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# Western Demons

A LITERARY HISTORY

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# Definition

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FINDING A DEMON

## Demon

### Definition using the negatives

- Not previously been a human.
- Not exhibiting normal symptoms of a scientifically definable physical or mental disease.
- Outward manifestation beyond the explainable abilities of an associated host.
- Limited power and therefore at a lower level than a primary deity.

Demon

Definition using 5 characteristics

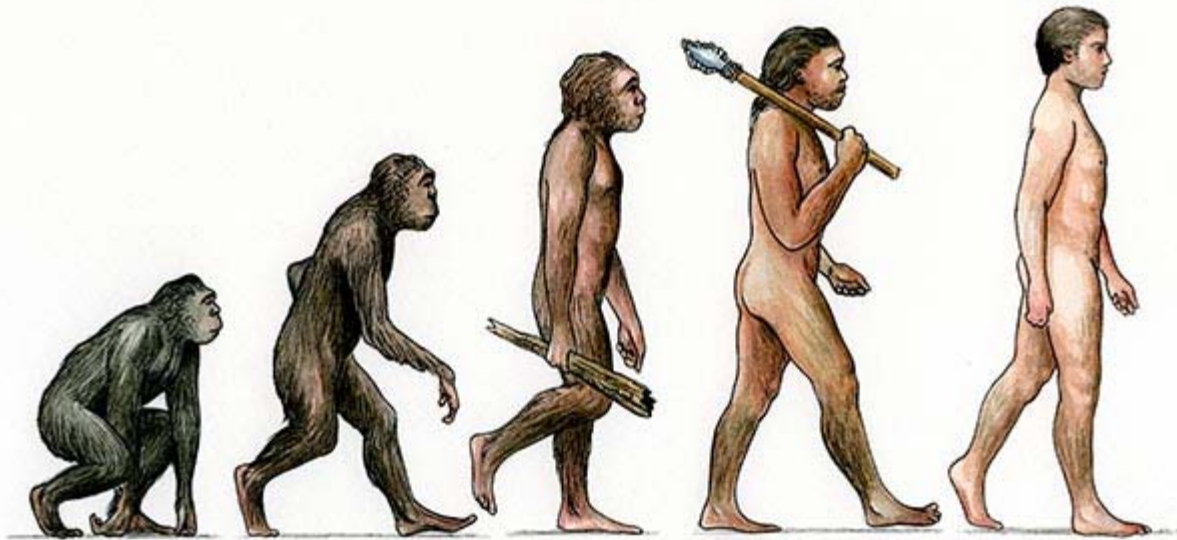
- Will
- Emotion
- Intellect
- Self-Awareness
- Speech

# Anthropology

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COMPLETE HISTORY OF MAN (ABRIDGED)

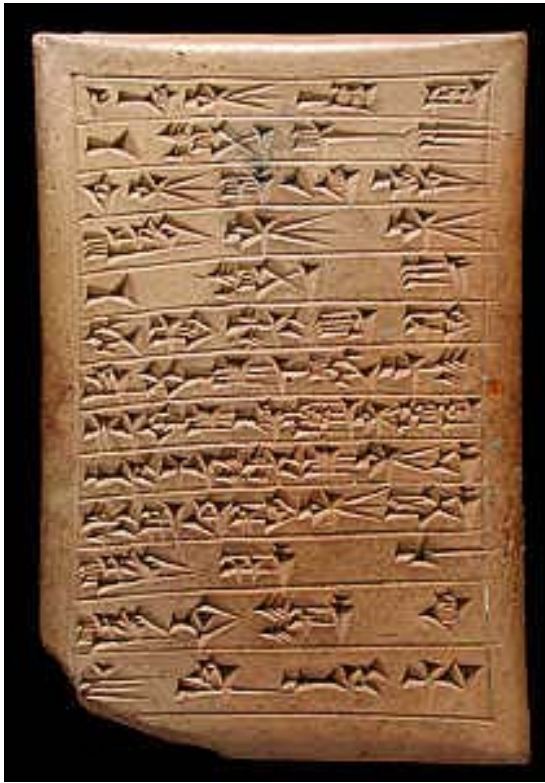
Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Homo sapiens evolved 200,000 years ago in central Africa.
- Man began speaking around 100,000 years ago.



## Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Earliest known writing is from a Harappan settlement in Pakistan and dates to 4,100 BC.



- The earliest decipherable surviving writing system was developed around 3,600 BC (5,000 years ago) in Mesopotamia as a system of symbols to represent numbers.

## Current Scientific Mythology holds:

- Before the Mesopotamian era, there is only art
- e.g.
  - The face from Angoulême, France (27,000 years ago)
  - Cave paintings of Nerja in Malaga, Spain (43,500 years ago)





# Gilgamesh

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THE FIRST HISTORIC DEMONS

## Gilgamesh

3 types of demons from Sumerian texts

- Disembodied human spirits
- Half-monster, half-human entities
- Non-human forces



## Gilgamesh

### Utukku

- Ghost of Eabani
- Generic term for Sumerian and Babylonian demon that haunts barren places.



*“A door cannot exclude them,  
A bolt cannot turn them back;  
They slither through the door like a snake,  
They blow in by the hinge like the wind,  
They bear off the wife from a man’s  
embrace,  
They snatch the son from a man’s knee.”*

*-Extract from a Mesopotamian incantation*

## Gilgamesh

### Alu (Gallu)

- Bull of Heaven sent after Gilgamesh to avenge Ishtar
- Alu from Sumerian Gallu which means “tempest”. This spirit hunts the night for souls.



## Gilgamesh

### Lilu

- Prototype of incubus/succubus
- Believed to steal life-force
- Blames for crib death
- Associated with sleep paralysis
- Not origin of Jewish Lilith



## Gilgamesh

### Shedim

- Babylonian meaning “to be violent”
- Winged bull temple guardians



# Transfer of Religions

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THE THREE METHODS

3 primary methods of religious transfer:

- Neighbor to neighbor
- Trade
- Conquest



Methods of preserving culture/religion:

- Conversion of completing religions gods to lesser gods/demons
- Branding any completing religions gods as Evil.
- Prohibiting breeding outside the tribe as well as self-imposed tribal isolation.
- Unique diets
- Maintaining tribal languages
- Maintaining secret rites for the initiated.

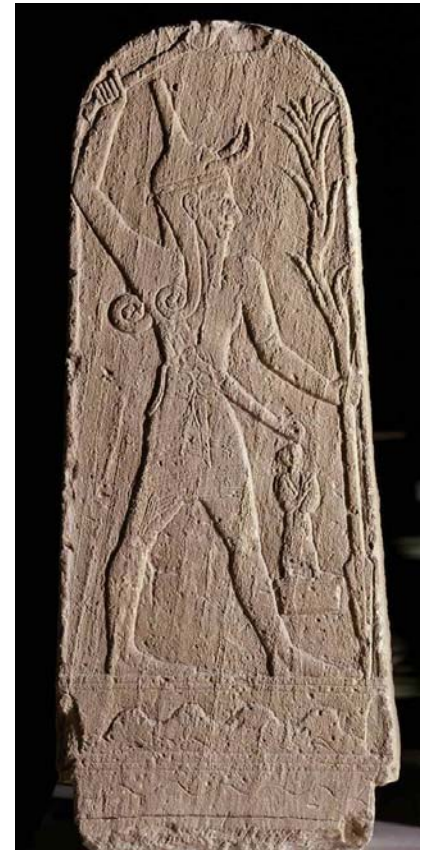
# Baal

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NAMES MATTER

## Baal Hahdad

- Beelzebub is corruption of Canaanite name
- Baal Hahdad means “Lord of Thunder”
- Most popular god of Canaan



## Baal Hahdad

- Many mentions of Baal... most are not same
- Baal is title that means “Lord”
- Most popular god of Canaan



Baal Sammin  
“Lord of Heaven”



Baal-Hammon  
“Lord of Censer Altars”



