Eris Study guide- Dark Goddess Devotionals





Who is eris:

In Greek mythology, the Trojan War is probably the most famous event. Today, anyone with any knowledge of the war assumes that it began as a result of the abduction of Helen. But the abduction of Helen by Paris is just one starting point, and preceding this was another starting point where the goddess Eris was involved.

Eris was the goddess of strife, or discord, and some saw her as the Greek equivalent of the Roman goddess Discordia. Eris was considered the direct opposite of Harmonia.

Eris was the Greek goddess of chaos, strife and discord. She was the daughter of Zeus and Hera; according to other myths, she was the daughter of Nyx (dark night) alone.

She had a son, Strife, whom she brought along with her when she rode her chariot to war alongside Ares.

The name is of uncertain etymological origin but may have been based on the word ''orinein,'' which meant to stir.

Many of the Greek gods and goddesses enjoyed inflicting of pain, suffering, and destruction, but few took as much joy in it as Eris. Eris was the Greek goddess of chaos, strife, and discord. According to legend, she was the cause of many wars, including the Trojan War. She was also the cause of famine and disease. Where there was suffering, it was a safe bet that Eris would be blamed for it. She was often portrayed as a winged demon, haunting the battlefield and delighting in the bloodshed along with her son and her brother.

Eris was a goddess of the battlefield with an insatiable desire for bloodshed. Even after all the other gods had withdrawn from battle, she remained, rejoicing over the slaughter.



Role of Eris in Greek Mythology

Eris could cause division between groups of friends, neighbors, or between a married couple, causing discord that could spark hatred and war.

The goddess could invade the individual, infecting the body and mind, resulting in disease and madness taking over; only when the body and mind were in harmony could a person be truly happy. It was impossible for Harmonia and Eris to be in the same place at the same time.

Likewise, Justice and Eris could not co-exist, and once Justice was forced to leave, Eris took her place, opening up a place for her children, including Lawlessness (Dysnomia) and Murder (Phonoi).

When referred to as the Nurse of War, Eris was described as a goddess of the battlefield and the deity that stirred men to fight and kill each other. In this role, Eris would be depicted alongside Ares and would rejoice in the pain and suffering of dying men.

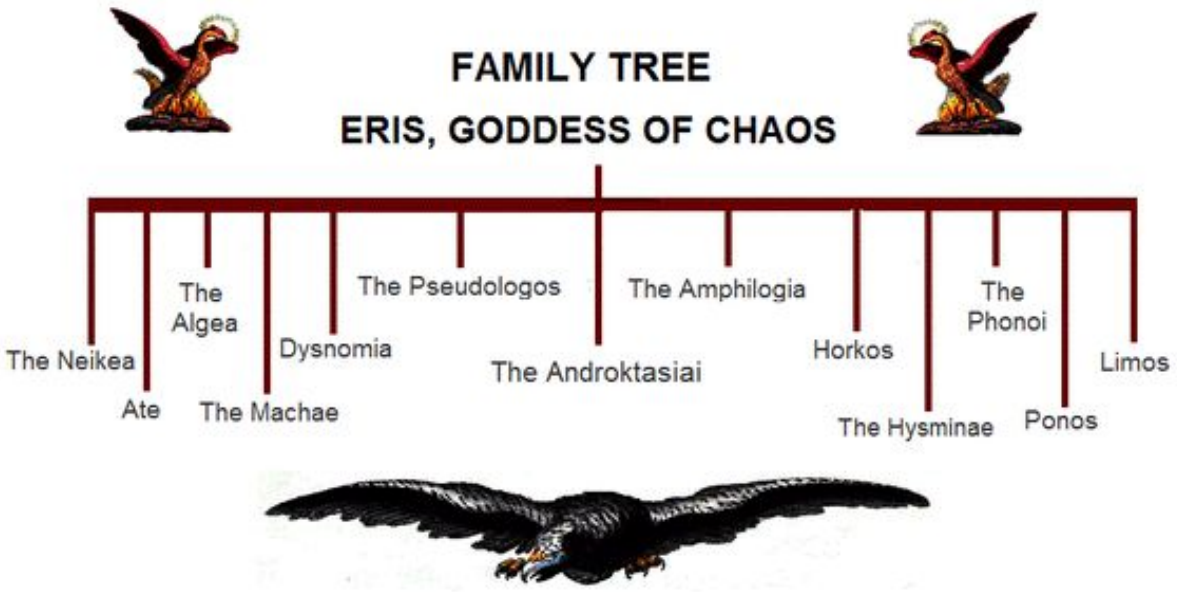
There were some positive elements to the role of Eris, for it would be her who stirred up the lazy to work and would make man strive to achieve when in competition with his neighbor. I also view has the defender of justice, she will fight to the very bloody end for you. I see her representing the me too movement and the rise of divine feminine as well. She also represented the unexpected and unwanted nature and flow of life as she was often described as a force of nature no one could control.



