

# The Living Death: Two Faces of the Feminine – Lilith and Az (Jeh)

An excerpt from Dragon's Blood #6: *Lilith*



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"After Ohrmazd had given women to righteous men, they fled and went over a Satan; and when Ohrmazd provided righteous men with peace and happiness, Satan provided women too with happiness. As Satan had allowed the women to ask for anything they wanted, Ohrmazd feared that they might ask to have intercourse with the righteous men and that these might suffer damage thereby..."

- Theodore bar Konai

Legends about Lilith derive mostly from the Assyrian-Babylonian and the Hebrew traditions. This vampiric goddess of the night has a great significance also in the Qabalah and the Talmudic demonology, and as a goddess of the underground current, she influenced the origins of the Qabalah in the Saracen Spain. We know that Lilith appears in the Book of Isaiah [34,14] and the Book of Job [18,15]. Apart from these short mentions, nothing else can be found in today's Bible. We also know that Lilith was the first wife of Adam, the first rebel and the herald of the conscious Free Will. In the myths about Lilith we will find stories in which Adam first felt envy while watching animals copulate, and asked God for a female companion. Thus, God created Lilith – a creature similar to Adam, but made of ash, mud and filth. United with Adam, Lilith gave birth to many demons which later were to torment mankind. Their relationship was not perfect, though. Lilith dared to oppose Adam and question his superiority, especially in their sexual relations. She did not agree to take the passive role in an intercourse and often asked:

"Why do I always have to lie beneath you? I am your equal."

But Adam could not understand her demands, did not want to listen to her, and most of all, did not want to give her what she desired. Instead, he spoke to her about God's law that a woman must be obedient to her husband. Then Lilith, infuriated, screamed the unspeakable name of God (Shem Hameforash), spread her wings and fled from Eden to a wilderness near the Red Sea. There, in the land of Zemargad, she created her own "garden of pleasures." The Garden of Eden was for her nothing more than a prison without a right to liberty and equality, ruled by the patriarchal principle. This was not what she desired.

Lilith was the first to long for the free choice, Free Will. When she left the Garden of Eden, for the first time she had a chance to taste both Darkness and Light. In her kingdom on the shores of the Red Sea she gave birth to thousands of demons, over a hundred each day. Her children were called Lilitu or Lilim, and it is sometimes said that their number was 784, which is the Qabalistic number of Lilith. After she left, Adam complained to God that his companion fled from him, and God sent three angels, Senoy, Sansenoy and Semangelof, to bring her back. Yet she did not want to exchange her newly gained freedom for imprisonment in the patriarchal structure, and she refused to return, for which she was punished: each day a hundred of her demons were to die. Angry at this judgment, Lilith swore

vengeance upon God's beloved creation: man. Thus, whenever she had a chance, she devoured the offspring of man, especially male infants.

Lilith personifies the dark side of the feminine: rebellious and untamed nature, eroticism and debauchery, desire, passion, and viciousness. It is her who haunts men in their darkest dreams, sending them visions of lechery and forbidden satisfaction, and steals their semen so that she could use it to create more succubi and incubi. She is therefore a symbol of sexual delights, but she also signifies the fear of impotence and weakness (for how man can be weaker from his wife?). On the Tree of Night, as the dark queen, Lilith is the ruler of the second qlipha, Gamaliel. But her name is ascribed to another qliphothic sphere: Malkuth Lilith, ruled by Naamah/Nahemah, which means "pleasant," while the name "Lilith" might be translated as "screeching" or "li-lit" - "evil spirit" (among other meanings). The level of Malkuth, called also "the womb of Lilith," represents the absorption of energies essential to walk the initiatory path through the Tree of Night in order to find self-deification. There we will find the Goddess in her lair, in the caves and pits of the earth, in the lakes of her nourishing blood. Naamah is known as the demon of prostitution and a demonic sister to Lilith, or a sister to Tubal Cain. As the legend has it, from the union of Adam (possessed by Samael) and Eve (possessed by Lilith) Cain was born, the first murderer and the father to the Cainites. He was the first man who achieved the higher gnosis after being taught the secrets of the universe by his true mother, Lilith. Her vampiric nature is also represented by an insatiable hunger, both in the sense of life and sexual gratification, and her connection to the lunar cycle of the woman. As the mistress of the dark side of the moon, the mythical lair of vampires, she is the life and death conjoined, the personification of united principles of Eros and Thanatos. Lilith is also the mother and the ruler of the Sabbat, where through ecstasy, dark and savage sexual practices, she represents the primeval and natural instincts of man and the mysteries of witchcraft. She has hundreds of names which might be used to call her. According to a legend, she revealed seventeen of them to the prophet Elias. Some of them were: Abeko, Abito, Amizo, Batna, Izorpo, Kali, Kea, Kokos, Odam, Lilith, Patrota, Podo, Satrina, Talto.