# Sumeria

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FORMAL EXORCISMS

## Sumerian contributions

- Developed first uniformed rituals
- Invoked names of demons
- Used animal surrogates
- Use of Purification spells

### Invocation of names

- Attempted to learn names
- Would recite name to bind demon and force from host
- Who use list of common demons in lieu of name

### Use of animals

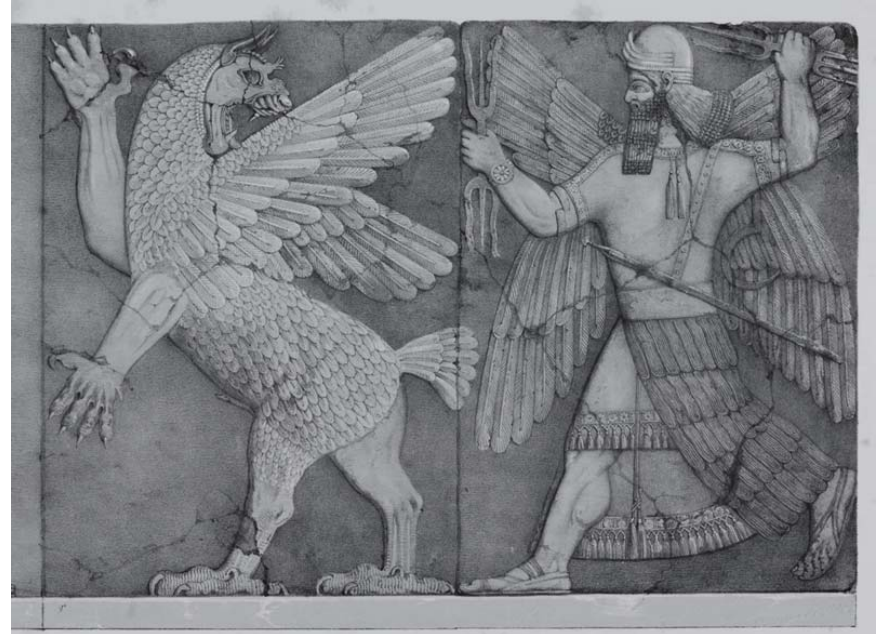
- First use of pigs and sheep to bind demons
- Once demons in animals, animal would be killed to slay demon

### Purification spells

- Standardized

## Sumerian Exorcism

- Ritual black and white yarn is spun
- Placed around hosts bed with black on the left and white on the right
- God Asari-alim-nunna (Marduk) invoked
- Washed twice 7 times



# Jewish writings

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MONOTHEIST IMPACT



## Judges 9:23

- Demon as Agent of God

*Young's Literal Translation*

and God sendeth an evil spirit between Abimelech and the masters of Shechem, and the masters of Shechem deal treacherously with Abimelech,

*King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)*

Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

**שׁוֹפְטִים** 9:23 Hebrew OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex

וַיִּשְׁלַח אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ רָעָה בֵּין אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּבֵין בְּעָלֵי שֵׁכֶם וַיִּבְגְּדוּ בְּעָלֵי-שֵׁכֶם בְּאֲבִימֶלֶךְ:

## 1 Samuel 16:14

- Demon as Agent of God

*Young's Literal Translation*

And the Spirit of Jehovah  
turned aside from Saul, and  
a spirit of sadness from  
Jehovah terrified him;

*King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)*

But the Spirit of the LORD  
departed from Saul, and an  
evil spirit from the LORD  
troubled him.

שופטים 9:23 Hebrew OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex

וְרוּחַ יְהוָה סָרָה מֵעַם שָׁאֻל וּבָעִתּוֹ רוּחַ רָעָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה:

## Deuteronomy 32:17

- Demon as creature

### *Young's Literal Translation*

They sacrifice to demons --  
no god! Gods they have not  
known -- New ones -- from  
the vicinity they came; Not  
feared them have your  
fathers!