DARK GODDESS ERIS

Eris is warrior for truth
and sacred activist of the soul.
She gives us the strength, courage
and stamina to stand for ourselves
(and others) so we no longer
compromise our truth, our
fullness, our authentic nature or
our heart's deepest desires.





Family of the Goddess Eris

There are conflicting accounts of the goddess Eris' family tree. According to some myths, including Homer's Iliad, she was the daughter of Zeus and Hera, and the sister of Ares.

According to Homer, Eris was close with her brother Ares, both delighting in the chaos of war. Her insatiable desire for bloodshed led her to remain on the battlefield even after the fighting had finished, rejoicing over the pain and discord she had caused. She also brought her son with her, whose name was Strife, when she rode her chariot on the battlefield. She would often spur on both sides, encouraging them to continue fighting for victory at any cost. No other god or goddess thrived on chaos the way Eris did.

Now, Greek mythology was not a unified religion. Different texts of different types connected the gods in different ways. In Hesiod's great poem titled ''Theogony,'' Eris is said to be the daughter of the night, **Nyx**. Later, Roman scholars agreed with Hesiod, saying Nyx and Erebus, the god of darkness, coupled and produced Eris.

These texts, therefore, make Eris one of the eldest of the goddesses. According to the ''Theogony'' tells, at the beginning of the universe, there was only the

chasm-goddess, Chaos. Chaos later spawned Gaia, the earth, and Erebus and Nyx. ''Theogony'' holds that Nyx gave birth to various daemons asexually. These were:

- Momos (blame)
- Oizys (misery)
- Nemesis (envy)
- Apate (deceit)
- Geras (old age)
- Eris (strife)



<u>The Children of Eris</u>

One area in which Eris was famous was as the mother of other “dark” deities. Hesiod’s famous genealogical work, the *Theogony*, lists a series of other gods, goddesses, and spirits.

So, Eris is part of a collection of malevolent spirits who would worsen the condition of gods and men. Eris was the mother of the Kakodaimones (Cacodaemons), evil spirits which plagued mankind.

These spirits predate the gods of Olympus, who are the grandchildren of Gaia, the earth. The text ''Theogony'' later outlines the various other daemons, the evil cacodaemons, that Eris spawned asexually. These are:

- Ponos (toil)
- Lethe (forgetfulness)
- Limos (starvation)
- Dysnomia (lawlessness)
- Ate (ruin)
- Horkos (punishes those who break oaths)

Alongside those singular spirits, Eris gives birth to collections of spirits that haunt the world. These are:

- The Algea (pains and griefs)
- The Hysminai (fights)
- The Makhai (battles)
- The Phonoi (murders)
- The Androktasiai (man-slaughters or battle-slaughters)
- The Neikea (quarrels and grievances)
- The Pseudologoi (lies)
- The Amphilogiai (disputes)

The most famous of these children were Lethe (Forgetfulness), a deity associated with the river of Hades, and also Dysnomia (Lawlessness); but other children also included Ponos (Toil), Limos (Famine), Phonoi (Murder), Amphilogiai (Dispute) and Pseudologoi (Lies).

According to Hesiod, these evil demons were stored in Pandora's box (although it was actually a jar, not a box). When Pandora opened her box, they were released out into the world.

