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The Center for
Tactical Magic

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Magic(k)

Whether you choose to regard it as an illusion, a sleight, a spell, or an invocation, this pamphlet is best thought of in terms of magic(k). This may seem confusing at first, especially since “magic” means many things to many people. The Center for Tactical Magic does not exclusively align itself with any one interpretation of “magic”, in part because it is the vast range of interpretations that give magic(k)—both with and without the “K”—power in the world of meaning. Therefore this mini grimoire is likely to exploit many of your preconceptions of magic(k) in an effort to dislodge your comfortable sensibilities.

One of the first lessons of magic(k) that we learn as children is that words and symbols have power. Abracadabra. Hocus Pocus. A 5-pointed star. A 4-leaf clover. As we get older, this primary notion quickly degrades and often becomes the source of an adult’s first dismissive tendencies towards magic(k). Too many hokey movies and failed attempts to levitate with an utterance conspire against us. Soon the lesson is forgotten; magic(k) words and the power of symbols sneak away to party with Santa and the Tooth Fairy.

But words and symbols continue to work their magic(k) regardless of whether or not we believe in them. Although the magi on Madison Avenue now refer to spells, incantations and sigils as slogans, jingles and logos, the effects are just as powerful as ever.

Authority commonly wields power through the manipulation of sign systems which individuals are collectively programmed to accept as valid structures of discipline and control. Fortunately, magic(k) is an open-source technology that doesn’t exclusively belong to advertising execs and policy-makers.

Outlined here are sequences of actions that will effectively illustrate these dynamics. The following sequences of actions also serve as a general spell for revealing that “authority” is a subjective force, and that victory is awarded to those who play the ‘Sign Game’ best. While strict adherence to the spell will often yield successful results, an accurate understanding of the underlying principles will allow for delightful adaptations and diverse applications.

Have Fun & Good Luck!

Power Transposition Spell (Or How to Subvert Institutional Authority through Graffiti and Other Tactics in 13 Steps)

Choose an institutional target (school, corporation, government agency, etc.)

Authority is, in fact, a small group of controlling individuals that assert their will on the greater community.

Create a small label (approximately 3” x 4”) which includes the institution’s seal or logo, as well as the words “Signs or Graffiti Permitted on This Surface” (or an appropriate variation of your choosing).

Before the institution can respond to the postings and graffiti, covertly distribute this notice as widely as possible. Post it in areas where no previous postings have appeared as well as in the most obvious places. Place notices in employee/student mailboxes, on the windshields of parked cars, or in lunchrooms and other meeting areas. The distribution of this notice should appear obsessive/compulsive.

Affix the labels to various surfaces within the institution. At first, target surfaces that have existing postings or writing (e.g. – bulletin boards, bathroom walls, pay phones, etc.)

Begin responding to your own labels by covertly adding signs, postings, and graffiti. Be sure to vary the content and use multiple scripts or different graphic elements. Some gestures, tags, or styles should appear more prolific than others so as to convince the “authorities” that multiple individuals are responding to the labels in no organized fashion.

Replace any labels that have since been removed and continue to add graffiti and postings. At this point some graffiti/postings should be direct responses to the “institutional notice”. Some responses should sound incensed, while others should appear mocking. Most likely, other anonymous individuals will have joined in at this point and the debate should be widening.

On institutional letterhead, create your own notice harshly condemning the labels, the postings, and the writings. The notice should be brief, but the tone should sound severe and reactionary. Cite non-existent laws or rules that promise extreme penalties in order to encourage debate. Misspelling a key word or two will aid in undermining the voice of Authority, as well as giving the impression that

Locate a blank section of wall, or an area where graffiti has been allowed to persist. Using a slightly off-color shade of paint, cover a large, uneven section of the wall. Affix a sign alongside reading, “Wet Paint” and another stating that “any graffiti which does not beautify the area will not be tolerated”. This will give the impression that the

Authorities are ineptly attempting to cover the graffiti, while simultaneously giving a nod to “acts of beauty.”

