

Glossary

Every definition here reduces something to a sentence or two that, in its own tradition, is a whole narrative, a whole cosmology, sometimes a whole life's practice. That reduction is necessary. Without it, a name like Frashokereti or a word like bittul just sits on the page as noise, a door with nothing behind it. But the reduction is also a real danger, and I'd rather say that plainly than let the format quietly pretend otherwise. A sentence can tell you what a word points to. It can't tell you what that word actually holds for the people who have lived inside it for centuries, or what it came to hold for me personally, in the years I spent living inside this project.

I've included some of that personal weight where it felt necessary to explain why a word earned its place in these books at all. I haven't done it for every term, and I'd ask you to read that as a pattern, not an omission. Where I've stayed quiet about what a word came to mean for me, I'd rather you go looking for what it comes to mean for you: your own digging, your own narrative, sat with long enough that the definition stops being the whole of it. That's most of what I actually hope this glossary teaches, more than any single word in it.

I have attachments to some of the names, and to the adventures, visions, and revelations I found by following blue-link rabbit holes in and out of. I hope you'll go on your own adventures with the names and rabbit holes I missed, or couldn't comprehend or see in the way you might.

Abaddon - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: Hebrew; the angel of the abyss/destruction, named in Revelation.

Adam - Enhypostasia, reference recurring.

Def: The first man in Genesis.

Aeons - Thunders of the Mind; Tekel; Sea of Suf; Eve

Def: Gnostic term for emanations or expressions of the divine fullness, the Pleroma.

Agni Pariksha - Prophets and Kings

Def: Sanskrit, "trial by fire"; in the Ramayana, Sita walks through fire after her rescue from Lanka to prove her purity, and emerges unharmed.

Aiwass - Gehinnom

Def: The entity Aleister Crowley claimed dictated The Book of the Law to him in 1904, foundational to Thelema. His mystery number is my birthday.

Akashic - Second

Def: From the Theosophical idea of the Akashic records, a non-physical record of every event, thought, and feeling; from Sanskrit akasha, "ether" or "space."

Akka - Three Fires, Four Directions

Def: Acre, in present-day Israel, where Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned for decades; "prisoner of Akka" is a direct reference to him.

Al-Barzakh - Section title

Def: An Islamic eschatological term for the intermediate state or barrier between death and resurrection, where the soul waits until the Day of Judgment.

Amalgam - Candelabra

Def: One of your own composite titles for the cascading-avatar device, not borrowed from one single tradition.

Amesha Spentas / Ahura Mazda - Candelabra

Def: Ahura Mazda is the supreme Zoroastrian deity; the Amesha Spentas are divine attributes/emanations through which Ahura Mazda acts.

Although not entirely the same, I do see connections between Zoroastrian ideas and Hinduism. The deities in Hinduism to me represent Amesha Spentas.

Anatta - Sea of Fana

Def: Buddhist doctrine of not-self, holding that there was never a fixed, permanent self to begin with.

Arjuna - Prophets and Kings

Def: The Pandava archer-prince of the Mahabharata, who hesitates to fight his own kin at Kurukshetra and receives the teaching of the Bhagavad Gita from Krishna, his charioteer.

Asé - Fajr

Def: Yoruba concept of life force or generative power (also spelled ashe).

Asha - Candelabra; Sea of Fana

Def: Asha is truth/cosmic order;

Ashura / Karbala - Candelabra

Def: Ashura marks the anniversary of the Battle of Karbala, where Husayn ibn Ali was killed; a founding event of grief and moral witness in Shia Islam.

Asoka Garden - Rosetta's Shards

Def: The garden in Lanka where Sita is held captive in the Ramayana; site of her grief and endurance.

Atman / Brahman - recurring in 88; Sea of Fana

Def: Atman is the individual soul; Brahman is the universal ground of being; Advaita Vedanta holds these as ultimately identical.

I have difficulty with absolute definitions of words and terms. To me they are the same as well as different. Like the cell is different than the body, but the body is the cell.

Avidya - First Rebirth; Sea of Fana

Def: Sanskrit, "ignorance." In Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, the first klesha and the root from which the others grow; in Buddhism, the mistaking of the transient for a permanent self.

Avram - Enhypostasia

Def: Abraham's original name before it was changed in Genesis.

Azura - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: Various sources claim this is the name of a daughter of Adam and Eve and wife of Seth.

Bab (the Báb) - Garden

Def: Title meaning "the Gate," founder of Babism in 19th-century Persia and forerunner to the Baha'i Faith; his followers regard him as a herald preparing the way for Bahá'u'lláh.

