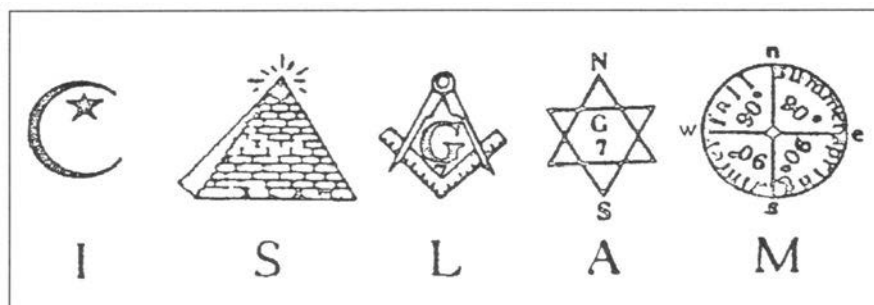
Embedding the Seal of Sulaiyman in the capital's streets was a

form of passive, geometric control. The technological kind came later. By monopolising the secret wisdom of the Moors, the architects of the modern world trapped humanity in a supervised slice of reality. In his 2004 *New Dawn* article “The Masons and the Moors,” Mehmet Sabeheddin quotes a modern Moorish sheikh who describes the prevailing reality as a “Babylonian” system of control.

THE PROPHET OF THE GRID

Timothy Drew, who returned to America as Noble Drew Ali, was on a mission to break the spell over his people cast by the Babylonian system of control. In 1913, he founded the Canaanite Temple in Newark, New Jersey, and later established the Moorish Science Temple of America.

By 1925, Ali had settled in Chicago, and the South Side became his laboratory. He issued his followers the *Holy Koran of the Moorish*

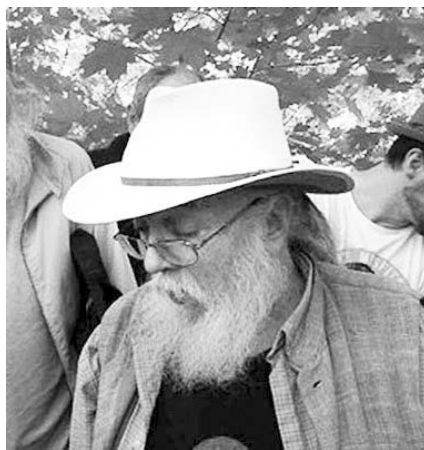
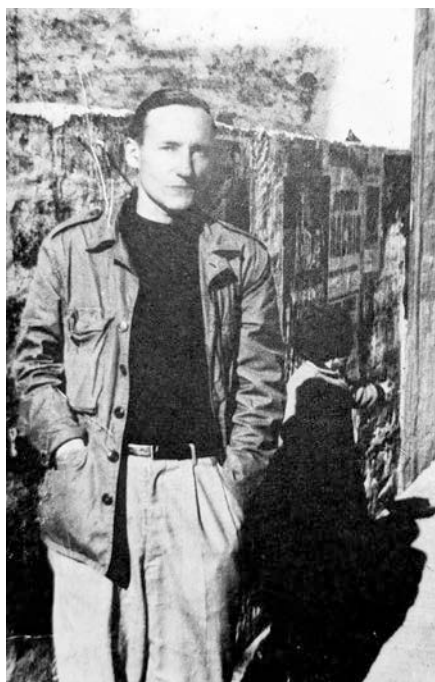


Science Temple of America, a slim volume featuring a red “7” within a blue circle on the cover, and printed nationality cards declaring each bearer a Moorish American. Converts came by the thousand.

In October 1928, the Temple held its first national convention in the city, with delegates arriving from across the industrial Midwest and the East Coast, wearing fezzes and turbans. Five months later, in March 1929, Ali’s business manager, Claude Greene, was stabbed and shot dead at the movement’s Unity Hall. Ali then foretold the hour of his own death. Chicago police took him in for questioning, beat him, and released him. He died on 20 July 1929. Peter Lamborn Wilson, in the essay titled “Shoot-Out at the Circle Seven Koran,” treats the death as the violent end of a struggle for “love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice.”

