

# EXEGESES

## The Metamythos Revealed

What's with all the symbols? Is there really a secret hidden in the story?  
What do Oodothyx and Sa'ib, the serpent guardians of the underworld palace gate, represent?...

The following pages answer these and other questions by deciphering the metamythos in 4 parts:

- I. The Symbols
- II. The Mandala
- III. The Secret
- IV. The Coda

## I. THE SYMBOLS

Why symbols for these gods? Perhaps to create an easy shorthand, visual keys on which to hang all that the gods represent; or maybe so that there's a universal reference no matter the language; or it could be to illustrate graphically the connection between deities; it's hard to say for sure. But from its very inception, when I sat down in the fall of 1984 in my lodger's room in Mexico City and first put pen to paper to sketch out the outlines of a new mythology, I wrote the names *and* symbols for an uber goddess with three male faces of space, time, and thought, which would be the basis from which all the rest would flow.

So why *these* symbols for these gods? Some are chosen so as to be easy to remember; some are pictographic; some are used for similar concepts in other disciplines; some are drawn from another of these symbols to reflect a relationship. Most have a combination of these elements. At the core of the symbol system is a circle, from which all but a handful of the symbols are derived.



### **Unu, the Great Goddess: a circle**

No beginning or end, the maximal-area geometric shape; "Throughout the world, the circle symbolizes infinity, unity, the life cycle, wholeness, completion, and divinity." –WikiHow (<https://www.wikihow.com/Symbolism-of-the-Circle>); the feminine divine (recurring in Maia, Luna, Fatale, Serene; with a Sol exception)

For Her three faces: variations of a circle

Split a circle in half and reassemble the two crescents into new forms—



### **Cosmos: reversed crescents joined at the ends**

Resembling an infinity symbol, a spiral galaxy, a curved surface (as of space or fabric), the "S" of *space*



### **Chronos: mirrored crescents joined at the center**

Alludes to the passage of time in the waxing and waning moon; the most symmetrical of the three symbols, alluding to balance; resembles back-to-back letters "C" for Chronos; resembles an hourglass



### **Logos (Night): mirrored crescents joined at the ends**

Resembles a script "n" for Night; slight resemblance to an open book, alluding to knowledge in general and the Book of Truth specifically

The three straight lines delineating the faces combine to form, inscribed within the circle, an up-pointing equilateral triangle, the minimal-area geometric shape; the masculine divine. Together with the circle, alludes to Unu as female and male, alpha and omega



**Maia: a circle crossed**

Astronomical & astrological symbol for the Earth; alludes to the 4 quarters of the globe, the four cardinal directions, the four elements. (Rekurs modified by rotation as Fatale's symbol)



**Luna: a circle with crescent**

Similar to the astronomical & astrological symbol for the moon



**Terra: a pi-like symbol**

Resembles a "T" for Terra; alludes to a roof and walls of a house; alludes to an entrance like a torii gate. NOT intended as a pi symbol



**Sol: a circle with a center dot**

Astronomical & astrological symbol for the sun; resembles an eye; dot modifies the symbol to express epitome (recurring in Gnomon)--in this case the epitome of Cosmos' power



**Doom: a scroll (alt: a trefoil knot)**

Alludes to his masterwork, the Scroll of Fate; NOT intended as a logarithmic spiral  
Alt: the knot of his gag

For the Tempusts: Chronos' symbol modified with a line  
References relationship to Chronos as expression of him



**Antes the Pale: a horizontal line from center to the left**

To indicate the past



**Klarion the Swift: a vertical line through the center**

To indicate the present; where the crescents and line meet in the center is a vanishing point to infinity, alluding to the elusiveness of now



**Destux the Untamed: a horizontal line from center to the right**

To indicate the future`



**Fatale (Death): a circle crossed and rotated 45 degrees**

Alludes to mirror relationship to Maia; resembles X of negation



**Serene: a circle with 4 vertical bars**

Referencing the strings of her musical instrument



**Umbral: a "U" with outwardly curled ends**

Resembles a "U" for Umbral; curled ends allude to Oodothryx and Sa'ib as guardians of the gate; shape (and position at the bottom of the mandala) suggests a pit, in allusion to an underworld and the Well of Souls; curves and opening at the top are the opposite of Terra's right angles and opening at the bottom



**Gnomon: Logos' symbol with two dots**

Resembles the face of an owl (facial disk, two eyes); references relationship to Night as expression of him; dots modify the symbol to express epitome (reiterating the motif seen with the symbol for Sol, and visually connecting the two symbols as counterparts)--in this case, the epitome of Night's knowledge



For the Song of Diversity: double logarithmic spiral

Alludes to the progression of things into and out of being; multiple linked spirals suggest all things are connected; that the linked spirals form a circle [circle may be in motion, but only clockwise] suggests that the singer and the song are one, that through the song the one becomes many while the many still remain one

## Notes

–Not every god or divine entity has a symbol. The celestials number in the trillions of trillions, of which (besides Maia, Luna, and Cosmos himself) only Axas and Hyera are named; yet neither of them nor any of the others have symbols, instead being subsumed under Cosmos' banner. Similarly, the godlings Aerial and Malus presumably are subsumed under the symbol of either their mother, Serene, or better yet Umbra, the palace they never leave. Minor entities Oodothryx and Sa'ib are referenced in the symbol for Umbra.