Baekdu - Candelabra

Def: the volcanic mountain on the border of North Korea and China

Bhagavad Gita - Candelabra; 999 Introduction; Three Pillars; Sea of Fana

Def: "Song of the Lord"; the dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna within the Mahabharata, teaching the paths of knowledge, devotion, and action.

Bahá'u'lláh - Gehinnom

Def: 19th-century founder of the Baha'i Faith, proclaimed by followers as the messianic figure fulfilling the expectations of many world religions.

Baqaa / Fana - recurring; title essay of 999

Def: Fana is the annihilation of the ego-self in mystical union; Baqaa is the subsistence/rebirth that follows. Treated as one paired concept.

There is an implied cause and effect, a linear sort of view of this process. My own experience is that these things happen concurrently. Parts of the "bad" self die to make room for the "good" parts. One can't exist without the other.

Baraka - Fajr

Def: Arabic/Sufi concept of divine blessing or spiritual power flowing through a person or place.

This is a four-tradition cluster (Yoruba, Vedic, Greek/Christian, Sufi) naming the same thing. Using four names is both a reflection of the overlaps between traditions, but also intended to reflect that the nuances and differences one may sense between them are not in opposition to each other, but rather complement one another.

Bittul - Sea of Fana

Def: Kabbalistic term for self-nullification before the divine.

Bkejwanong - Garden

Def: Walpole Island First Nation, an Anishinaabe community in southwestern Ontario, sometimes called "where the waters divide."

Bodhisattva - Sea of Fana

Def: In Mahayana Buddhism, a bodhisattva follows the path toward Buddhahood for the liberation of all beings, guided by compassion and the bodhisattva vow. Some accounts emphasise postponing final liberation until all beings are freed.

Brahma / Vishnu / Shiva - Seeds From the Hearth (Children)

Def: The Hindu Trimurti; creator, preserver, and destroyer aspects of the divine.

Although the three are treated as distinct, I understand them as expressions of one ultimate reality, Brahman. Some people outside of Hinduism can't understand the nuance of the various deities and gods of their pantheon, but ultimately they all ladder up to the same ultimate existence, captured in the Name of Brahma. There is also a tendency

for outsiders to see Shiva as the god of destruction as an evil or malevolent force. The Hindu doesn't understand it this way. At times something needs to be destroyed in order for something new to take its place. Where does evil go, if not to its destruction through Shiva?

Buddha-nature - Sea of Fana

Def: The Mahayana teaching that every being already holds the nature of a Buddha, obscured rather than absent.

Cain - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: Genesis' first murderer, son of Adam and Eve, brother of Abel and Seth.

Chevlei - Seeds From the Hearth (Children,)

Def: From Hebrew chevlei Mashiach, "birth pangs of the Messiah," a rabbinic concept for the period of intense upheaval believed to precede the messianic age.

Christos - Candelabra

Def: Greek for "anointed," translating the Hebrew Mashiach; the root of the word Christ.

Cincinnatus - Enhypostasia

Def: Roman statesman known for taking absolute power in crisis, then voluntarily relinquishing it.

Cloud of Unknowing - Sea of Fana

Def: A term from an anonymous 14th-century Christian mystical text, describing the unknowing that separates the soul from direct comprehension of God, entered through love rather than intellect.

Confirmation bias - Seeds From the Hearth (Children)

Def: The tendency to notice, favour, and remember information that confirms what we already believe, while overlooking or dismissing what contradicts it.

This is the one place early on where the vocabulary turns clinical rather than mythic, but the mechanism it names, protecting a belief from correcting evidence, is the same one First Rebirth spends much longer describing as the defence of a false self. I use the modern term here.

Confucius - Gehinnom

Def: Ancient Chinese philosopher and teacher, founder of Confucianism, emphasizing ethics, ritual, and social harmony.

Dajjal - Thunders of the Mind; Gaslighting

Def: The Deceiver/false messiah of Islamic eschatology, analogous to the Antichrist.

The nature of the journey has led me to spend considerable time reflecting on what is anti-Christ, false messiah, and false prophet. I have reflected on how anti-christ can be as left is to right. For many people for many years, the pope was anti-christ. It is always a matter of definition. If I disagree with another's version of the word Christ, then articulating this to someone who believes in the other version, I will appear as though I am anti-christ. Something else I often return to is the idea of duality: that people project onto Mashiach their own insecurities and weaknesses, that Mashiach will fix everything wrong, just as people project the very same insecurities and weaknesses onto anti-mashiachs, Christs, devils, and demons. Both take away responsibility and agency from the individual. We are instruments; we cannot do anything without someone to use or flow through us. We are nothing alone, but useful when we are a part of the task. If I am a hammer, why would the "god" who wields me use their fist?

