



The Devil's Clergy

Demonology and Sorcery in
Medieval Iberia

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A medieval manuscript illumination featuring a large, stylized face with wide, staring eyes and a red mouth, set against a background of red and gold patterns. The face is rendered in shades of brown and tan, with prominent, dark, wavy hair. The eyes are large and circular, with red outlines and black pupils. The mouth is open, showing a red interior. The background consists of a red field with gold and brown patterns, including a large, stylized red and gold shape on the right side. The overall style is characteristic of medieval manuscript art, with bold lines and a rich color palette.

Magic in the
Medieval
World

'Magic is the art that teaches one to exercise coercive control over good and evil spirits through the name of God, the names of the spirits themselves and of the things that exist in the world. Hence the art of magic is a science of words, because every name is a word ..'

Berenguer Ganell

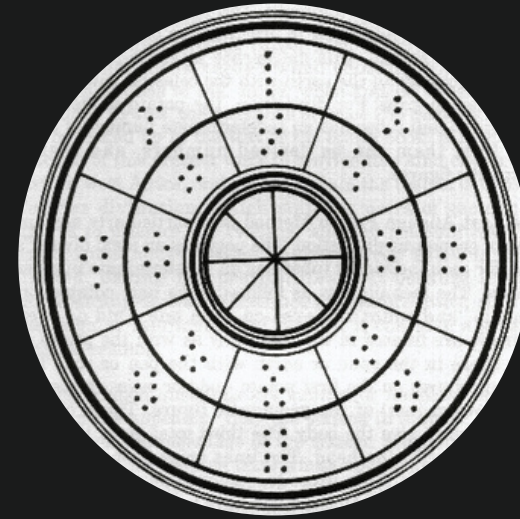
The *Artes Magicae*



Aeromancy



Chiromancy



Geomancy



Hydromancy



Nigromancy



Pyromancy



Scapulimancy

Scholastic Demonology

- Considered preternatural rather than supernatural - operate within the bounds of nature
 - Only God is supernatural, thus only God could work miracles
- Act only with permission from God
 - Allows demons to work in the world to test the faithful and punish the wicked
- Demons = fallen angels
 - All the same powers as angels, but power used to hinder rather than help
- Live not in Hell, but in the lower atmosphere
 - Easier to carry out business of tempting and deceiving humans
- Can appear in physical form
 - Augustine: demons have bodies of air, but also might be incorporeal
 - Aquinas: demons are incorporeal, but assume bodies of air

Necromancers & Necromancy

- Majority of practitioners were clerics
 - Necromancy required literacy & knowledge of Latin
 - Had confidence, piety, and enough knowledge of Christian ritual to contend with demons
- Most Christian doctrine teaches that pious humans can compel demons using divine power through Christian ritual - mostly for exorcism
 - Necromancers considered necromancy a broad extension of orthodox Christian exorcism (along with a generous amount of Islamic astral magic)

Foundations of Spanish Necromancy



The Black Legend of Gerbert Aurillac



Black Legend evolved after Gerbert's death in several stages from the 11th to the 16th centuries. In short, the Black Legend claims that Gerbert traveled to Spain to study magic with a Saracen sorcerer, stole a magic book from his teacher, escaped with the assistance of demons, made a pact with the Devil for the knowledge of the future, and owned a talking head that could tell the future.



Toledo School

of Translators

Toledo School of Translation established
at Cathedral of Toledo in 12th century

Primary purpose: translate Classical
works of philosophy and science into
Latin or Castilian

The Iberian Grimoire Tradition



To read this book is a sin, but who reads it will rise
to the clouds without wings.

Portuguese saying



The Picatrix

c. 10th-11th century

Originally written in Arabic

(غاية الحكيم) Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm

Attributed to Abu 'l-Qāsim Maslama ibn Aḥmad al-Faraḍī al-Ḥāsib al-Majrīṭī al-Qurṭubī al-Andalusī

1256-1258 Translated into Spanish

Spanish edition requisitioned by Afonso X (El Sabio)

Book I

“Of the heavens and the effects they cause through images made under them”

Book II

“Of the figures of the heavens in general, and of the general motion of the sphere, and of their effects in this world”