Wherever there was pain and suffering in ancient Greece, it was surely provoked by Eris, goddess of chaos and discord, or one of her spirit children. They unleashed chaos and discord with war, famine, and disease by silently working in the background. These Greek gods seemed to be the origin of all evil in the world,

and it could all be created using something as simple and innocent as a single Apple



<u>The Golden Apple of Discord</u>

Though Eris had a limited mythology, she did play a central role in one popular myth: that of the golden apple and the Judgment of Paris. In this tradition, it was Eris who set in motion the events that led to the Trojan War.

Zeus had arranged for Peleus to marry the sea nymph Thetis, although the hero had to trap the sea nymph to finally get her to marry him. A huge wedding

ceremony was planned, and all of the gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon were invited to the festivities; all that was, aside from Eris. Eris was not invited as she would have brought division to the assembled guests.

Such a huge wedding ceremony could not be kept hidden from Eris, and her omission from the guest list only riled the goddess more. Eris, therefore, decided to attend the festivities anyway and, once there, threw the Golden Apple of Discord amongst the assembled guests. On the golden apple were inscribed the words “for the fairest”.

Due to the inscribed words, three goddesses, Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite, believed that the Golden Apple was meant for them.





The Judgement of Paris and the Trojan War

The dispute between the three goddesses required resolution, but Zeus was too sensible to pass judgment himself. So Zeus decreed that Paris, a prince of Troy, would judge the one worthy of the golden apple.

With the judge chosen, bribery followed. Hera offered Paris power, and Athena offered skill in the art of war, but Aphrodite's bribe proved the most tempting to Paris. Aphrodite offered the Trojan prince the most beautiful mortal in the woman, a woman believed to be Helen of Sparta; it did not matter that Helen was

already married to Menelaus. Paris' subsequent abduction of Helen would, of course, lead to the Achaean leaders raising an army to retrieve her.

During the subsequent war, Eris was talked of as having stalked the battlefield alongside Ares, although, unlike other deities, Eris was not mentioned as having actually fought.

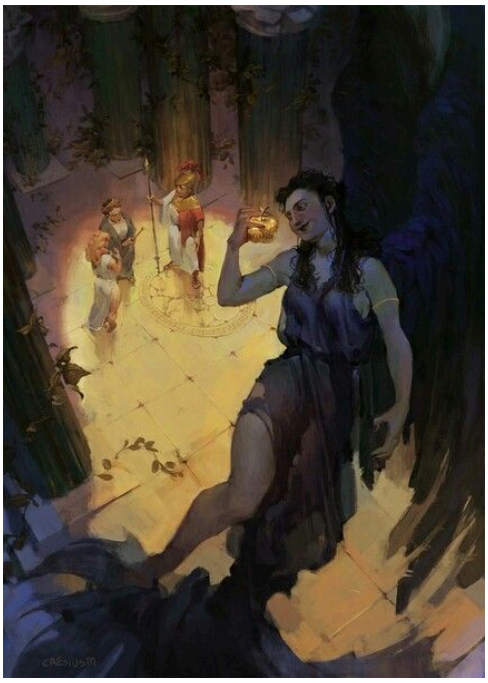
Some of the ancient sources do put forward the thesis that Zeus was the instigator of the Trojan War, having planned the war with Eris or simply having used the goddess for his own means. This would mean that Zeus had induced Eris to throw the Golden Apple amongst the wedding guests.

The reasons for Zeus' action were partially to reduce the world's population and partially to remove many heroes and demi-gods who might have threatened his position as supreme ruler of the cosmos.



THE FABLE OF ERIS & HERACLES

"Herakles (Heracles) was making his way through a narrow pass. He saw something that looked like an apple lying on the ground and he tried to smash it with his club. After having been struck by the club, the thing swelled up to twice its size. Herakles struck it again with his club, even harder than before, and the thing then expanded to such a size that it blocked Herakles's way. Herakles let go of his club and stood there, amazed. Athena saw him and said, 'O Herakles, don't be so surprised! This thing that has brought about your confusion is Aporia (Contentiousness) and Eris (Strife). If you just leave it alone, it stays small; but if you decide to fight it, then it swells from its small size and grows large.