Dark Night (of the Soul) - Sea of Fana

Def: A concept from Christian mystic John of the Cross describing the stripping away of both exterior and interior consolations, the felt presence of God, spiritual comfort, and progress, as the final purification before union.

Dao - Candelabra

Def: Chinese, "the Way"; in Daoism, the nameless source and pattern of all things.

Dekanahwideh - Candelabra

Def: The legendary Peacemaker credited with founding the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Delos - Garden

Def: A Greek island sacred to Apollo and Artemis, said to be their birthplace, historically a major religious sanctuary of the ancient world.

Devas/Asuras - Satan; Prophets and Kings

Def: In Hindu tradition, the gods and the rival powers who contend with them; often read as forces at work within every person.

Deva-datta - Candelabra

Def: Historically the Buddha's cousin and rival, often cast as a villain/schismatic in Buddhist texts. Also the name of Kalki's horse, "given by the gods."

Something I don't share in regular conversation: I have had certain attachments to vehicles (horses), and do think of my car as Devadatta. The type of car, that it is white, a gift, as well as the windshield crack in the shape of a scythe. I have difficulty parting with it while I have no use for it. For work, I need to drive a grey beast of burden.

Dharma - Candelabra

Def: One's duty or righteous path; cosmic order; meaning shifts by tradition and context.

Druj - Candelabra; Sea of Fana

Def: Druj is falsehood/chaos; the moral binary underlying Frashokereti.

Elan - Vow to the Veiled

Def: Vigor, spirit.

My own experience with the word was in reference to the Napoleonic Wars and the French army. Vow to the Veiled is meant to invoke periods and archetypes, and that is the reason for choosing a French word for spirit, as the word has the potential to carry a different weight than using the word spirit and I think has a more humanistic link, though perhaps that is subjective only to me.

Eliyahu - Enhypostasia

Def: Hebrew for Elijah, the prophet expected to precede the messianic age.

Elohim - Gehinnom

Def: A Hebrew name for God, grammatically plural but generally used with singular verbs; also used generically for "gods" or divine beings.

Eros Pragma - Vow to the Veiled

Def: Greek terms associated with love: eros, often associated with desire or passionate love, and pragma, meaning action or deed and used in some modern classifications of love for enduring, practical love.

The choice of Greek names is a personal affirmation of Greek history

and philosophy and its influence on mainstream Christianity, while also an attempt at pointing to the fact that from an outside perspective, the so-called heresies of the early church look like different expressions of the same thing; that people insisting on the Greek heresy as truth obscures the root of all "heresies" when they were all cultural adaptations and expressions rooted in the teachings of Jesus. I also think it valuable at times to reflect that in different languages, they have words we don't and vice versa, how this can shape our thoughts, emotions and views of the world, it seems tangible yet unquantifiable at the same time.

Eve - Vow to the Veiled; Veins of the Seep

Def: The first woman in Genesis; here doubling as one more face of the beloved, and later as one of the addressees in Veins of the Seep. *In the biblical narrative, she is or represents a beloved adversary. The name, along with Ramaa and Neviyah, represents the essence of the romantic love and relationship I am seeking with a physical person, yet building the scaffolding and expectations within the space of pattern as well as archetype. Beyond this, she makes appearances in several pseudepigrapha.*

Fitna - Seeds From the Hearth (Children)

Def: Arabic, "trial," "temptation," or "strife"; in Islamic eschatology, the trials and divisions that precede the end of days. Paired with Chevlei.

Frashokereti - Candelabra; Possession; Sea of Fana

Def: The Zoroastrian "renovation"; final restoration of existence to perfection, when Druj is fully overcome by Asha.

Although in general I have been raised and taught to favour Asha over Druj, the spiritual encounters as well as the process of living out and writing the story 88 mean I no longer see it as a choice. Asha is always better than Druj when one takes any broader or larger view. Druj only appears to be a choice when considered in a subjective vacuum. The long-term consequences are a law of nature, something I don't need to consider or extrapolate, as it is to me a definite fact.

Ganesh - Candelabra

Def: The elephant-headed Hindu deity, remover of obstacles and patron of learning and beginnings.

