
The templar Baphomet and the star Algol

By: “*Alektryon Christophoros*” (Luís Gonçalves)

BAPHOMET:

(Templar Testimonies, etc)

“Item, that in each province the order had idols, namely heads, of which some had three faces and some one, and others had a human skull.

Item, that they adored these idols or that idol, and especially in their great chapters and assemblies.

Item, that they venerated (them).

Item, that (they venerated them) as God.

Item, that (they venerated them) as their Savior...

Item, that they said that the head could save them.

Item, that [it could] make riches.

Item, that it made the trees flower.

Item, that [it made] the land germinate.”

“A man’s head with a large beard, which head they kiss and worship at all their provincial chapters, but this not all the brothers know, save only the Grand Master and the old ones.” – Philip’s instructions to his seneschals.

During The Trial of the Templars in 1307 Brother Jean Taillefer of Genay gave evidence. He “was received into the order at Mormant, one of the three perceptories under the jurisdiction of the Grand Priory of Champagne at Voulaine. He said at his initiation ‘an idol representing a human face’ was placed on the altar before him. Hughes de Bure, another Burgundian from a daughter house of Voulaine, described how the ‘head’ was taken out of a cupboard, or aumbry, in the chapel, and that it seemed to him to be of gold or silver, and to represent the head of a man with a long beard. Brother Pierre d’Arbley suspected that the ‘idol’ had two faces, and his kinsman Guillaume d’Arbley made the point that the ‘idol’ itself, as distinct from copies, was exhibited at general chapters, implying that it was only shown to senior members of the order on special occasions.” “The treasurer of the Paris temple, Jean de Turn, spoke of a painted head in the form of a picture, which he had adored at one of these chapters.”

According to the most consistent accounts, the idol was: “... about the natural size of a man’s head, with a very fierce-looking face and beard.” – Deposition of Jean Tallefer.

INQUISITOR: *Now tell us about the head.*

BROTHER RAOUL: *Well, the head. I’ve seen it at seven chapters held by Brother Hugh de Peraud and others.*

INQUISITOR: *What did one do to worship it?*

BROTHER RAOUL: *Well, it was like this. It was presented, and everyone threw himself on the ground, pushed back his cowl, and worshipped it.*

INQUISITOR: *What was its face like?*

BROTHER RAOUL: *Terrible. It seemed to me that it was the face of a demon, of a maufé [evil spirit]. Every time I saw it I was filled with such terror I could scarcely look at it, trembling in all my members. – from M. Michelet, Procès des Templiers.*

Based upon the idol’s description as a “demon” having “very fierce-looking face and beard”, the idol very likely could have been Asmodeus, the “daemon guardian” who helped Solomon build his Temple. A statue of the demon guards the door of the parish church at Rennes-le-Chateau.

A similar tradition could be found in the Celtic cult of the severed head which figured predominantly in *Peredur*, a Welsh romance about the Holy Grail.

ALGOL:

(About the star and Ceremonial Magick)

“Under the Head of Algol, they made an image whose figure was the head of a man with a bloody neck; they report that it bestoweth good success to petitions, and make him go carrieth it bold and magnanimous, and preserveth the members of the body sound; also it helpeth against witchcraft, and reflecteth evil endeavours, and wicked incantations upon our adversaries.” – *Three Books of Occult Philosophy*, Book II, Chapter 47 (Tyson ed.) page 395.

In Enoch’s version of the hermetic *De XV stellis*, Algol’s figure is a human head with a long beard, a virile head, not feminine, with a blood-stained neck.

The name [Algol] is from the Arabic *Ra’s al Ghul*, “The Demon’s Head”. To the writers of classical times the star represented the head of Medusa held by Perseus in the mythological outline of the constellation. This is the *Gorgoneum Caput* of Vitruvius and the *Caput Gorgonis* of Hyginus; Manilius, in the days of Augustus, called it *Gorgonis Ora*. The Hebrews, according to R.H.Allen, knew the star as *Rosh ha Satan* or “Satan’s Head”, but in some other traditions it is identified with the mysterious and sinister *Lilith*, the legendary first wife of Adam. On 17th Century maps the star often appears with the label *Caput Larvae*, “The Spectre’s Head”.