Ali taught that the power elite had stolen land, wealth and identity, severing humanity from its cosmic connection. By stripping the descendants of the Moors of their heritage and assigning them legal classifications such as “black,” “coloured” or “Negro,” labels Ali considered both legally and spiritually dead, the controllers had unplugged them from the earth’s natural energy grid. In Ali’s teaching, reclaiming Moorish identity rewired the human circuit.

The rogue operatives at Camp



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Hero would later rely on vacuum tubes, radio frequencies and the hardware of the Montauk Chair to tear through dimensional veils. Ali’s technology was internal. He taught that the human mind, aligned with an ancient lineage and a recovered secret science, was the ultimate multidimensional vehicle. By resurrecting this suppressed consciousness, Ali intended to short-circuit the mechanised reality of the West and reclaim the planetary power centres belonging to all humanity.

THE INTERZONE AND THE WORD VIRUS

Power is the ability to define. He who can define you has power over you.
– Kwame Ture (born Stokely Carmichael), African-American activist, orator, and global revolutionary

After Ali’s death, the Moorish Science movement fractured. Orthodox factions pursued strict racial sepa-

◀ Peter Lamborn Wilson (1945–2022) aka Hakim Bey.

ratism, while another branch took root underground in the bohemian counterculture. By the 1950s, the Moorish cities of North Africa were attracting American writers, artists, and spiritual seekers who wanted to escape the mechanised conformity of the West.

Tangier, which held International Zone status, operated outside Western jurisdiction. Beat pioneer and writer William S. Burroughs lived there and dubbed the city “Interzone.”

In a basement on West 103rd Street in Manhattan, and later in Baltimore, a collective of white American poets and musicians embraced the legacy of Noble Drew Ali as a revolutionary spiritual identity. From this cultural collision, the Moorish Orthodox Church of America (MOC) was born. Many held Moorish passports listing themselves as “Celts” or “Persians,” committing themselves, as their later catechism stated, to the search for the “universal spirit hidden anywhere... always occult and dissident.” Peter Lamborn Wilson recalled that early members of the Moorish Orthodox Church “were attracted to sufism, and the Temple seemed to them a sort of Native American version of Islamic esotericism.”

In 1964 a young white poet who declared himself a Celtic Moor held something specific in his hand. He had a heretical, gnostic Islam with no mosque, an Eastern lineage with no master, a nationality not issued by any government, and a reason to wear a fez in public. Wilson, writing about those years, said the church admired Noble Drew Ali’s courage and aesthetic without being bound by his doctrine. The passport let its holder stand outside America while remaining, visibly, American.

In the Interzone, William Burroughs argued that language is a



◀ William Burroughs (1914–1997) in Tangier, c. 1954.

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THE LODGE ON THE RANGE

Toowoomba is an Australian regional city on the Darling Downs in Queensland, two hours' drive from Brisbane. It has gardens, old churches, wide streets, and a big park in the middle of town. Nobody would pick it as the site of a working occult lodge. Yet for about two years in the mid 2000s, a rented medical centre became one.

The building had no name. A security patrol checked it at intervals. A neighbour in the street remembered young men coming and going after dark, and others wearing what she took for carnival caps, smoking and walking in the park across the road. She had never seen a fez.

The doctors had moved out. The people who moved in kept the consulting rooms and repurposed them. One room became a library, and the few visitors who saw it still talk about it. Rare occult tomes, manuscripts on Islamic mysticism, works on everything from the Gnostics to Chaos Magick, and on the inner teachings of Buddhism and Daoism. More esoteric books than university collections hold. Alongside them, one visitor recalls, stood every book William S. Burroughs ever published, and every book by Robert Anton Wilson. And then there were also the works of Madame H.P. Blavatsky, Manly Palmer Hall, and Charles Webster Leadbeater (his portrait hung on a wall).

Readers of the main article will know why such writers were in a Moorish library. The Pine Barrens brochure that started the Ong's Hat legend described an Institute of Chaos Studies and a Moorish Science Ashram. The educational arm of the Toowoomba lodge called itself the Moorish Science Institute. Had the adepts on the Downs read the brochure and decided to launch their own project far from where anyone would think to look?