Gautama - Seeds From the Hearth; Sea of Fana; Garden
Def: The Buddha's personal name (Siddhartha Gautama). In many Hindu traditions, he's counted as the ninth avatar of Vishnu.

Gehenna - Tekel; Sea of Fana; Prophecy and Archetype
Def: The Greek name for the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem; used in the New Testament for fiery judgement and later read by many Christians as eternal hell.

Gehinnom - Seeds From the Hearth (SunDancers); Gehinnom
Def: Hebrew name associated with the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem. In Jewish tradition, Gehinnom can refer to a post-death state of punishment or purification, often understood as temporary rather than eternal; its nature and duration vary across sources.

Ideas about heaven and hell I think cut against scripture and traditional understanding of G-D. I don't see the basis for them rooted in scripture; rather, their presence in Abrahamic tradition is an allowance given to paganism. Gehinnom and Gehenna are references to an actual place on earth; Hades and Sheol are describing perhaps something else, but they are metaphysical spaces for the psyche, not for our physical beings. People experience hell and heaven on earth. I know that others will take issue with this, however I see a real danger in how these concepts are used and fail to see how holding onto these ideas does more good than harm. Perhaps I am reflecting on my personal experience in religion, however I see them as effective means for controlling the followers of any religion that teaches this philosophy. It may not be an obvious path for many to see how this is at least related to death cults, but I do see how when it is misused, that is a necessary step on this path.

Gelassenheit - Sea of Fana
Def: A term from Christian mystic Meister Eckhart meaning "releasement" or letting go, surrendering the will's grip on outcomes rather than straining toward God.

Gerizim - Candelabra; 999 Introduction
Def: Mountain near Nablus in the West Bank; the holy mountain of the Samaritans, who hold it, rather than Jerusalem, as the place G-D chose.

Ghazal - Eve

Def: A Persian and Arabic poetic form of rhyming couplets on love and longing, human and divine; perfected by Hafez and Rumi.

Good Shepherds - Tekel; Candelabra; Epistemology

Def: From John 10, the shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep; used for those who serve others at cost to themselves.

Gnostic / Demiurge - Sea of Fana; recurring

Def: Gnostic refers to a diverse group of religious movements that place particular importance on gnosis, or spiritual knowledge. In some Gnostic systems, the Demiurge is a lesser creator associated with the material cosmos, which is understood as flawed, deficient, or alienating.

Hafez - Candelabra

Def: 14th-century Persian poet of Shiraz and master of the ghazal, whose verse is read as both earthly and divine love.

Han - Candelabra

Def: A Korean concept often associated with accumulated sorrow, resentment, grief, or unresolved suffering, sometimes understood collectively and across generations. Its meaning is debated and varies by context.

Hanuman - Rosetta's Shards; Candelabra; Prophets and Kings

Def: The devoted monkey-god of the Ramayana, servant to Rama, known for his strength, loyalty, and the bridge he built to Lanka.

Hanunim - Candelabra

Def: A Korean name for the supreme heavenly God, central in Korean folk religion.

Hashem - Gehinnom; Possession

Def: Hebrew, "The Name," a reverent way of referring to God without using a direct name.

Just like my favoured passage, "G-D does not show favouritism," "The Name" is my preferred;) way of referring to something that cannot be contained in one name.

Haumai - Haumai, Eve

Def: Sikh (Punjabi) term for ego or self-centredness, one of the Five Thieves in Sikh teaching, considered the root obstacle separating the soul from God.

Heart Sutra / Lotus Sutra - Candelabra

Def: Mahayana Buddhist scriptures. The Heart Sutra teaches that form is emptiness and emptiness is form; the Lotus Sutra teaches that all beings can attain Buddhahood, likening the dharma to rain falling equally on every plant.

Helen - Vow to the Veiled

Def: Helen of Troy; the Greek figure whose beauty is said to have launched a war; here, one of the beloved's faces.

Hymn of the Pearl - Hymn of my Pearl (section title); Sea of Fana

Def: A Syriac hymn preserved in the Acts of Thomas (c. 3rd century), often read as Gnostic: a prince sent from his father's kingdom to recover a pearl guarded by a serpent forgets who he is, is awakened by a letter, and returns home.

Innocent IV / Carpini - Jesus

Def: In 1245, Pope Innocent IV sent the Franciscan friar Giovanni da Pian del Carpine to the Mongol Great Khan with letters urging baptism; the Khan replied by demanding the Pope's submission.

Isa - Enhypostasia; Candelabra

Def: The Islamic name for Jesus.