Create a second notice stating that employees/students/community-members may be subject to random searches for graffiti paraphernalia. Distribute it widely. Additionally, signs should be posted declaring rewards for reporting graffiti as well as phone numbers to call (police, management, etc).

Continue to add graffiti and postings, but extend the range outside of the proximity of the labels.

If the debate has become heated enough at this point, create another notice/e-mail in the “voice of Authority” declaring a “town-hall” meeting with attendance required. Be sure to include a sentence indicating that food and beverages will be provided (You may even want to place a large order for pizzas to be delivered). The date of the meeting should give the “authorities” as little time to prepare as possible.

A NOTE ON THE WORKPLACE: If the target institution is the workplace, then give consideration to the scheduling time. A lunch-hour meeting will impose on co-workers and encourage opposition to the institution. A mid-afternoon or mid-morning meeting will result in a period of non-productivity that will provide a much-deserved break for your co-workers. An after-work meeting time should include a promise of overtime wage compensation for all attendees.

Have fun at the meeting, but be careful not to take sides in a manner that will draw attention to you. At most, make constructive suggestions or offer compromises such as calling for more communal space or resources (a

community center, lounge, or project funding), asking for more community dialogue or representation (push for shared power and self-management), or requesting conditions that are less restrictive/oppressive (more time off, less rules or better use of community funds). Or, just sit back and watch the fireworks.

If events haven’t climaxed by this point, create a final notice summarizing the institution’s willingness to respond to concerns raised at the meeting. Declare new policies and promises; be sure to be creative about your desires (designated graffiti/posting zones, slackening of rules or restrictions, school/business holidays, etc.). At this point you and your community are the authorities, so start acting like it by making the necessary changes and organizing for a better tomorrow!

A Protection Against Binding, Trapping, or Imprisonment

Police often use mind-tricks or verbal misdirection to gain control in a situation. It’s actually quite common for a cop to ask you to do something in a manner which sounds like an order. “Would you please step out of your car and open your trunk now, ma’am!?” Can you hear the tone of voice in your head? It sounds like you have to comply, right? Wrong! Except at international borders, you have a right to privacy and never have to consent to a search of your car, your home, or your body (including bags, packages, backpacks, etc). And the police can only conduct a search if they can prove “probable cause” (i.e., you left a bag of weed sitting out on your back seat in open view), or they have a warrant. (Unless, of course you’re being served with a Section 215 order from the USA Patriot Act, in which case you not only don’t have any rights, but you’re also legally prohibited from telling anyone about it.) So, how can one defend against such a binding spell? Heed these magic(k) words:

1. Remain calm and ask the cop to respect your right to privacy.
2. State clearly that you do not consent to a search.
3. In a motor vehicle, you are legally required to show a valid driver’s license, current registration, and, in some states, proof of insurance. Beyond that, you are not required to answer any questions.

4. Do NOT lie. Lying to a police officer is a crime that can get you into even more trouble.
5. Do NOT physically resist even if you know the cop is abusing his/her authority.
6. Make a note of his/her name and badge number. (They are legally required to make this information visible and available.) This may come in handy later, especially if you want to file a complaint or contact a lawyer.
7. And NEVER consent to a search if you know that they’ll find something illegal. Evidence seized during an illegal search is not admissible in court. But if you consent, and they find something, you’re screwed.

PLEASE NOTE: According to our research, this is accurate information: however, we are not lawyers, and the above does not represent legal advice, so please don’t sue us.

Corporate Curse



The Encircled establishment has been cursed. Its malign policies and malicious actions have been turned back upon and against itself. Although the curse does not target individuals, those whose actions continue to support the Encircled may feel the adverse effects of the Curse. Once released, the Curse may only be removed by rectifying the wrongful doings of the Encircled. Until that time, retribution stirs in shadow and misfortune follows 'til the end.

The origin of curses is ill-defined; yet it's certain that we find hexes, whammies, jinxes, the "evil eye" and all sorts of maleficia in cultures spanning time and geography. More often than not, curses have been cast over personal disputes, vindictive rages, and petty jealousies. However, there are also instances of curses being deployed in collective struggles.