Polytechnus and Aedon: Eris and Marital Strife

In another myth, Eris demonstrated her ability to cause discord in a more domestic context. This story told of a happy couple, the carpenter Polytechnus and his wife Aedon, who thoughtlessly boasted that they loved each other even

more than Zeus and Hera. This frivolous comment angered Hera, who sent Eris to punish them.[17]

Eagerly following Hera's orders, Eris breathed the spirit of competition into Polytechnus and Aedon. Polytechnus was building a standing board for a chariot, while Aedon was weaving a tapestry, and the couple decided to make a bet as to who would complete their task first; the loser, they decided, would bring the winner a female servant.

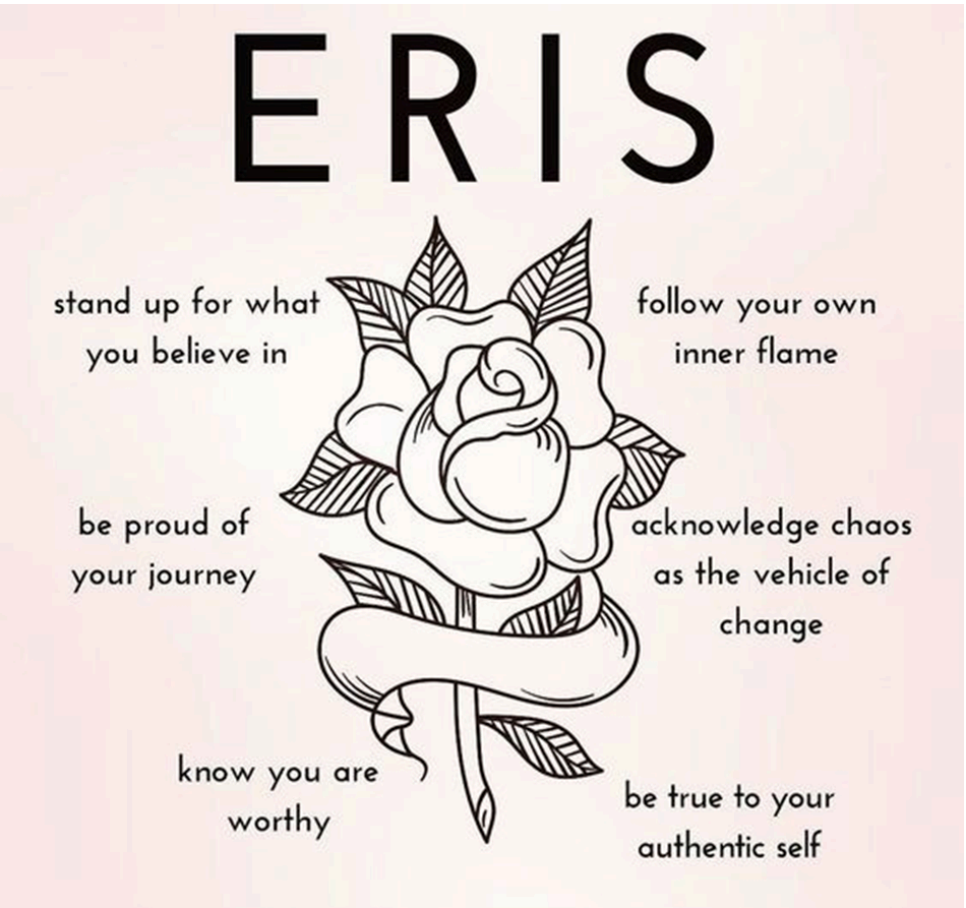
Aedon ended up finishing her tapestry first and thus won the competition. Polytechnus was filled with resentment and resolved that he would have the last laugh.

He went to the home of Aedon's father Pandareus and asked to bring Aedon's sister Chelidon home for a visit. He then raped her, cut her hair short, and presented her to Aedon as the "servant" she had won, threatening to kill Chelidon if she revealed the truth to her sister.