Jeshua - Seeds From the Hearth (Children)

Def: An Aramaic/Hebrew form of the name Jesus.

I began to prefer this rendering of his name as time progressed, wanting to reflect the progression from the former understanding of Jesus I had through the Greek tradition, and attempting to relay and further explore the relationship with the man over the deity. For me it was important to divorce my idea of God from the name of Jesus, to better understand him. My own experience was that this helped me into a greater understanding of both Jesus and G-D, whereas my tradition insisted that they were one and the same.

Jihad / Jihad alnafs— 24

Def: Arabic for “struggle” or “effort.” Jihad has several meanings in Islamic thought, including striving to live faithfully and struggle against one's own faults. The distinction between “greater” inner jihad and “lesser” outward jihad is influential in some discussions, though the reported source and status of that specific formulation are disputed.

Jnana / Bhakti / Karma - Three Pillars; Prophets and Kings;
Candelabra

Def: The three paths, or yogas, of the Bhagavad Gita: knowledge, devotion, and selfless action.

John of the Cross - Sea of Fana

Def: 16th-century Spanish Carmelite mystic and poet, author of the map of spiritual purification known as the dark night.

Kabir - Sea of Fana

Def: 15th-century Indian mystic poet and weaver, revered by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs, whose verses appear in the Guru Granth Sahib; he taught that the divine is found within, and wrote of the drop merging into the ocean and the ocean into the drop.

Kali Yuga - Seeds From the Hearth (SunDancers); Candelabra; Sea of Fana

Def: The current age in Hindu cosmology; an era of spiritual decline and moral darkness, the last of four ages before renewal.

Kali Yuga and the ideas surrounding the four yugas I find vary by interpretation. There is disagreement on whether we even are in Kali Yuga, let alone how far through it we are if we are.

Kalki - Enhypostasia; Candelabra

Def: The prophesied final avatar of Vishnu, who will appear at the end of Kali Yuga to restore dharma.

Khalifa - Garden; Navajo Unity Chant and Seven Fires; Candelabra

Def: Steward or trustee; humanity's role as caretaker of creation, not owner of it.

This concept exists in every religious tradition: that we have a responsibility to the places we dwell in, which includes one another as well as nature. All of these things are connected, there is divinity in these connections leading into greater understanding and Union with G-D.

Khulubvi - Prophets and Kings

Def: The shrine of M'bona near Nsanje in southern Malawi, where tradition holds his head is buried.

Klesha - First Rebirth

Def: A mental affliction or poison (craving, aversion, delusion) that binds a person to suffering and clouds clear perception.

I have spent time reflecting on my own kleshas, most of them related to family, and how I chose to see them. Why, when they kept showing me another part of themselves, was it so difficult for me to understand and accept? How much I projected to myself so I could keep believing they could see and hear what I was trying to say, something which I used to desire.

Koan - Styx

Def: A Zen Buddhist paradoxical question or story used in meditation to provoke doubt beyond ordinary rational understanding.

Krishna - Candelabra; Sea of Fana; Prophets and Kings

Def: The eighth avatar of Vishnu; Arjuna's charioteer and teacher in the Bhagavad Gita.

Lakshmi - Vow to the Veiled; Candelabra

Def: Hindu goddess of prosperity, beauty, and fortune, consort of Vishnu.

To me it is a name for the divine feminine. She has many avatars just as Vishnu does; however, the name and the letter are meant to portray a divine feminine. I have felt a romantic love often towards the Spirit I'm attempting to define throughout the text, and this letter is a small reflection of it.

Lamed Vav - Sea of Fana

Def: The thirty-six hidden righteous ones in Jewish tradition, whose anonymous selflessness is said to sustain the world.

Lanka - Rosetta's Shards

Def: The island kingdom ruled by Ravana in the Ramayana, where Sita is held captive.

Laozi - Gehinnom

Def: Legendary ancient Chinese philosopher, traditionally credited as founder of Daoism and author of the Tao Te Ching.

Li Hong - Enhypostasia

Def: A prophesied Daoist messianic/savior figure from Chinese religious tradition.

I am unfamiliar with the specific prophecies, but I recognize that the name, as well as the process of revelation, appears similar to other traditions, notably Muism. For a long time I resisted being more explicit in using Daoist and Confucian names, as to me their

philosophies underlie the manuscript. It was much later in development that I started including a few names, as well as reading more of the source text. Most of the general philosophy I think I absorbed more through osmosis from living in my formative years among people who grew up in these cultural traditions. I don't think that they will have much to disagree with and I think they also have no issue with and are well-practised at effective syncretism.