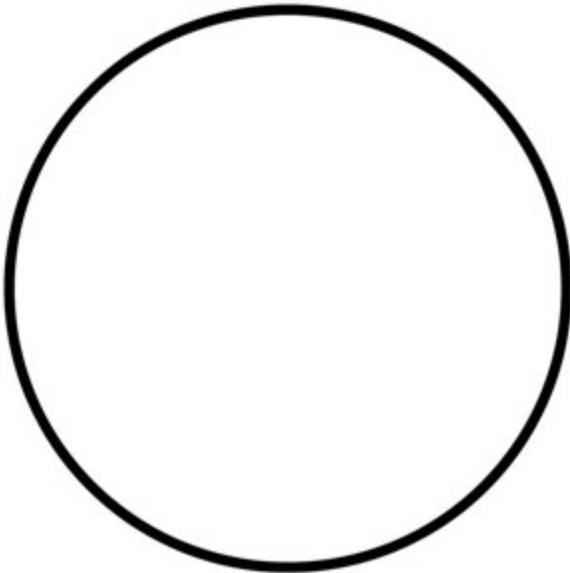
*(Side Note: Written above the gates of Umbra are the words ENTER WITH AN OPEN MIND, and the two serpents, Oodothryx and Sa'ib, bar the way. Their names are anagrams, and the barriers they represent are reflected in the snake-specific way each strikes—the first with strangling coils, the other with venomous bite—and hence their appellations, the Constrictor and the Corruptor, respectively.)*

## II. THE MANDALA

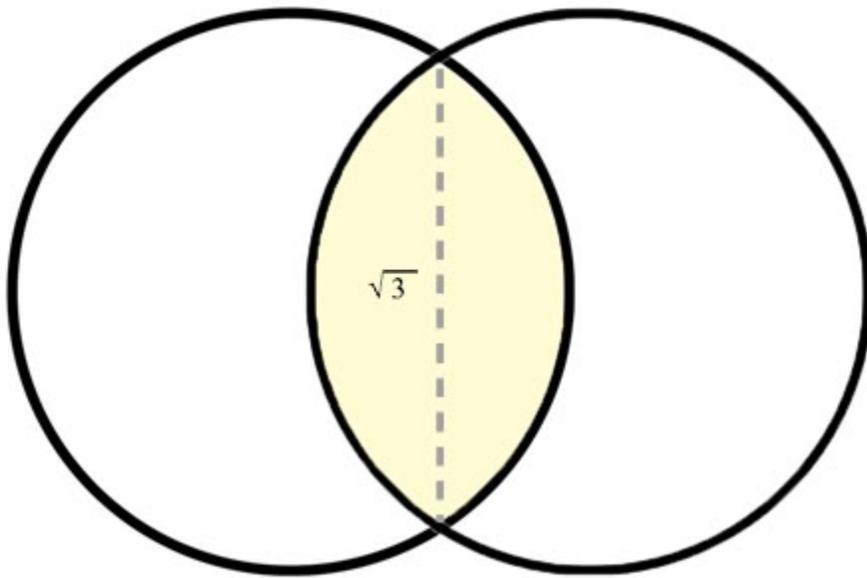
*Sing me the song of an endless story  
Reckon the seasons of moon and sun  
Show me the way on this restless journey  
With sign that the song and the singer are one  
One with life, one with death  
One with her flesh, her fire, blood, and breath  
One with the light of the stars in the sky  
One with the thundering years passing by  
One with the shadows we know when we die  
One song of existence; the singer am I  
–Invocation of the Metamythos Mandala*

The arrangement of the symbols creates a mandala that does 3 jobs, paralleling the 3 aspects of Unu: It's a metaphysical map, a calendar, and a table of contents. The mandala is organized by tribe, with a bit of sacred geometry in its construction, as follows:

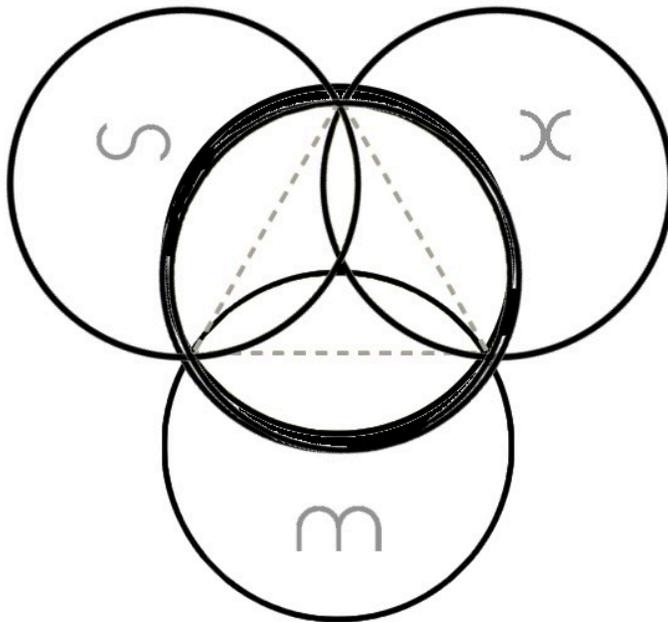
Unu...



...sees her own reflection and joins with him (creating a vesica piscis, the long axis of which—given the circles' radius of 1— is the irrational number square root of 3.  
[She shattered all boundaries so that reflection and self could touch, allowing each of the **Three** to couple with their **root** self. – “The Singer and the Dragon”])



This happens 3 times...



...giving birth to the celestials, a temporal, and the nocturnals.

## As a table of contents

*The first song sets the wheel in motion  
The second is a song of love  
The third song tells of Her devotion  
The fourth cries joy from the sky above  
The fifth song binds our fate to silence  
and bids us live each moment well  
The sixth unleashes rage and violence  
The seventh song has truth to tell  
The last song echoes through the ages  
to ask its question all night long  
And close the circle on these pages  
These, the metamythos songs  
–Ode of the Metamythos*

“Sing me the song of an endless story...”

The entire myth cycle of *Songs of the Metamythos* is summarized in the mandala:

As noted above, the **triangle of the 3 faces** reflects the three unions that started the universe, while **Maia**'s symbol marks the birth of life on Earth, which together summarize the first myth, “**The Singer and the Dragon**”. Proceeding clockwise from Maia...

**Luna**, whose love for Maia and for us is at the heart of the tale, stands for (2) “**Of Sun and Moon, Tide and Time**”...

**Terra** is created by Maia from her own living flesh to save her children in (3) “**The Gift**”...

**Sol**, whose watch over Terra culminates in fiery tears of joy, for (4) “**Legend of the Firethroat**”...

**Doom**, **Antes**, **Klarion**, and **Destux** represent Lucky and his three time rides, resulting in his gagged silence, for (5) “**Tying the Knot**”...

**Fatale**, whose rape has awful consequences, for (6) “**The Curse**”...

**Serene**, who helps secure the Book of Truth for humanity, and **Umbra**, where the journey to get the book unfolds, for (7) “**Truth and Consequences**”...

...and **Gnomon**, the owl formed by the echo of the first syllable of Night's very first words (“Who am i?”), for “**After Dark**”. By the end of this last myth, Night finally has his answer.

At which point, the cycle begins anew.

## As a calendar

“Reckon the seasons of moon and sun...”

Through the center of the mandala, draw a line that bisects the Chronos face and then a second line that's perpendicular to the first one. At the ends of this cross lie **Maia** (rebirth), **Sol** (the sun's power), **Klarion** (the elusive moment balanced between past and future), and **Serene** (sleep), for the **spring equinox, summer solstice, autumn equinox, and winter solstice**, respectively.

All twelve symbols around the mandala's perimeter count off the months, in alignment with the above solar arrangement (in the northern hemisphere, **Maia = March, Luna = April, etc.**; in the southern, **Maia = September, Luna = October, etc.**), to complete the year.

At which point, the cycle begins anew.

## As a metaphysical map

“Show me the way on this restless journey...”

...“the restless journey” being life.

Note that three symbols sit in the corners of the 3-faces triangle, in the pivotal positions where one tribe cedes to the next: Maia, Doom, and Fatale. Maia and Fatale occupy liminal, transitional places, while Doom occupies a controlling place; we are born into this world, our fate plays out, and then we die to leave this world for the next.

The birth-death axis (Night's face) separates the familiar world of spacetime, above that axis, from the great unknown of the afterlife, below the axis.

Together the symbols on the mandala's perimeter roughly map the trajectory of a life: You're born and know first the love of mother (Maia) and then family (Luna), find your home (Terra) and, if you're fortunate, grow into maturity and fullness of your power (Sol)...but fortunate or not, your fate will play out (Doom) over the passage of time (Antes, Klarion, Destux) and, whether by a gradual decline or an unexpectedly abrupt twist, end in death (Fatale)...at which point we rest (Serene) and pass into the unknown (Umbra) where the dissolution of “self” yields gnosis (Gnomon), until rebirth. (Reincarnation? New life springing from the compost of the old?)