According to some legends, after Abel's death Adam refrained from sexual intercourse with Eve, but instead he fornicated with Lilith. The offspring of this union was reputedly a wise frog. The frog was teaching humanity languages, the knowledge of herbs and gems. But the Church rejects these legends, as the frog is considered an impure animal, of devil's origin. Here we should mention the old Iranian myths where the frog is one of the forms of Ahriman, the devil of these religions. Ahriman's consort is Jeh, also known as Az, a demon akin to Lilith. Unfortunately, there are not many sources on Az, but what we can actually find, reveals her as a very interesting entity. The name "Jeh" itself, which derives from the Pahlavi texts, means "whore," or "harlot." Thus, she is known as "The Whore of Whores" or "The Queen of Whores," the one who will awaken mankind to sin, debauchery and sexual pleasure. In Ahrimanic myths Az has a significant role - she is his inspiration and force arousing his desires. Also, she was the one who awakened Ahriman from his three-thousand-year sleep, to which he was put by his righteous brother Ahura Mazda. Jeh could be viewed as an equivalent of such goddesses/female demons as Lilith or Babalon, the Whore. She is most often depicted as a beautiful woman, a fly, a dragon, or as a disgusting crone. Her lair is in the places untouched by the rays of sun, in caves or in the darkest of hells. She was the one who taught humans, demons, the daevas, and later the fallen angels how to arouse oneself and others, how to copulate and fornicate. Az is the first woman who used her witchcraft to create the dragon children, demons and daughters, who were the only creatures from her blood. Similarly as Lilith, she was known to devour her offspring and their progeny, after which she gave birth to more children which also devoured one another in the eternal cycle. Az is viewed as the instinctual side of man, based on main desires: dying and living, eating and copulating. Therefore Zaehner regards her as the instinctual aspect of each human, the unrestrained movement which is anticlockwise, antinomian and chaotic:

„The demon Az is a Buddhist rather than a Zoroastrian idea; there is no trace of it in the Avesta. In Buddhism, on the other hand, the root cause of the chain of conditioned existence is *avidya*, 'ignorance', and its principal manifestation is *trshna*, 'thirst', which means the desire for continued existence in time - intellectual error, then, manifesting itself in concupiscence.”

In the Zoroastrian religion Az represents the concept of deification through the conscious dedication of oneself to the path of sexual debauchery and predatory vampirism. Thus, Az and Lilith both stand for the Left Hand Path as a transition from light into darkness through the process of becoming a whole among chaos and non-being. The union of Ahriman and Az is connected to the three-thousand-year fall of Satan, punished by Ahura Mazda, the god of light. Unconscious Satan could not have been awakened by his servants – demons and shadows - through their stories of fighting and heroic deeds, until Az came to him and said:

"Arise, O our father, for in the battle [to come] I shall let loose so much affliction on the Righteous Man and the toiling Bull that, because of my deeds, they will not be fit to live. I shall take away their dignity (*khwarr*): I shall afflict the water, I shall afflict the earth, I shall afflict the fire, I shall afflict the plants, I shall afflict all the creation which Ohrmazd has created."

After hearing these words, Ahriman awakened from his infinite slumber and arose, ready to fight. Zaehner mentions the following description of his awakening and his gift to Az:

„And she related her evil deeds so minutely that the Destructive Spirit was comforted, leapt up out of his swoon, and kissed the head of the Whore; and that pollution called menstruation appeared on the Whore. And the Destructive Spirit cried out to the demon Whore: ‘Whatsoever is thy desire, that do thou ask, that I may give it thee.’”

In the Bundahishn we may find a similar description of the “kiss,” which obviously stands for sexual intercourse:

„And he kissed Jeh upon the head, and the pollution which they call menstruation became apparent in Jeh.”

From all this we can draw two main conclusions. First of all, Az or Jeh possesses the knowledge of Light and Darkness, of the Natural Order, the knowledge which is not possessed by Ahriman. Az might have been therefore created with the same knowledge as possessed by Zurvan, the father of Ahura Mazda (the god of light) and Ahriman (the god of darkness). Thus, she is a woman who knows all of life and death and is able to teach the ways of self-deification and self-creation. She is more intelligent and wiser than the male element. She evokes respect, fear, lust and passions. The other thing which is worth to note is that Jeh, who was endowed with menstrual blood and viewed as impure, personifies the dark side of the moon, the vampire concept. The Moon and the menstrual blood are symbolic of a certain natural cycle. It belongs to the lunar sphere, which in the Western esotericism is called the astral plane, the level of vampirism and the place of the spiritual Sabbat.

To sum up, Az and Lilith are the goddesses of the astral realm, where the magician can participate in debauched Sabbats, wild celebrations of freedom and lust. Through this desire and gratification on sexual and spiritual level, one can enter the path of self-creation and self-perfection, as through the Sabbatic union we may experience all our hidden instincts, essential to the full integration of consciousness. Lilith and Az represent the night, the storm, sex, lust, passion, and also life and death. As a female principle, more perfect than male, and as those who were the first to experience and possess full knowledge of the universe, they have never been and never will be slaves of any god or man. They are the archetype of Femme Fatale, the vampiric seductress and the one who awakens the dead to life. They are the mistresses of the Blood-Red Moon and patronesses of witches. They are the ever-changing female principle. What is really significant to notice, is that both of them are aware of their power and potential, and the release of these forces is viewed as a threat to social structures and religions of the patriarchal world.

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