In the Middle Ages, the peasant class had no easy avenue of representation through which they could air grievances against their feudal lords. So somewhere between total subjugation and full-scale revolt, curses became a tactic of dissent. By discretely attaching hexes to the property of the feudal lord, the ruling authorities could be made aware of the growing social distemper. While the nobility might be quick to dismiss the hexes as mere foolishness, the laborers of the manor, who belonged to the "superstitious" peasant class, could be relied upon to take the hexes a bit more seriously (and perhaps melodramatically). And unless the feudal lord took steps to remove the curse, the manor and the fief would slip into a dysfunctional mess. Of course, the method of removing the curse would involve rectifying any prevailing injustices.

It's not too difficult to imagine that similar dramas were no doubt enacted hundreds of years later on plantations across the colonized globe. A bit of well-placed Hoodoo or Voodoo could serve to amplify the collective concerns of house slaves and field slaves alike. Even if the plantation owner took little heed of the "mumbo-jumbo," the workers would certainly make a fuss until things were set right.

Based on these precedents, as well as on our contemporary context of

corporate neo-feudalism and wage-slavery, it seems only fitting that we should revive and update this bit of mojo. As such, we suggest that the modern sticker-hex might produce several positive results:

1. Making diagrammatic hexes in the form of easily applied stickers links modern street practices (like graffiti) to much older forms of magical resistance (such as the placing of curses on the property of feudal lords).
2. This user-friendly spell/tactic introduces people to a model of action: First, think through your issue to find a root cause(s). Then, find a way to physically address the offending source. This model contrasts starkly with more alienated reactions against abstracted frustrations. As opposed to feeling like the problems are poverty, or starvation, or war, we can focus on financial institutions, agribusiness, or Halliburton.
3. Most people are far more superstitious than they are willing to admit. Even if the magical construction of the curse falls short, the mystical appearance of the sticker often can achieve certain desired effects. (In one instance, a cursed check sent to a credit card company went un-cashed for nearly 3 months!).
4. Lastly, if you have any doubts as to whether or not the curse works, just ask the folks over at Bear Stearns and Citi Corp. (We're not saying we're responsible; we're just saying...)

To be clear about our position, we are not openly advocating the cursing of individual people. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court re-interpreted the



How ARE YOU FEELING?

- SICK & TIRED
- OVERWHELMED
- FED UP

ACT NOW!

Exorcise DAILY

YES! Finally a SAFE, EFFECTIVE, & PROVEN way
to BANISH THOSE ills, MALADIES, & HARBINGERS of DOOM.

FREE
yourself **TODAY!**

YES! I WANT TO...