The origins of the Moorish Temple are obscure, to say the

► *THE ADEPT CHAMBER / THE FIRST DEGREE / EX ORIENTE LUX: Portrays a student adept of the Holy Moorish Orthodox Temple displaying the classical "hidden hand" of esoteric initiation. Adorned in a traditional crimson fez and a green ceremonial sash rich with syncretic iconography—prominently featuring the Circle Seven, the star and crescent, a Sufi winged heart, the Hamsa, and dual entwined roses—the portrait captures the solemn guardianship of ancient Oriental mysteries. (Digital Illustration)*

least. Rumours and fragmented recollections from former students suggest the interior of the building was meticulously repurposed for esoteric work. Smaller rooms were dedicated to classes, lectures, and occult experiments. A cryptic inscription hung above the locked door of the 'Shrine Room', accessible only to senior adepts. It read, "You Must Pay Attention to Me, In Order to See Me."

Students knew the centre simply as 'Agartha'. One former student recalled a lecturer referring to it as the 'Agartha Lodge of Austral-Aquaria'. This name evokes the mysterious subterranean kingdom beneath the Himalayas. Lamas famously described it to explorer Ferdinand Ossendowski as a kingdom ruled by the Lord of the World. A portrait of this very figure hung in the 'Shrine Room'. A student who glimpsed through the open door described a painting depicting Sanat Kumara, whom the clairvoyant bishop C.W. Leadbeater described as the Lord of the World and "Youth of Sixteen Summers."

Another student who responded to an advertisement for the Moorish Science Institute recalled a lecture explaining that the original European Rosicrucian project was launched by Sufi mystics. This student came to believe that at least part of the group's roots stretched back to a highly secretive neo-gnostic Rosicrucian lodge active in Brisbane a century ago.



The name Agartha was no accident, nor was the town.

Toowoomba has a long history of high strangeness, complete with UFO accounts dating back to the late 1950s and 1960s. Madame Blavatsky's close colleague, the American Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, travelled up the range to lecture in 1891 and returned in 1897. A local hall on Russell Street, which served for decades as a Theosophical lodge, was even named in his honour. The Temple stood just a short walk from that hall, directly across the park. Clearly, whoever set up the Temple knew the esoteric ground had been prepared long before their arrival.

What went on inside those walls remains a closely guarded secret. What happened outside is a little easier to trace. There's a paper trail. The Temple dispatched research expeditions to Thailand and Siem Reap in Cambodia, the town adjacent to Angkor Wat. The ancient

On the hills above the Dnieper at Cherkasy, in Ukraine, stands a red-brick temple called the White Lotus, built by hand in the 1990s by a kung fu master named Volodymyr Skubaiev who had trained in Laos and promised his teacher a school. It is the largest Buddhist temple in

On 17 March 2007, a date the Moors keep as Tag Day, Wilson took up a pen and wrote a charter by hand. The sheet bears a red winged heart, the old Sufi emblem, a green seal in Arabic, and his signature twice, once as Hakim in Arabic script and once as P. Lamborn Wilson



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Moorish Science Academy

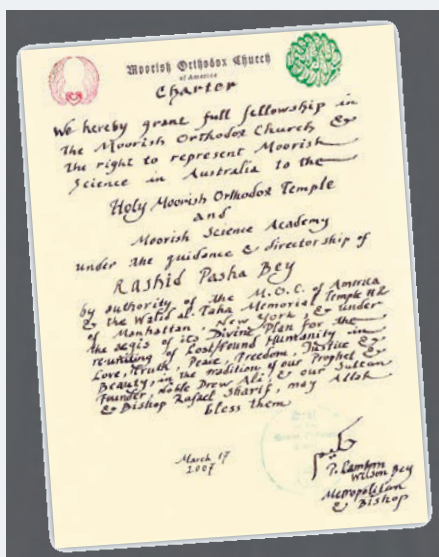
The Moorish Science
Academy welcomes enquiries
from sincere Seekers of Truth
who are called to
the Secret Path.

A Way embraced by Sufi
mystics and Muslim
esotericists.

Love, Truth, Peace,
Freedom, and Justice.
ISLAAM.