Lilith - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: Figure from Jewish folklore, sometimes identified as Adam's first wife, associated with independence and night-demons.

Logos - Fajr

Def: Greek philosophical and Johannine Christian concept of "the Word" as divine ordering principle.

Luther - Candelabra

Def: Martin Luther, 16th-century German theologian whose challenge to church authority sparked the Protestant Reformation.

This is someone who did inspire me when at first I recognised that what I was writing and processing would be viewed as heresy by some or many within my tradition. The cover of the manuscript depicts the four corners and the holy mountain, the flag of Mahdi, four nails to a wooden door. There is more symbolism than that, however whenever I felt as though, whether or not I was responsible for an offense, sometimes pointing it out can be offensive, I would then make sure I understood what is truly offensive.

Mahdi / Al-Mahdi - recurring; Candelabra name-list

Def: The prophesied redeemer figure in Islamic eschatology who will appear before the Day of Judgment to restore justice.

*There are many views on the Mahdi among traditions as well as individuals within them. To me it much more represents a title like warrior priest, but non-violent. The earliest names I can remember are Luther and Mahdi. I also remember; within the context of attempting to use the lens of most likely without a force overpowering the laws of nature, reading various ideas about the Mahdi, and the one that seemed most real to me was the one about the Mahdi dying a recluse and being recognised posthumously. **Maitreya** - Vow to the Veiled; Candelabra; Enhypostasia; Sea of Fana*

Def: The future Buddha in Buddhist traditions, expected to appear when the teachings of Śākyamuni Buddha have declined or disappeared and to teach the Dharma anew.

Although there is a figure in Buddhist scriptures referred to as Maitreya, the beliefs around the figure as well as the name vary across sects and traditions. Ultimately the word for me invokes this; however, what always accompanies it is a translation of the word meaning "Friend," which my name is also translated to in the Urban Dictionary.

Man Yuzhiruhu Allah ("Whom God Will Reveal") Enhypostasia

Def: A messianic title used in some Islamic and Baha'i-adjacent traditions for a figure God will make known.

Manifestation - Candelabra

Def: One of your own composite titles for the cascading-avatar device, not borrowed from one single tradition.

Manna - Manna

Def: The miraculous food provided to the Israelites during their wilderness wandering in Exodus.

Mappo - Seeds From the Hearth (SunDancers)

Def: A Japanese Buddhist concept describing the age of dharma decline, when the teaching's power to lead to enlightenment is believed to have faded.

Marx - Gehinnom

Def: 19th-century philosopher and economist, founder of Marxist theory, class struggle, and historical materialism.

Mashiach - recurring; source of the title 999

Def: The Hebrew "anointed one"; the promised redeemer of Jewish eschatology.

Mashiach Ben Josef / Mashiach Ben David - Candelabra

Def: The two messiahs of some Jewish traditions: Mashiach ben Yosef, who suffers and falls in the end-time struggles, preceding Mashiach ben David, who restores the kingdom.

Maya - Maya

Def: Vedantic term for the veiling power that makes the phenomenal world appear real and separate from Brahman.

M'bona - Garden; Candelabra; Maya; Gehinnom; Enhypostasia; Prophets and Kings

Def: A rain-shrine spirit/ancestral hero in Chewa (Malawian) religious tradition, associated with drought-ending and renewal.

M'Bona is the archetype I recognise as closest to Jesus outside my own tradition, and the one that reached me earliest and most physically. I lived for a time in Malawi, between the Shire and a mountain shaped like a star, near a tree whose rooting branches has become its own forest. M'Bona was killed by his own kin for being different from them, and what's venerated at his shrines today isn't a symbol or a relic in the abstract sense, it's pieces of his actual body, kept and returned to across the region as a source of rain and renewal. An unjust death at the hands of family, and afterward, a body scattered and kept sacred, isn't a distant structure to me. It's close enough to the shape of Golgotha that I don't think the resemblance is accidental, whatever either tradition would say about the other.

What I took from him wasn't doctrine. It was a specific, physical sense of being a rainmaker, someone whose descent, whose darkness, is what the rain actually comes from rather than what it washes away. I wrote once that with the darkness comes the rain, and I didn't fully understand what I meant until later, when it became something closer to a discipline: I possess darkness so it cannot possess me. Not denying it, not being ruled by it, holding it the way a shrine holds what's left of someone after the worst has already happened to them, and finding that what's held that way can still be a source of life for the people around it.