### *King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)*

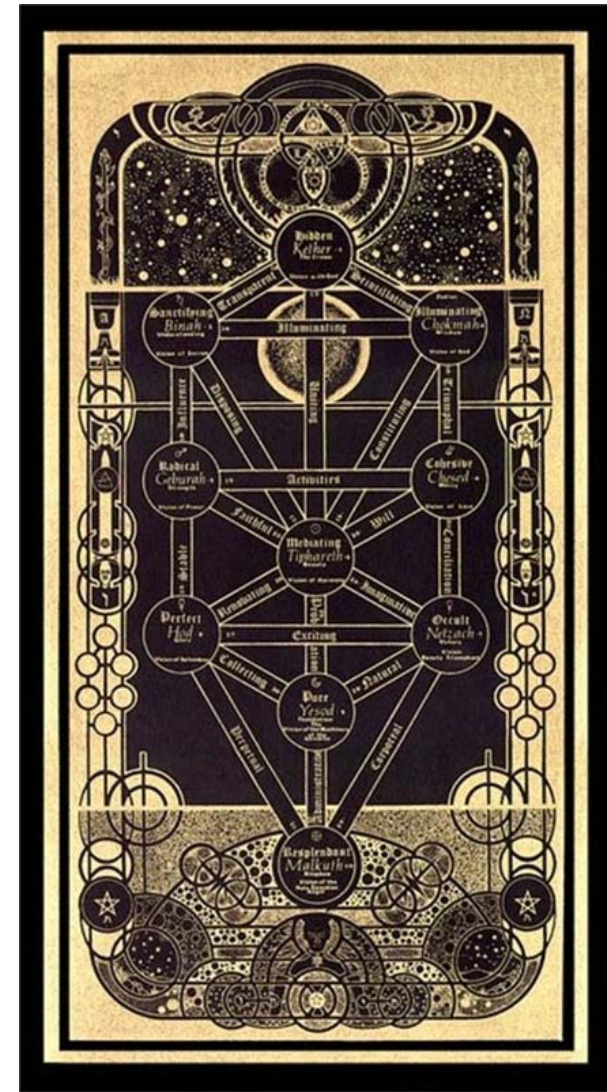
They sacrificed unto devils,  
not to God; to gods whom  
they knew not, to new gods  
that came newly up, whom  
your fathers feared not.

### דברים 32:17 Hebrew OT: Westminster Leningrad Codex

יִזְבְּחוּ לִשְׂדִים לֹא אֱלֹהִים לֹא יִדְעוּם חֲדָשִׁים מִקְרֵב בָּאוּ לֹא שְׁעָרוּם  
אֲבֹתֵיכֶם:

## Quabbalah

- Formed by hundreds of Rabbiac text
- Features Tree of Life as a metaphor for understanding God.
- 10 sephiroth or levels of understanding