Exorcise DAILY

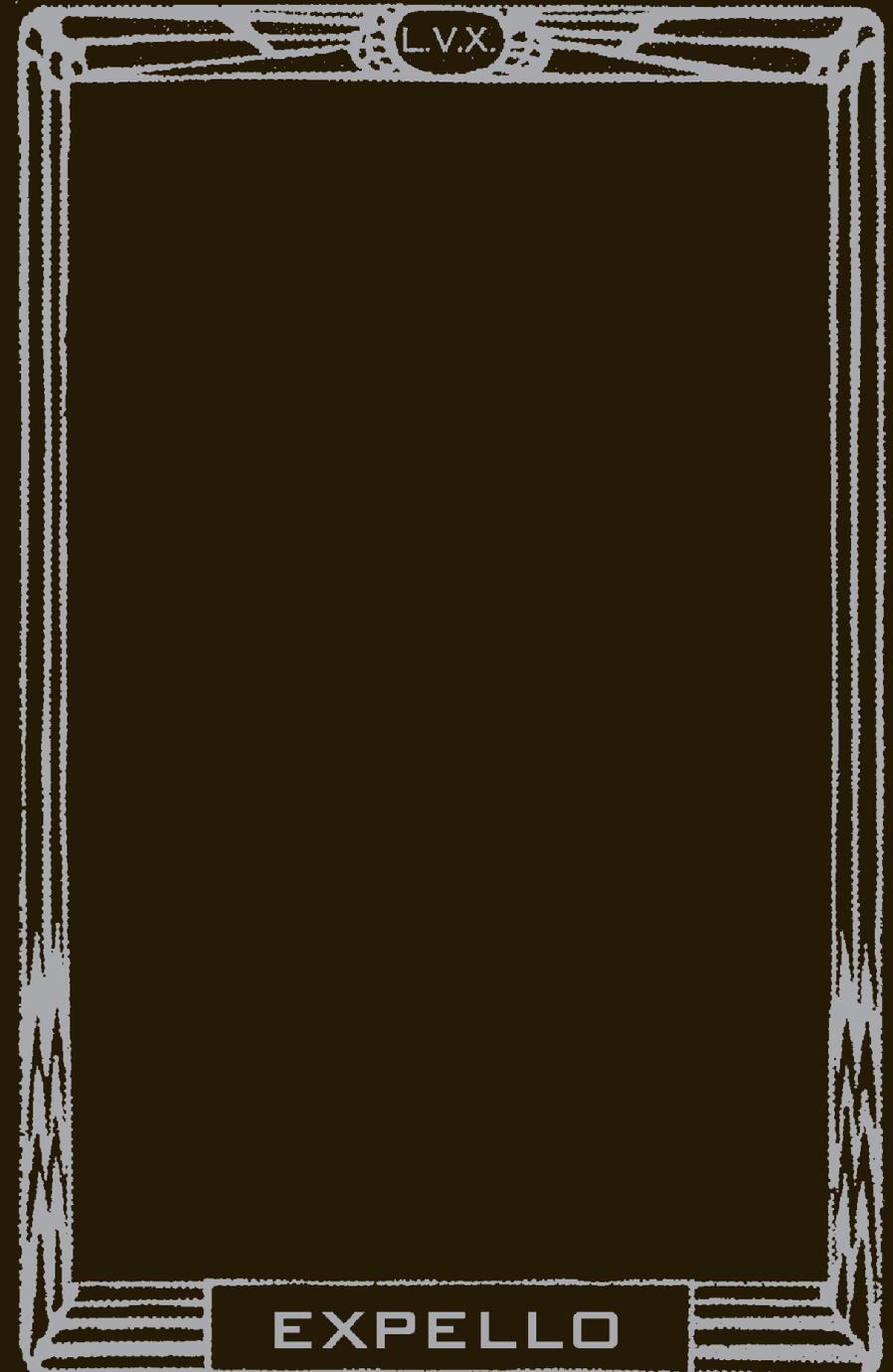
It's as EASY as 1-2-3!

ARE YOU CONSTANTLY HAUNTED by diabolic laws and ghoulish public policy?

- 1** TAKE ACTION! IN THE FRAME TO THE RIGHT, COMPOSE A MESSAGE, A SIGIL OR A DRAWING TO BANISH THESE MALEVOLENT FORCES FROM YOUR LIFE.
- 2** DETACH YOUR COMPLETED COMPOSITION AND SEND IT AWAY TO YOUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE TO HELP RESURRECT SANE GOVERNANCE.
- 3** RELAX. BREATHE EASY. AND REMEMBER TO EXORCISE Daily by CASTING OUT CORRUPTION!

CENTER FOR TACTICAL MAGIC

CUT OR TEAR ALONG THE DOTTED LINE



14th Amendment (originally enacted to protect the rights of freed slaves) to grant corporations “personhood”, the inhuman conduct of some institutions, agencies, and corporations not only proves that they are not persons, but also makes them worthy of any maledictions they might receive. While the Center for Tactical Magic does not ascribe to a belief system polarized into Black and White magic, it is nevertheless important to note that religious and secular circles alike largely agree that actively combating physical, psychical and spiritual injustice is a virtuous act that liberates oneself and others from the abuses of power. Even Gerald Gardner (oft regarded as the “Founding Father of Wicca”) is reputed to have organized his coven to curse Hitler and the Nazis during World War II (and we all know how that one ended).