Meister Eckhart - Sea of Fana

Def: 13th/14th-century German Christian mystic and theologian, known for teachings on detachment and the soul's union with God.

Melchizedek - Hymn of my Pearl; Candelabra; Am I

Def: A priest-king of Salem in Genesis, without recorded lineage, read typologically as a symbol of an eternal, non-hereditary priesthood.

The name is used not necessarily to refer to the person named, but rather as a path into others' speculations and revelations of the name and what it has come to represent: related to ideas about Christ, but also, that there is an eternal priesthood that predates scripture. What does this look like, what is lacking in the "priesthoods" of religions

today, and how do we resurrect the order of Melchizedek? For a long time this felt like a candidate for the name only known to the one who receives it; however, there are other, better candidates, and it is looking like one will remain hidden to all but me.

Menachem - Candelabra

Def: Hebrew for "comforter."

I chose it here because comfort was as much the letter's actual message as any claim to authority.

Mene - Mene (both instances)

Def: From "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" (Daniel 5), the writing on the wall at Belshazzar's feast. Mene means "numbered"; God has numbered the days of the kingdom.

Michael - Gehinnom

Def: Archangel in Abrahamic tradition, often depicted as a warrior and protector, leader of the heavenly host against evil.

This name carries more than one face for me, but best let them rest.

Moksha - Sea of Fana

Def: Liberation in Vedantic Hindu thought, the recognition that the individual self was never separate from the universal self.

Moon - Candelabra name-list

In Islamic hadith, the Mahdi's face is described as shining like the moon, echoing near-identical descriptions of Muhammad himself. Separately, a Korean prophetic text, the Chunggamnok, foretold a righteous king called Cheongdoryong, from the surname Cheong; Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, and his followers later applied this prophecy to himself despite the surname not actually matching his own, a retrofit some of his own early followers later acknowledged.

I chose this name knowing both threads, the real tradition and the false claim built on top of a different one. I don't think that makes the name unusable, but I don't think it's honest to use it and pretend the second thread isn't there. If anything, it's a useful caution to sit beside my own name for it, every prophecy is available to be reshaped around whoever wants to claim it badly enough, and knowing that history is part of what keeps me checking my own use of these names against it.

Moshe - Enhypostasia

Def: Hebrew for Moses.

Muhammad - Seeds From the Hearth (Children); Gehinnom

Def: The final prophet in Islam.

I have a temptation to speak more in this space about how different views of him exist amongst Muslims versus other faiths. I have a great deal of love and respect for Muhammed; I do see him as prophet. The criticisms of others I see as criticisms of situations and culture that have very little to do with him explicitly; it is just a human tendency to want to classify things and value them. If people are told to devalue one prophet while valuing another, they will very easily conflate evil with the name, just as the opposite happens. The biggest difference I have with Muslims is not theological, doctrinal, or in most of the beliefs. It is my refusal to elevate one prophet over another, as well as one interpretation over another. It is difficult to see that I agree the Quran comes from G-D and reflects Truth, yet insist that the moment we begin to interpret the Truth, it is no longer G-D speaking the words; the words are coming out of our mouths. Just as there are plenty of contradictions people refuse to see or acknowledge in every religion, they do exist. Even the varying beliefs in Islam about eschatology reflect the human subjectivity in the mediums between the words of G-D and our ears. The biggest defenders of the faith are often the most rigid and dogmatic in protecting a vision they themselves understand, and see themselves in the upper strata of practise and understanding. There is another tension that I want to be clear about; I hold my own tradition to sharper scrutiny than I do others, in part because I know its failures from the inside, and don't feel equally qualified to critique a tradition I wasn't raised in without guidance I don't yet have. I am sure there are more critiques I can develop to offer, however without some help from an insider who can corroborate how these things operate from the inside, I will continue to be careful about how I speak of other traditions, and I apologise where I have or am failing in this regard.

Nabu - Candelabra

Def: Babylonian god of writing, wisdom, and scribes.

Nafs al-ammara - Sea of Fana

Def: Sufi term for the "commanding self," the ego in its most tyrannical, unrefined state.

Nagas - Mene (second)

Def: Serpent beings of Hindu and Buddhist cosmology, dwelling in waters and underworlds as guardians of treasure and teaching.

Nala / Nila / Vanara - Prophets and Kings

Def: The vanara are the forest monkey-people of the Ramayana; Nala and Nila are the vanara who build the bridge to Lanka for Rama's army.

Nanabush - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: Anishinaabe trickster-culture-hero figure, central to Ojibwe oral tradition.