– Robert Black





Moorish Science Academy

Agartha Lodge of Austral-Aquaria

GREETING: Peace, Truth, Freedom, and Radical Sovereign Justice.

To the Differentiated Ones, the unassimilated agents of the Spirit tuning in from the underground wire. Listen to the static of the turning age.

We broadcast to you from the nadir of the temporal cycle. The planetary lockdown of the Great Sleep is upon us. The Board of Control – the archons and false architects of this desacralized meat-market – have finalized their enclosure. The mechanisms the herd relies upon for ‘change’ – the ballot boxes, the fiat banking grids, the dogmatic altars, the scripted protests – are compromised. They are the heavy junk sickness of the Nova Mob, a planetary virus shot directly into the collective vein of a slumbering humanity. We exist within a rigged reality studio, completely surrounded by a holographic projection of false authority.

What, then, of the Sovereign Mind? What becomes of those who internally belong to another time, the eternal esoteric frequency, marooned in this hollowed-out modern epoch? For those who see through the artificiality of the prevailing order, only one trajectory remains: The Catacomb Front.

The Catacomb Front is the hidden spiritual underground. It requires a radical, cellular rejection of the surrounding illusion. You must synthesize your own spiritual apomorphine. You must take the heavy smog of the establishment’s poison and alchemically transmute it into the medicine of liberation. You do not engage the rigged systems of Control; you absolutely refuse to be defined by them.

At the center of our Science lies the ancient transmission of the Old Man of the Mountain, Hassan-i Sabbah, echoing through the terminal amplifiers of the underground:

“Nothing is true, everything is permitted.”

The uninitiated masses, trapped in the instant gratification of the stimulus-response trap, fundamentally distort this Holy Science. They hear this decree and interpret it as a free pass for a permanent riot, a license for reckless, mechanical hedonism. But acting out of pure, base impulse is just another feedback loop for Control to harvest. To simply react to the stimuli of Babylon, even in supposed rebellion, is the ultimate failure of freedom.

The truth of this maxim is far more profound, and significantly more terrifying.

When we declare that Nothing is true, we proclaim that the entire apparatus of consensus reality is a cheap carnival hallucination. The state laws of the oppressor, the rigid moralities of orthodox dogma, the cozy narratives of the herd. They are all artificial constructs. They are a parasitic word-virus designed to keep the Divine Mind anesthetized and docile. To recognize that nothing is true is to actively dismantle these external systems of domination within your own consciousness.

Once you break free from the illusion, you confront the cold, heavy reality of the Great Work: Everything is permitted.

This is not an invitation to lawless chaos. It is the terrifying, supreme revelation of absolute, self-determined accountability. There is no cosmic safety net waiting to catch you. There is no external Big Boss in the sky keeping score, and no societal master left to blame for your spasms. Stripped of the comforting illusions of the group, you are cast into the radical freedom of the Absolute.

True liberation demands that every choice you make must be entirely self-authored. You have stepped out of the script, which means you alone are the final judge of your existence. In a universe devoid of external moral guardians, you must consciously weigh and fully own the consequences of your every action. You must pay the tab for every single move.

This is the supreme burden and the ultimate glory of the Catacomb Front. True freedom is not the ability to flail blindly without consequence; it is the crushing, exhilarating weight of absolute sovereignty. There are no authorities to save us, no external idols to absolve us, and no excuses left to make.

The reality studio is burning. Turn off the screen, step into the void, and take total ownership of your Temple.

END TRANSMISSION. Inner Circle of the Holy Moorish Orthodox Temple.



THREE MEN, THREE FEZZES

Aleister Crowley wore a fez in Cairo and posed for portraits as “Prince Khan,” dressed in Middle Eastern attire. He also hired a Sufi sheikh to teach him Arabic and the prayers so he could pass as a Muslim. Dr Hugo Vollrath, one of Germany’s leading pre-war occult publishers, wore a fez and, when pressed to explain, claimed it protected the human aura and energy body from harmful influences.

Noble Drew Ali made the fez, common Eastern headwear of the time, compulsory for every male member of his movement. Ali’s fez carried a Cherokee feather to honour Native American heritage.