Aedon, not recognizing her sister, treated her new servant very cruelly. But one day Aedon overheard Chelidon lamenting her situation and thus discovered the truth. Together, Aedon and Chelidon plotted a gruesome revenge against Polytechnus: they killed Itys (Polytechnus and Aedon's only son), cooked him, and fed him to Polytechnus.

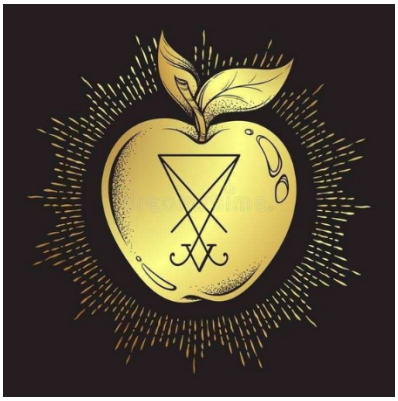
When Polytechnus discovered what had happened, he pursued Aedon and Chelidon to the home of their father Pandareus. But Pandareus caught Polytechnus, tied him up, smeared him with honey, and threw him into his sheepfold as insect fodder.

At this point, Aedon took pity on her husband and tried to help him. This infuriated her father and brother, who attacked her and were on the verge of killing her. Zeus, to prevent things from getting even worse, finally turned them all into birds: Pandareus became a sea eagle, Aedon's mother a kingfisher, Polytechnus a woodpecker, Aedon's brother a hoopoe, Chelidon a swallow, and Aedon a nightingale.[18]



Popular Culture

Eris is still remembered today as the divine embodiment of discord and strife. In the 1960s, she was adopted as the principal deity of Discordianism, a religion (or parody religion) that believes order and disorder are illusory byproducts of the human nervous system. The overseers of the religion claim to speak with Eris using their pineal glands.



Astronomical Eris

Eris is one of the largest known dwarf planets and is about the same size as Pluto but about three times further from the Sun. It takes about 557 years for Eris to orbit the Sun. Unlike the eight planets, whose orbits around the Sun are almost circular and lie roughly in the same plane as the Earth's, Eris orbits above and below the other planets, and like Pluto, her orbit can range from being a considerable distance from the Sun to being almost as close to Sun as Neptune.

Eris and Xena

Eris was discovered in 2005 from photographs taken in 2003. Scientists first nicknamed their discovery Xena in honor of the warrior princess of television fame. In 2005 it was announced that Xena had a tiny moon which they dubbed Gabriella, after Xena's sidekick.

Officially Named Eris

In September 2006, it was announced that Xena's official name would be Eris, after the Greek goddess of discord and strife, and her moon, Gabriella would be named Dysnomia, the goddess of lawlessness and the daughter on Eris. When Eris was officially discovered and named, she created chaos by upsetting the known order of the solar system, unseating Pluto as a planet, and in the end created a new class of "dwarf planets."

Astrological Eris

Because Eris' journey around the Sun takes her above and below the orbits of the other planets, she doesn't move through all the zodiacal constellations on the ecliptic plane. However, because the signs of the zodiac and the constellations are not the same, Eris does visit each of sign in turn and spends decades in each sign.

More than a Generational Planet

Because of Eris' slow movement around the Sun, multiple generations are affected when Eris is in each sign. Eris entered Aries in 1926 and will not exit until 2048. Which means astrologers don't have more than world history to study to determine how she manifests in the other astrological signs. But they do know that the longer it takes a planet to move through a sign the more friction it creates, and the more profound and permanent the change in society will be.

The Rise of Eris: The Warrior Woman

Eris entered Aries in 1926 amid the "Roaring Twenties." It was during the "Roaring Twenties" that a "new" woman was born. These new, politically forward women were very controversial and created discord by defying society's standards of what women were supposed to do, say, wear, act like, and be.

They gained political power when they won the right to vote in 1920 and by the middle of the 1920s women:

- Had broken out of their domestic shell
- Began wearing shorter skirts, pants, more dramatic makeup, and cut their hair
- Weren't shy about flaunting their sexuality
- Drank, smoked, and danced in clubs

Eris, the "Hell Hath No Fury Like a Woman" Planet

Eris' visual discovery and her naming began the process of merging the "warrior woman" archetype into the collective consciousness. Eris won't exit Aries until 2048. Which means the almost everyone alive today has witnessed or participated in the rise of the "warrior woman." Since 2006 there has been incredible progress in the fight towards achieving gender equality.