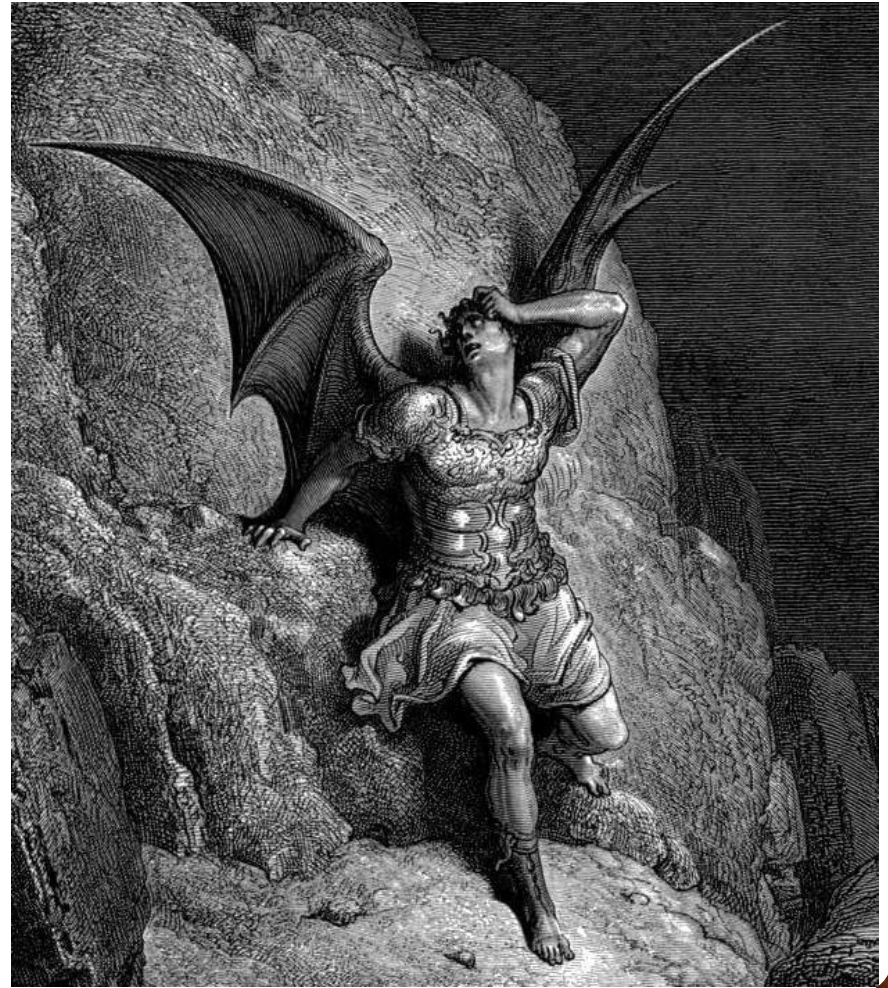
# Christian New Testament



DEFINING EVIL

3 terms for spirits in New Testament:

- Demon
- Unclean spirit
- Evil spirit



3 ancient Greek religious hierarchies:

- Theos θεοί (theoi plural)
  - The Titans or Olympians
- Daimon δαίμων
  - Nymphs, satyrs or divine heroes
- Daimonions δαιμόνια
  - Inspiration spirits



Terms in New Testament:

- Daimon, only appears once , in Matthew 8:31
- Daimonion is found at least 60 times.
- unclean spirit πνεῦμα ἀκάθαρτον is used about 20 times in Luke , Acts and Revelations
- Evil Spirits πνευμάτων πονηρῶν is used 6 times in Luke and Acts.



Terms in New Testament:

- one use of two of these terms combined in Luke 4:33
- “spirit of an unclean demon.” πνεῦμα δαιμονίου ἀκαθάρτου

## Terms in New Testament:

- Daimonizo
- English translations have changed this verb into meaning “to possessed by a demon.”
- Real meaning “to be influenced by a demon.”

## Terms in New Testament:

- ekballo ἐκβάλλει
  - means “to push out”
- exorkizo ἐξορκιστῶν (or exorcism) meaning to “adjure or command”
  - only once in the New Testament
  - Acts 19:13
  - used when referring to non-Christians expelling demons.

## Matthew 4:24

### Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And his fame was heard in all Syria, and they brought to him all those who had become ill with various diseases, those who were afflicted with severe pain, and the demon possessed, and lunatics and paralytics, and he healed them.

### King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

## Mark 1:23-27

### Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And in their synagogue there was a man who had a vile spirit in him, and he cried out And he said, “What business do we have with you, Yeshua the Nazarene? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, The Holy One of God.” And Yeshua rebuked him and said, “Shut your mouth and come out of him.” And the foul spirit threw him down and he cried out in a loud voice and came out of him. And all of them marveled and they were inquiring with one another, saying, “What is this?”, and “What is this new teaching? For he commands even the foul spirits with authority and they obey him.”

### King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

## Mark 6:7

### Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And he called his twelve and he began to send them two by two and he gave them authority over vile spirits to cast them out.