◀ Aleister Crowley as Prince Chioa Khan (from his biography *The Great Beast* by John Symonds)



▶ Noble Drew Ali



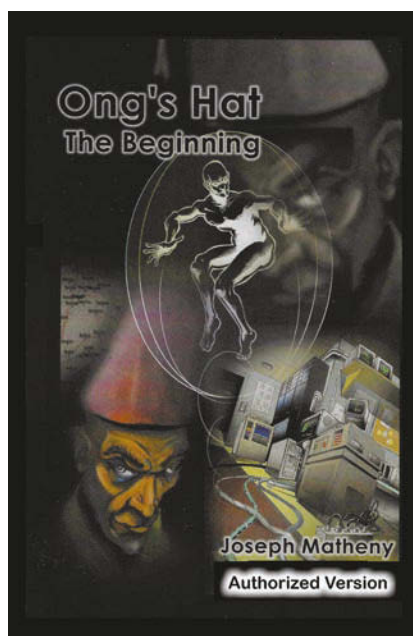
virus. Words, in his account, entered the human body long ago, replicated, and now direct the host. Governments, churches and advertisers all use the same words because all of them are infected.

Burroughs also took a maxim attributed to the medieval Assassins: “Nothing is true, everything is permitted.” He did not read it as permission to do as one likes. If nothing is true, the instructions a person follows come from outside, and once that is seen the person answers for every choice with no authority to defer to.

In 1164 the Nizari leader Hasan II proclaimed the Resurrection and suspended the outward law. Peter Lamborn Wilson treated this as a spiritually significant event. The inner truth had arrived, so the believer no longer needed to be regulated by imposed external rules.

In *Sacred Drift* (1993) Wilson observed that Noble Drew Ali worked the way Burroughs worked. He taught that the words Negro and Colored were fictions written by the United States government to hold a people in place. Both men said the same thing. What you take for reality is a text someone else wrote for you. Both gave the same instruction. Rewrite it yourself.

Wilson called that position the Temporary Autonomous Zone. The adepts who founded the Moorish Orthodox Church understood the



trap and chose to rewrite their own reality through spiritual intention, strange poetry and transgressive art.

THE EGG AND THE PINE BARRENS

Joseph Matheny, a media theorist, compiled the lore in *Ong’s Hat: The Beginning*, published in 2002 by Peter Moon’s own imprint, Sky Books. The book collects documents that had circulated on bulletin boards and by post since the late 1980s. It includes a catalogue of rare books called *Incunabula* and a brochure for an “Institute of Chaos Studies and Moorish Science Ash-

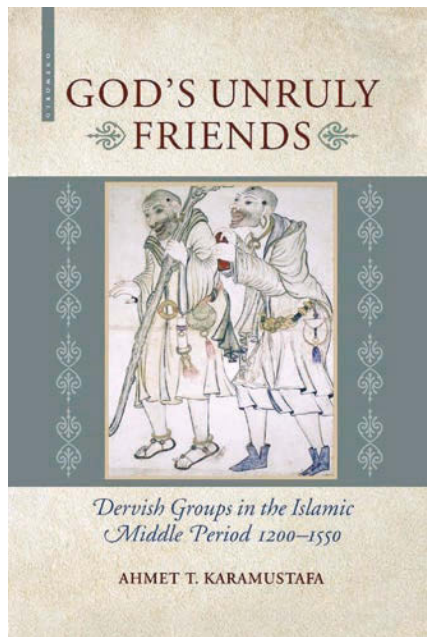
ram” at Ong’s Hat, a ghost town in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

In these pages, the dissident Moorish path meets quantum physics. Matheny describes the Moorish Orthodox Church as “one of the most secretive and mysterious religious organisations ever known to man,” a group he characterises as “a revolutionary and heretical sect of Islam that carries on an ancient tradition which sought to counterbalance the forces of orthodox Islam.”

Matheny writes that their mission was “to serve as the torch-bearers of freedom against the tyrannical and repressive aspects of the Earth’s patriarchal power structure as our planetary consciousness shifts to the Age of Aquarius and sets its sights on unlimited freedom.”