Hopefully, the path we’re on now seems a little less scary. If not, don’t worry; we change directions all the time and often step off the path altogether. So sit tight or start a petition until we come back to our senses. For the rest of you, you too can flaunt taboos by cutting out the diagrammatic hex on page six. and following these magic words:

To cast the spell:

1. Relax. Take a deep breath. Exhale. Repeat.
2. Take a moment to reflect on the nasty policies, social ills, and community woes that need to be challenged and corrected.
3. Choose an issue that you feel particularly drawn to, and ask yourself, “What is most responsible for this dire situation? What obstacles stand in the way of a

solution to this problem?” (If you’re not sure, do a little research).

4. Most likely, you will conclude that a large corporation, government agency, social institution, or other organizational entity is at least partially responsible for perpetuating the problem you seek to address. Write that name inside the red circle. (Note: this will not work against individuals, which unfortunately includes bosses, landlords, politicians, cops, etc.).
5. Close your eyes and envision the entire design, complete with the name written in the circle. Watch the name fade to nothingness. Now envision the positive results that would occur if your target’s vile actions were to disappear.
6. Open your eyes, and then, go attach the hex to the property of the encircled establishment (you’ll need a glue stick).
7. Relax. Breathe freely. Smile. You have just completed your first act of street-level Tactical Magic by taking that difficult first step in mentally, spiritually, and physically addressing social injustice!

Fire Magic(k)

When we close our eyes and think of wizards, we might imagine a bearded old geezer in robes standing on the castle ramparts overlooking a raging battlefield below. As he mumbles some magic words, a fireball leaps from his outstretched palm, blazes across the darkened sky, and strikes some unsuspecting knight off his steed. Indeed, this is the sort of sorcerer often conjured in J.R.R. Tolkien, *Dungeons & Dragons*, and Hollywood cheese. Although we might be hard-pressed to find historical evidence proving that such feats of magic were ever performed, we can certainly locate a few contemporary counterparts.

Theatrical magicians frequently employ flash paper, flame-throwing wands, and various other fulminating gimmicks to replicate the wizard’s fireball. But perhaps a more accurate version plays out in the “theater of conflict” of military operations. Today, we don’t find the battle being fought from the castle tower. Instead, we have to look in an underground bunker where we find a stern figure wearing a strange uniform ornamented with pins, medallions, and cryptic insignia. He peers not into a crystal ball, but rather into a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen. And then he utters only one word - “Fire!” - whereupon another uniformed minion presses a button. At that precise moment, hundreds of miles away, the ground opens up and a missile launches upward, rises up above the heavens, and comes crashing down in a fiery blast in a far off land on another continent.

Even at street level, the controversy remains heated over hot new technologies deployed against activists.

In 2007, the Pentagon summoned forth Raytheon’s “Silent Guardian”—a giant heat-ray mounted on a military Hummer that is intended for use as mobile crowd control by beaming a silent, invisible wave that heats people’s skin up to half a kilometer away.

Although your current level of activism might not require you to hone your missile defenses or shield yourself from high-intensity Hummers, there’s a good chance that you’ll encounter a bit of liquid fire being dispensed by the riot police at your local rally. The cops’ hot sauce might be better than a wizard’s fireball, but it still doesn’t make pepper spray any fun. So here are a couple of healing spells for overcoming the worst of it:

When the eyes and mouth burn from pepper spray, there is but one law to obey:

L.A.W. - Liquid Antacid & Water
Combine water and the liquid antacid (i.e. Maalox) in a squirt bottle in a 1:1 or 50/50 ratio, and use this potion to help treat pepper spray burns to the eyes, nose, and mouth. The affected area should first be treated with water, then with the mixture, followed by more water.

When tear gas and pepper spray burn the skin, summon MOFIBA and you will win.