### King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

## Mark 9:38-41

### Aramaic Bible in Plain English

Yohannan said to him, “Rabbi, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him because he did not go out with us.” Yeshua said to them, “Do not forbid him, for there is no man who does a powerful work in my name and can soon speak badly about me.” “Whoever therefore is not against you is for you.” But everyone who will give you only a cup of water to drink in the name that you are one who belongs to The Messiah, amen, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

### King James Bible (Cambridge Ed.)

And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

# Grimoires

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SECRET KNOWLEDGE



## Grimoire: Testament of Solomon

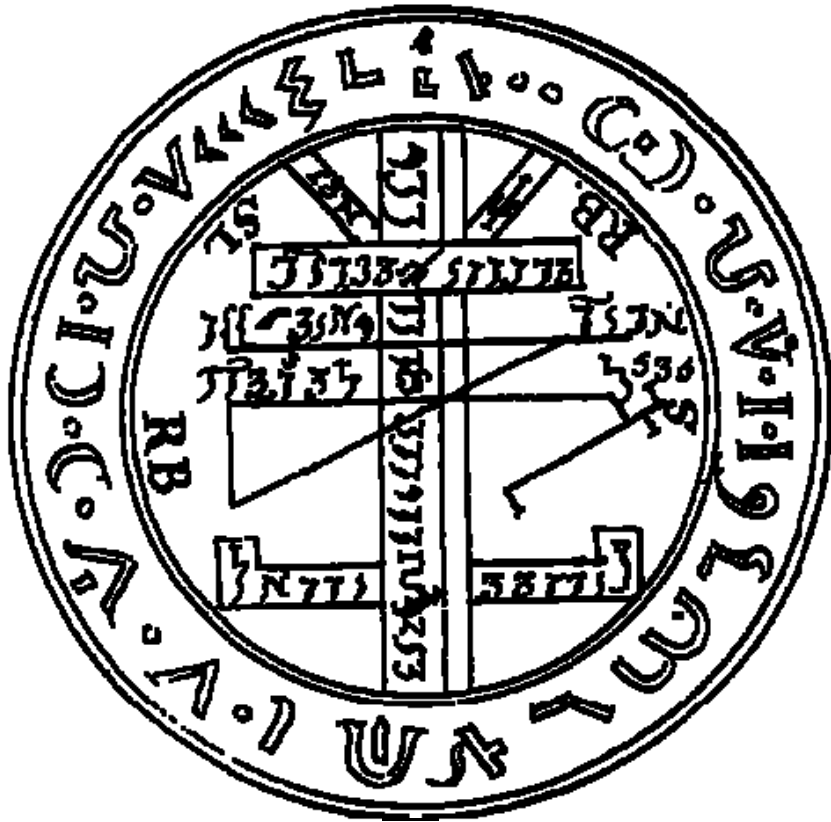
- Original source of most grimoires
- Featured descriptions of angels, spirits and demons
- “First” use of pentagram as demon binding spell.



Figure 2. King Solomon evoking Belial.  
From Jacobus de Teramo, *Hic hebet sich an das Buch Belial genant* (Augsburg, 1473).

## Grimoire: Testament of Solomon

- Detailed pushing out demons



Many demons met:

- Onoskelis
- Asmodeus, also known as Aeshma-daeva
- Ehippas the wind demon
- Tephra the ash demon
- The 7 of the 33 elements of darkness

## Grimoire:

- Circa 1100 until 1800s
- Claimed to preserve secret knowledge
- Featured protections amulets
- Spells
- Summons
- Bindings



## Grimoire: Tetragrammaton

- God's name may not be used in vain

### Significance of the Tetragrammaton 4 Symbols of YHWH



HEH

female

window, opening,  
aperture, desire,  
to be, exist  
sighting of a star  
to breathe.  
to become



VAV

male

that which joins,  
nail, penis, peg which  
holds the door curtain  
before the Ark of the Law



HEH

female

window, opening,  
aperture, desire,  
to be, exist  
sighting of a star  
to breathe.  
to become



YOD

male

right hand, fist, handle  
pointing index finger,  
hand as symbol of God,  
power & activity, seed,  
semen, penis