Eris and the 2017 "Woman's March"

Uranus the planet of radical change and Eris the warrior woman were side by side (conjunct) in the heavens from about June 2016 to March 2017. On January 21, 2017, the tension had built to the point that suddenly and unexpectedly an estimated 3,300,000 to 4,600,000 people in the United States and up to 5 million worldwide stepped forward to participate in a march for women's rights.



Finding Eris in Your Birth Chart

There are several symbols or glyphs used for Eris, but the one most commonly used is a combination of the glyphs for Pluto, the planet Venus, and the planet Mars; a circle with an arrow pointing down. Different free chart calculators online use various symbols, and some don't allow you to locate Eris. However, the tool

on astro.com allows you to both find Eris and spells Eris out, which will make her easier for you to locate.

- Create your chart at Astro.com
- Enter Birth Data and select continue
- Choose "Extended Chart Selection"
- Select Eris in the "Additional objects" box
- Create your chart

Eris in Your Birth Chart

Unless you were born before 1926, you have Eris in the sign of Aries. This makes her position by aspect and astrological house in a birth chart significant. However it takes many years for astrologers to come to an understanding of how a new planet should be interpreted in a birth chart, and Eris has only been studied since 2006. However, it seems clear that wherever Eris is in your chart, an "angelic warrior" is at work creating discord and strife.

Possible Key Phrases for Eris

Listed below are some key phrases you can play with that might help you interpret what Eris means in your birth chart. Note: Keep in mind that men also have a feminine warrior within.

The house Eris occupies may be where you:

- Must overcome crises through compassion
- Strive the hardest to grow
- Where you can no longer be in denial
- Fight to the end
- Shake up the status quo

- Liberate yourself from tradition
- Do things in your way
- Apply all of your resourcefulness
- Have a general sense of being forsaken, condemned, or abandoned

The Feminine Fights Back

Few astrologers use Eris in their day-to-day consulting, which isn't surprising since it took 30 years for many to use Pluto after its discovery. However, Eris is important because she's related to your fight for existence and to standing up and fighting for what you believe in, even if violence is involved. Eris, at her most basic, is the fighting strength of the feminine that's exemplified by the feminist struggle for rights in a patriarchal society.



ERIS

ASTRONOMY

- a dwarf planet
- orbits the Sun on the peripheries of the Solar System
- has a cycle of 558 years

MYTHOLOGY

- goddess of strife and discord
- daughter of Nyx or Zeus and Hera and through them a twin sister to Ares

ASTROLOGY

- brings up the themes of chaos, disruption and unavoidable tensions
- highlights the repressed aspects in our psyche and society