Caput Algol, or the Head of the Demon, is commonly regarded as one of the most evil stars in the sky and traditionally ‘afflicted the face and head to the point of decapitation or strangulation’. It is the beta of Perseus, astrologically placing it in the sign Taurus. Its nature is of Jupiter and Saturn. Algol’s stone is the diamond, and the plants are black hellebore and mugwort.

Algol is called the “Demon”, the “Demon Star” and is also known as the “Blinking Demon” because it is part of a binary star system where a dimmer star periodically eclipses its brighter partner.

Algol has a very bad reputation among astrologers. Vivian Robson says, “It is the most evil star in the heavens.” – *The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology* (Sun Books 1995) page 124.

SIMILARITIES:

(My own conclusions)

In ceremonial magick, the star Algol was symbolized by a severed head, a bearded man’s head, with the appearance of a demon; it was said that the head protected against evil, that it brought good-luck, fertility and abundance. Remember that the name ALGOL comes from the arabian sentence «Ras al-Ghul», which means “Demon’s Head”.

The head (“Baphomet”) worshipped by the Knights Templar was also a bearded and demonic head. It was said that it brought good-luck, fertility and abundance, and that it “saved” (that is, it protected them against evil).

These similarities are no doubt incredible, and what is also incredible is that no one has ever noticed this. Thousands of books were written about the Templars, however NOT EVEN ONE mentions the famous star Algol or its uses in ceremonial magick.

Amazing...

Best regards,
Luís Gonçalves (*"Alekyron Christophoros"*)

SOME INTERESTING IMAGES:



Perseus holding Medusa's head, the celestial demon.



*The star Algol as a bearded head.
(Arabian drawing of the Perseus constellation)*



*Medieval drawing of the same constellation. In this case,
Algol is clearly represented as a demonic head with a beard.*



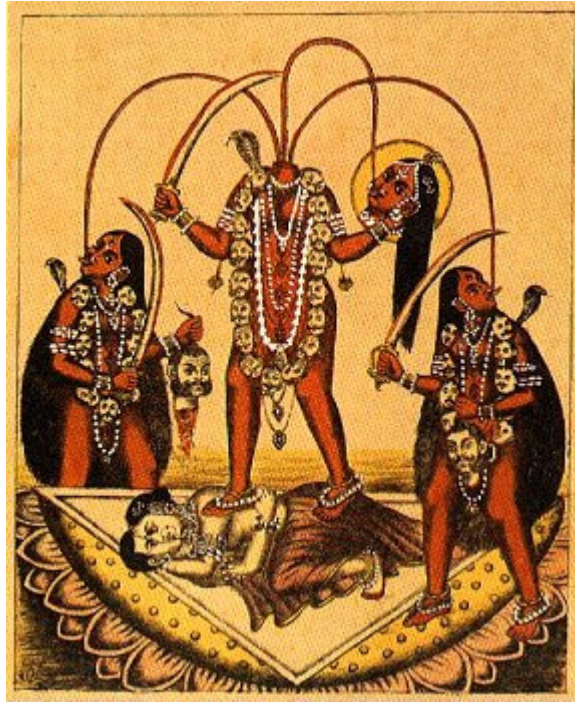
A curious inversion of roles, illustrated in Léo Taxil's "The Mysteries of Freemasonry", including the classical representation of Baphomet according to Eliphas Lévi, and also (note the detail) a woman holding a bearded man's head. This detail is very important, particularly to one who studies the representation of Baphomet as the Dark Goddess or Blood-Mother, according to the Sinister Tradition of the ONA.



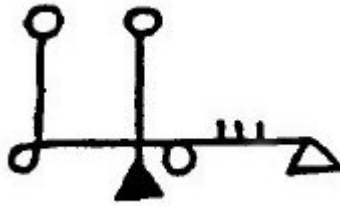
*Drawing, according to the ONA, of Baphomet as the Sinister Goddess, the Mistress of Earth holding the **Head of Satan** (one of the names of Algol).*



Kali, the Black One. Notice the little head she holds.



Kali Chinnamasta, drinking the blood that issues forth from her own neck. Notice that in this case it is the head of the goddess herself which is severed, thus making her similar to Medusa (decapitated by Perseus), and Algol, which was sometimes compared by the Hebrews to the Head of Lilith.



Ancient sigil of the star Algol. According to the ONA, it is the symbol of VINDEX (“Opfer”) and of the Sinister Tradition.