In the official texts, a group of Moorish Orthodox adepts fled the cities and formed a spiritual community in the sandy pine forests of New Jersey. The lore puts it this way, “What began as an heretical Islamic sect founded in the early 1900s by Black circus magician, Noble Drew Ali, evolved over the century into a techno-tantric commune whose members managed to escape this befouled world into a pristine, Edenic parallel universe, a New Jersey Pine Barrens devoid of inhabitants.”

In this wilderness, renegade physicists joined the mystics. They combined Sufi discipline with the



Everett-Wheeler-Graham model of quantum mechanics, which posits infinite parallel universes. They then built a machine.

As the text states, "This latter rag-tag group built the 'Egg', a glistening Fabergé-like device that enabled trans-dimensional travel into unpopulated mirror worlds."

Did any of this happen? Matheny has been asked about it for thirty years and has kept the question open. In 2003 he told *Jane* magazine that readers of *Ong's Hat: The Beginning* split evenly between those who took it as fiction and those who took it as fact. His website now calls *Ong's Hat* a transmedia project and the first proto-ARG, an alternate reality game played across forums, a CD-ROM and print. In August 2026 he wrote that some things are best left a mystery.

The Moorish adepts who pass the story on have never needed him to settle it. In their reckoning, a myth is judged by what it does to the reader, and the Egg has sent many readers looking for the road into the Pine Barrens. Eventually some of the seekers have even entered the Moorish Orthodox community.

By the late twentieth century, the electronic control grid spanned the planet. The Montauk Project used radar to weaponise time. In the Pine Barrens, Moorish adepts sought a door out of space and time. Noble Drew Ali had returned a forgotten

people to their spiritual roots, and the radical descendants of his movement used those tools to construct an exit from the maze.

THE UNRULY STREAM

In the lore, the Egg offered escape to a select few. Those left behind in the matrix required another kind of salvation, and for them the Moorish Orthodox Church teaches the Green Light of the Moorish Gnosis, a direct communion with the divine beyond the checkpoints of religious dogma. Peter Levenda credits Peter Lamborn Wilson (aka Hakim Bey) with reviving the church upon his return to America from Iran in 1981. In *Sinister Forces*, Levenda notes that Bey transformed the MOC into a "catch-all for occultists, magicians, Christian mystics, Islamic mystics, homosexual mystics, and assorted counter-culture types." Wilson later called this impulse "ontological anarchy."

The scholar A.T. Karamustafa traces its origins in *God's Unruly Friends*, his study of the Qalandars, Haydaris, and Abdals, wandering dervishes who scandalised the medieval Middle East by consuming cannabis, neglecting prescribed prayers, and openly courting scorn. The Malamatiyya Sufis, or "People of Blame," who emerged in ninth-century Nishapur, turned social transgression into a tool of spiritual warfare. By engineering their own infamy, for instance by feigning the breaking of the Ramadan fast, they invited public condemnation and used the shame to grind down the ego. As Al-Sulami, the movement's chronicler, wrote, "They show off what is blameworthy and conceal what is praiseworthy." Ordinary people often revered them anyway, reading their transgression as a purer kind of piety.

Kathryn Babayan finds the same impulse running through Safavid Iran in *Mystics, Monarchs, and Messiahs*, where heterodox Sufism repeatedly destabilised both the throne and the pulpit. The Moorish Orthodox Church claimed this same lineage for itself, treating psychedelics, syncretism, and the rejection of institutional authority as a modern continuation of the "People of Blame."

Mainstream pundits present geopolitical conflict as a struggle over territory and resources. Moon and the Moorish adepts describe a war over dimensional mechanics and the human soul. For centuries, Western power structures used the hijacked wisdom of the Moors to build a system of social control, suppressed the histories of ancient civilisations, and deployed the Word Virus so the population would police itself.

At Camp Hero, the rusted radar dish still points skyward. The military machine relies on steel, electricity and force to conquer reality. The adepts of Moorish Science use the awakened human mind instead, and count it the stronger instrument. The control structures look impenetrable, yet escape is possible. William S. Burroughs wrote in his final journals, "The Secret Army? I won't say 'we lost', because some of what's left of us is still in there." ▲

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