M.O.F.I.B.A. - Mineral Oil Followed Immediately By Alcohol
For treating surface burns from tear gas or pepper spray, wipe the affected area with a cloth, gauze pad, or bandana soaked in mineral oil. Then, quickly remove the mineral oil using another cloth soaked in rubbing alcohol. These healing cloths can be prepared ahead of time and stored in separate zip-lock bags.

Food Magic(k)

Throughout the long histories of magic(k) and religion, food has played a transformational role. Whether we look at the Christian Eucharist or Chung Ling Soo's ability to make bowls of rice appear from thin air, we find food has a power that reaches beyond our stomachs. And the roots of its power are concealed by its relationship to such hidden forces as hunger, nutrition, comfort, repulsion, and a wide range of social relations. Like so many other hidden forces, these have the ability to shift perceptions, priorities and outcomes. But to do so we must recognize their presence and figure out how to work with them. The following exercises are designed to encourage further exploration of hidden forces. You can treat them as magical experiments, interventions, or alternative forms of entertainment.

Go to the grocery store without the intention of buying anything. Bring a pad of post-it notes and a pen. Respond to the products you see by writing a note and sticking it to the product. You might consider the following: the packaging/marketing strategy used to encourage your purchase; the way the product makes you feel when you see it, use it, or eat it; a message or a question to another potential consumer or store employee; a critique of the product or the company; a creative suggestion for alternate uses of the product.

**This is an exercise that shifts perception by changing the activity performed in an otherwise familiar environment. Like graffiti responding to a billboard, it also encourages a dialogue in an otherwise one-way relationship and breaks the illusion of a "neutral" exchange.*

Once a week for at least a month, prepare a meal that uses ingredients for their symbolic value. Start by considering a desired outcome (a different wish, goal, etc for each meal). Next, consider the events that have to unfold in order to accomplish your goal. Associate one ingredient for each event. Your associations may be literal or abstract. Perhaps you're not even sure why the ingredient reminds you of the event. The ingredients don't all need to be cooked in the same pot, and it's OK to use spices for flavor. Eat as much as fills you up.

** This is an exercise that relies on a natural survival behavior to process and manifest a desire through mental and physical consumption, digestion, and excretion. It works best if you find a way to make strange foods tastefully coexist on the same plate.*

Most magic illusions are based on visual deceptions; however, the Oxford Companion to the Mind insists, "All the senses can suffer illusions..." For example, everyone knows the old trick of tasting an apple and a potato while pinching the nose closed. What other illusions rely on deceiving the sense of smell? How about the phantasmal stench of the legendary Chicken Bomb? Most people's relationship with food is through sensory gratification; through taste but also through scent, sight, and texture. But, like all materials, food can also be transformed, and when it is, our relationship to it is changed as well. A once-delicious meal that has been left too long in the back of the fridge turns repulsive and reminds us that food—like all organic matter—is equally subject

to growth and decay. This sensory inversion of material relationships is echoed throughout everyday life and popular culture. Economic exchanges, for example, are marked by swapping scraps of green paper for objects which maintain an actual use-value; among the most notable are clothing, shelter, and, of course, food. This material inversion is again echoed in consumer choices at the local market place and in the factories and laboratories of the industrial sector. We see potential poisons turned into useful medications, and we see innocuous everyday materials used in the production of weapons, either at the hands of terrorists, nations, or mischievous pranksters. From food-fights, to egging, to stink bombs, to the classic banana-in-the-tailpipe, foods have been used not merely as culinary ingredients, but also as ingredients for contestation. Do you want to make a big stink about a boss, landlord, school principal, police station, or foul institution? It's easy! To banish these malodorous miscreants with your own odiferous potion, simply combine the following ingredients in a mason jar,

Tupperware container, or drink bottle and hide it in a good place:

- 1-2 cups of milk
- 1-2 eggs
- a chunk of bread (or packet of yeast)
- a few pieces of raw chicken
- and a couple of teaspoons of sugar

Then sit back and let your potion perfume as Time and Nature take care of the rest!

** This is an exercise that employs the alchemical inversion principle to common materials and dietary staples. The transformation of materials leads us to the material of transformation.*

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