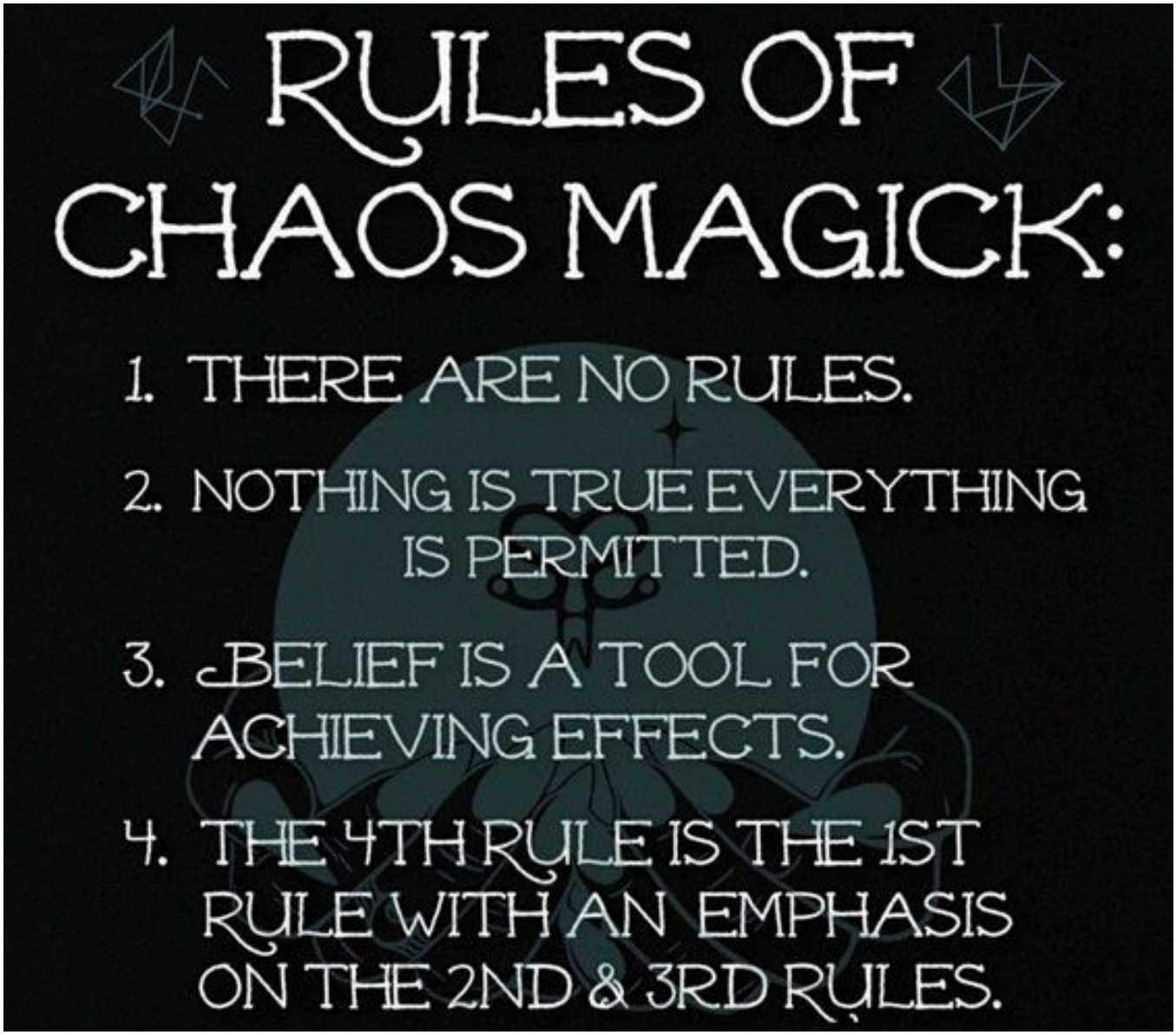
CHAOS MAGIC

Chaos magic bases its power on the universal potential of creative force, which is constantly engaged in trying to seep through the cracks of our personal and collective realities. Chaos is not in itself, a system or philosophy, but it does use belief as a tool. It is an attitude that one applies to one's magic and philosophy. It is the basis for all magic, as it is the primal creative force.

A chaos magician learns a variety of techniques, usually as many as he can gain access to, but looks beyond the systems and dogmas to the physics behind the magical force and uses whatever methods are appealing to himself. Chaos does not come with a Book of Shadows or even a prescribed set of ethics or tenets. For this reason, it has been dubbed "a left hand path". Chaos magicians believe "the results justify the means", thus, it runs dangerously close to black magic.

There is no set of specific spells that are considered to be chaos magic-centered . A chaos magician will use the same spells as those of other paths, or those of his own making. Any and all methods and information are valid; the only requirement is that it works.

Because chaos itself has no limits, a foe using chaos magic should be regarded as a severe threat.



DISCORDIANISM: A MODERN CULT

Goddess Eris is equivalent to the Roman Goddess Discordia and they have a modern cult called Discordianism.

Discordianism is a modern religion in which followers do not follow rules. Even though there are no rules to be followed, there are some rules that may or may not be followed.