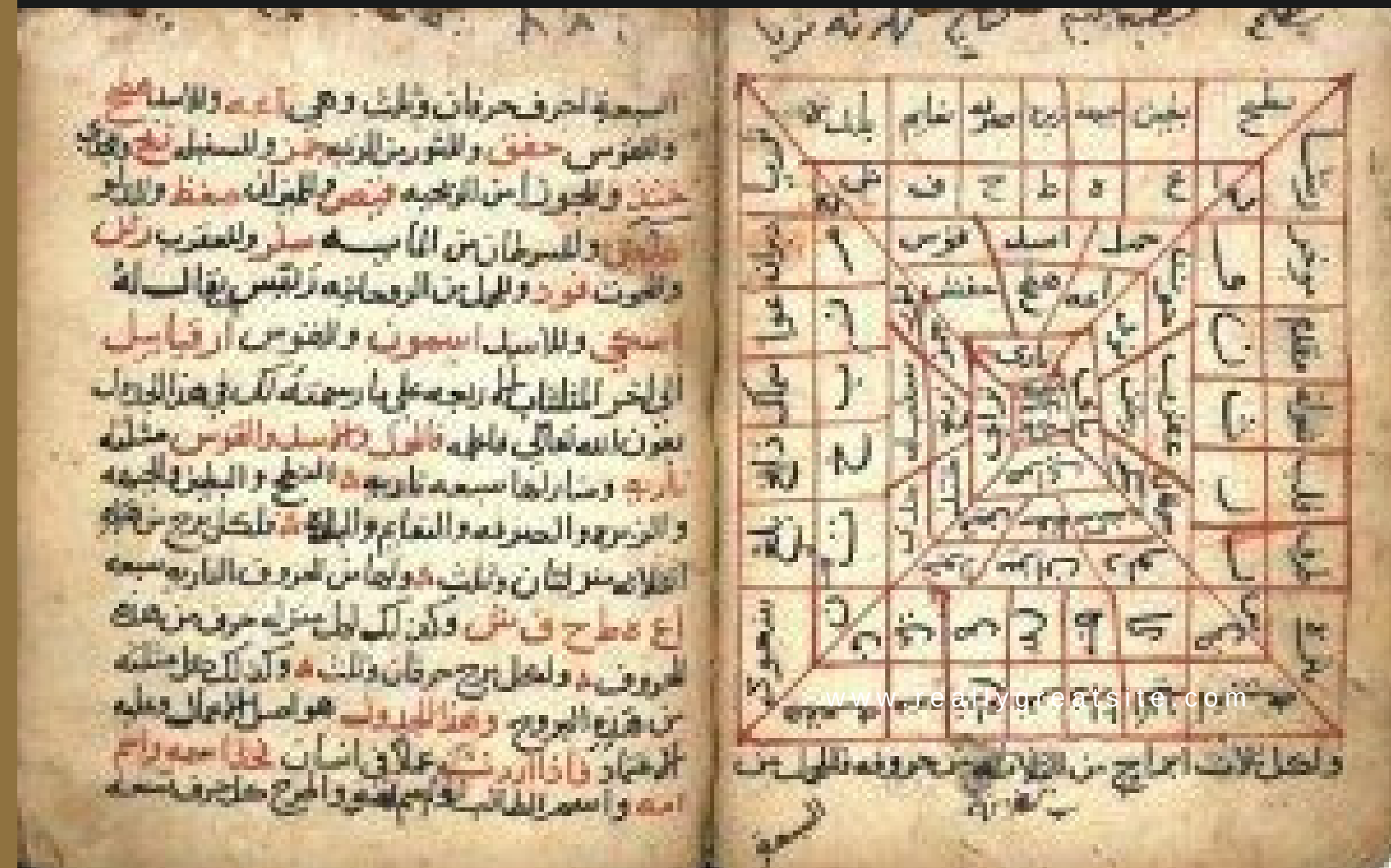
Book III

“Of the properties of the planets and signs, and of their figures and forms made in their colors, and how one may speak with the spirits of the planets, and of many other magical workings”

Book Four

“Of the properties of spirits, and of those things that are necessary to observe in this most excellent art, and how they may be summoned with images, suffumigations and other things”

Contents





Liber Razielis *Archangeli*

c. 13th century

Originally written in Hebrew & Aramaic
Sefer Raziel HaMalakh (ספר רזיאל ה
מלאך)

13th century Translated into Latin
Latin edition requisitioned by Afonso X (El Sabio)



Libro de San Cipriano

The Portuguese grimoire AKA *The Sorceror's Treasure*

The Book of St. Cyprian is less of a *book* and more of a *tradition* of Portuguese Cyprianic literature

Largely consists of folk Catholicism augmented with oral traditions and legends of St. Cyprian, and African traditional religion



Libro infernal

c. 19th century

The Spanish *Clavis inferni*

attributed to "Jonas Sulphurino" (Sulphury Jones)

Combines elements of the Key of Solomon, the Grand Grimoire, *Grand et Petit Albert*, and a book on the Gallician Inquisition

Contact Me



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