At which point, the cycle begins anew.

## Notes

–The positions of symbols in the mandala further illustrate some relationships. Maia-Luna-Terra-Sol occupy the same positions relative to Cosmos as Fatale-Serene-Umbra-Gnomon do relative to Logos, acknowledging that they're daughter-twin-palace-proxy counterparts in light and dark. Also, "The Gift" (Terra) stands directly opposite from "The Curse" (Fatale).

–While the entirety of the metamythos is a hypersigil, the mandala—being itself comprised of sigils—is the hypersigil at its most apparent and accessible.

### III. THE SECRET

Music is the metaphor that runs throughout *Songs of the Metamythos*, and the science that informs these tales sets the metamythos apart as a myth cycle that reflects our modern understanding of the world. But there's another element woven into the text that goes completely unnoticed by most readers:

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Mathematics.

Already noted is the use of sacred geometry in the construction of the mandala, and how that's coded into the text in "The Singer and the Dragon". But the first clue comes earlier, at the very beginning of that same myth:

*The true name of that voice is unknowable, elusive to its last syllable even in the incontrovertible language of the gods*

"The incontrovertible language of the gods" is math; the voice is Unu's, whose symbol is a circle (in "The Curse," in reference to the total solar eclipse: *the Great Goddess, as her symbol blazed across the sky in fire*). That means her true name, "unknowable, elusive to its last syllable"--in math indicating a transcendental or at least irrational number, with a decimal that continues without ending--is represented by  $\pi$ , the transcendental number intimately connected to the circle.

This is reiterated during the journey through Umbra in "Truth and Consequences":

*she heard the true name of the Great Goddess echoing here and wanted to chase it to its final syllable, but with Malus hot on their heels she couldn't keep running around in circles.*

The next clue, and it's a big one, is in Night's choice of personal pronoun. Whenever he refers to himself, it's always with a lowercase "i" instead of a capital "I"; he is the only god who does this, and it reflects a lifelong uncertainty and curiosity about his own identity. But it's also an appropriate math symbol:  $i$  in mathematics is called the imaginary unit, the square root of a negative number--which is something that can't exist, but we can imagine it. And that's very much what Night is all about.

The final clue is rather subtle, but can be discerned by lining up a few examples from the text:

*The emanating power of the song*

*Her erotic song*

*Unu's elemental song*

*And still the song unfolds, elegant simplicity evolving to exquisite complexity*

*the most exquisite song ever heard*

*The eternal song*

*the exalted song*

Note what nearly all the adjectives used to describe the Song of Diversity have in common: They start with the letter e. So the song, which changes one into many, is represented by  $e$ , which is a mathematical constant described as the base of the natural logarithm and exponential function.

What does that mean? Easier to say that it's a hugely important number in math, approximately equal to 2.71828... (which, like  $\pi$ , is a transcendental number, its decimal going on ad infinitum). It pops up seemingly everywhere: in the shape of certain

spirals (including “golden spirals”), in the growth and decay of things in nature, in the compounding of interest, and more. In short,  $e$  seems to undergird the processes of change that shape the world around us, making it perhaps ideal as the mathematical description of the song.

$e$  is so important that the Swiss mathematician who discovered it, Jakob Bernoulli, wanted a logarithmic spiral (a spiral the shape of which is governed by  $e$ ) carved on his tombstone. He was also referring to the logarithmic spiral, which is self-similar at any scale, when he coined the Latin phrase *eadem mutata resurgo*—

—which happen to be last words spoken by Night as he faces the nameless dragon and casts his final spell, in “After Dark”. It means “Although changed, I arise the same.”

That critical moment, when Night comprehends his identity and ascends as the Great Goddess, puts all the math together in what is widely regarded as the most beautiful, elegant equation of all, Euler’s identity:

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

Translated into the metamythos’ terms of gods and the crux of existence: *The song, powered by Night’s total comprehension and acceptance of Unu, the All within himself, after one complete iteration takes us back to the point of origin.* Which is what happens at the very end of the last myth.

This is the mathematical proposition hidden at the heart of the metamythos. It’s an expression promising that our dynamic universe, seemingly doomed to eventual chaos, will ever be renewed for a next cycle by the transformative power of thought.

So does this math symbolism provide a glimpse deep into the nature of existence? Or is it just a parlor trick, a storyteller’s sleight of hand? There’s only one answer to that:

This is just a story. You decide how much of it is true.

#### IV. THE CODA

Sorry. I'm not telling.

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