In Discordianism, freedom is important, especially freedom of creation. For Discordians, or Erinians, order and disorder are the same. It all depends on how the “I” interprets one or the other.

And both are part of Chaos, where everything is created.

Discordians also claim to be able to receive direct messages from Eris through the Pineal gland. These messages provide insights and other important information.

If you start a conversation with a Discordian, be prepared to hear many things that are meaningless, but which can make sense, if you want them to.

You can learn more (or not understand anything) about Discordianism and Principia Discordia on this website.



Correspondences

Goddess of chaos, strife, and discord

Colors: Black, red, gold, grey

Crystals: gold, pyrite, and any black stone

Offerings: pyrite, wasp, and butterfly related things, gold, grey, amber, jasmine, strawberry, sandalwood, chocolate, alcohol, apples

Symbols: gold apple, a circle with a k in it, golden apple of discord, colors black, gold and grey

Food: Apple

There is a dwarf planet named after her



Eris

CHEAT SHEET

IDENTIFIED WITH:
- Enyo (Greek)
- Discordia (Roman)

Goddess/Personification of discord
[sometimes it was said that there were two Erites]

Abode: The Underworld; Erebus

DOMAINS

GODDESS OF:
- strife
- battle-strife
- discord
- marital discord
- quarrel
- contention
- rivalry

SYMBOLS & ATTRIBUTES

Attributes
poniard, golden apple

Plants & trees
apple tree, oranges (golden apples)

Animals
venomous snakes

Planet & day
The dwarf planet Eris; N/A

FAMILY

Parents: Nyx or Zeus & Hera
Consort: none known
Divine children: Dysnomia, Ponos, Ate, Lethe, Limos, Algos, Hysminai, Makhai, Phonoi, Androktasiai, Neikea, Amphilogiai, Horkos



ATTENDANTS:
- Phobos & Deimos
- The Kakodaimones (some)

Prayers/Invocation

Sing now, my muse, of the Goddess of Chaos,
Arising from primeval Quantum foam born,
Goddess of Entropy, Goddess of Anarchy, She
who creates and destroys innumerable cosmos
the gap between dawn and the rise of the sun,
She who dances between unseen fractal
dimensions, In a small still place all enfolded in
storm, Lover of Death and Lover of Life,
She dances a dance on the edge of a knife,
Singularity bound, in a teardrop of light, Immortal
Chaos wreathed with broken planets and dust,
Thy name is Eris, world-shattering Goddess,
The sound of a bell in a dark empty cavern, The
scent of a rose in a room long abandoned, The
dance of the motes in the eye of the Goddess,
The touch of a breeze in the heat of the noon,
The taste of wine from an ancient tomb. Most
terrible and most beautiful name of the Goddess,
Eris!

Prayer 2:

I praise comely Eris, daughter of dark-cloaked Nyx, wrathful one who knows her own worth, who knows the purpose of conflict and rage, who knows that there are times when vengeance is the proper response when anger is fitting. Eris, spirit of discord, spirit of strife and of striving, spirit of rivalry, in times of old it was well known that yours is a world of nature and need, that you see well the struggle within us. Eris of the battlefield, Eris of the golden apple, I honor you.

ERIS

daughter of Zeus/Hera. Sister to Ares. She revels in the aftermath of war, working along side her brother Ares spreading discord, escalating the level of hostility between adversaries. She's last to leave the field of war long after the other gods have gone...the dead bodies strewed about feeds her insatiable apatite for bloodshed fills her euphoric sense of being... Eris most often enjoys inciting strife among the gods & goddesses by playing on their vanity, as she did with Hera, Aphrodite and Athena, which cause the Trojan war.



Eris

chaos, discord, strife

You can have my golden apple
If you're the fairest one of all
And you goddesses don't see it now
But this will be your downfall
They denied me an invitation
Goddess of chaos, daughter of Nyx
So I promised them revenge
And I swore it on the River Styx
They forget about my love of war
How I look at bloodshed with glee
They should know what happens
When you let discord run free
They made a mistake denying me
I started the Trojan war just for fun
They wanted to tame my chaos
But I answer to no one

-Nadia

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