## Grimoire: Tetragrammaton

- Becomes a short hand sigla or amulet



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Paleo-Hebrew

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Ancient arabic

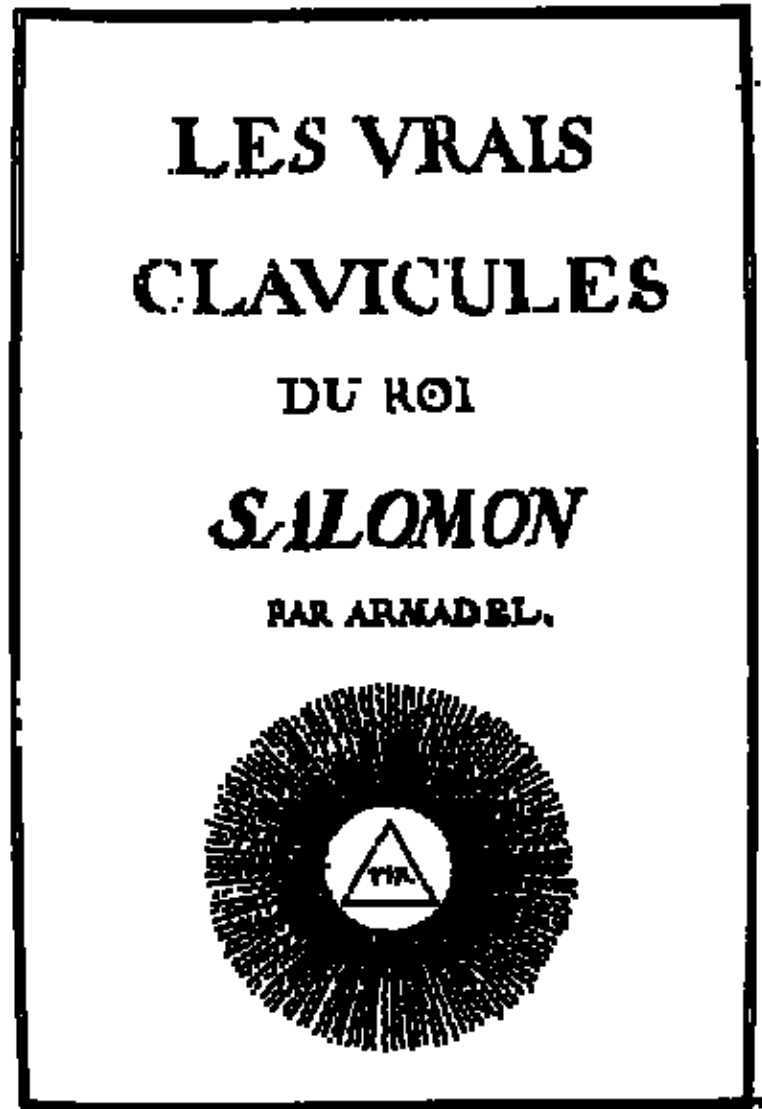
יהוה

Hebrew



Grimoire: Key of Solomon

- Collection of Qabalistic magic
- Collection of Ceremonial magic
- Dates to early 16<sup>th</sup> century text but made in 1800s



## Acts 19:13-16

### Aramaic Bible in Plain English

But there were also some Jewish men who were going around and were exorcists of demons, exorcising in the name of our Lord Yeshua over those who had a foul spirit in them, while saying, "We exorcise you in the name of Yeshua whom Paulus preaches." But there were seven sons of a man who was a Jew, a Chief Priest, whose name was Sqewa, who were doing this, And that evil spirit answered and said to them, "I know Yeshua, and I know Paulus, but who are you?" And that man who had the evil spirit in him jumped upon them and overpowered them and threw them down, and when they were stripped and wounded, they fled from the house. And this became known to all the Jews and Aramaeans dwelling in Ephesus and great fear fell upon all of them, and the name of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah was exalted. Many of those who believed were coming and relating their wrongdoing, and they were confessing the things that they were doing. Many sorcerers also gathered their books and brought and burned them before everyone and they calculated their price, and it came up to fifty thousand silver pieces.