Nanak - Gehinnom

Def: Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism and first of the ten Sikh Gurus.

Nandaka - section title

Def: In Hindu tradition, Nandaka is the name of Vishnu's sword.

Narcissus - Seeds From the Hearth (SunDancers); recurring throughout

Def: A figure from Greek mythology who fell in love with his own reflection and wasted away pursuing it, the origin of the word narcissism.

Narcissus recurs throughout both books as shorthand for something that develops throughout and also in the Satan section in 999: an early, human-scaled version of "the Beast," self-love given enough room to demand its own worship, and followers willing to destroy themselves to prove their loyalty to it.

Neelkanth - Prophets and Kings

Def: "Blue-throated," an epithet of Shiva, who drank the poison that rose from the churning of the ocean and held it in his throat, neither swallowing nor spitting it out, to save the worlds.

Nevi'im - Gehinnom

Def: Hebrew, Prophets, the second major section of the Hebrew Bible, following the Torah.

Nietzsche - Gehinnom

Def: 19th-century German philosopher, known for "God is dead," the Übermensch, and eternal recurrence.

Nico - Usurped; Enhypostasia

Def: A personal, longstanding nickname rather than a traditional name.

My whole life I have gone by Nico, which is also a swear word in Egyptian Arabic meaning F-him.

Nirvana - Vow to the Veiled

Def: Nirvana is often described through the extinguishing of craving, ignorance, and the conditions that perpetuate suffering and rebirth. It should not be defined simply as the cessation of existence.

Although the term technically implies the cessation of existence, ending the cycles of re-incarnation, I am using it in the more colloquial sense of the word. Although the process of feeling what I am attempting to capture with the word is related to extinguishing of craving and attachment, true craving and attachment could also be viewed as an absolute, in which case the call of a bodhisattva to return to bring others along would be impossible. Returning to bring others is motivated and executed by some form of attachment, which to me introduces something structural in how this seems to be a necessary motivator, yet is extinguishing as it is being gained.

Nishkama Karma - Sea of Fana

Def: From the Bhagavad Gita, action performed without attachment to its results.

Oneida on Thames / Six Nations - Garden

Def: The Oneida Nation of the Thames, a Haudenosaunee community near London, Ontario; and Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, home to all six Haudenosaunee nations and the most populous First Nation in Canada.

Origen - Sea of Fana

Def: 3rd-century Alexandrian theologian who read scripture on literal, moral, and spiritual levels, and taught the eventual restoration of all things to G-D.

Oshun - Beginning (poem)

Def: Yoruba orisha of love, beauty, and rivers; distinct from Oshunmare though closely related.

Oshunmare - Beginning (poem)

Def: A Yoruba/Vodun orisha associated with the rainbow serpent, movement between worlds, and renewal.

This orisha has been identified with me by someone from the Candomblé tradition. Overlaps with other Indigenous traditions

surrounding the rainbow serpent exist in many forms, including Quetzalcoatl.

Padmavarthi - Rosetta's Shards

Def: A form/name of Lakshmi and consort to Kalki.

Pahana - Candelabra; 999 Introduction

Def: In Hopi tradition, the prophesied "Lost White Brother," expected to return from the east bearing a missing piece of a sacred tablet, helping usher in a new, more peaceful age after a period of crisis and purification.

Something I only learned after I'd already put this name in Enhypostasia: people who are not Hopi have claimed, across generations, to literally be Pahana returned. A false claim Hopi elders have had to guard against for a very long time. I am not making that claim, and I don't think any of the other names in this book work that way either. What drew me to Pahana wasn't a sense of being singled out. It was a resonance with something I'd already learned from a different direction first, the Anishinaabe Seven Fires prophecy, and specifically what an Elder helped me understand: that a renewal like this belongs to no one person, that it moves through whoever is willing to carry it rather than settling permanently in any one name. If there's a Pahana, I think it's closer to a pattern capable of passing through many people across many traditions than a title waiting for one specific man to arrive and claim it. I'd rather be one more person it moved through than the one it finally landed on. I am still learning what I have wrong here.

Patanjali - Gehinnom

Def: Ancient Indian sage credited with compiling the Yoga Sutras and systematizing classical yoga.

Pentecost - Second

Def: The Christian feast fifty days after Easter, when the Spirit descended as tongues of fire on the gathered disciples and each listener heard them in their own language (Acts 2); rooted in the Jewish festival of Shavuot.

Philia Agape - Seeds From the Hearth (Children); sign-off

Def: Greek terms for two more of the classical types of love; philia (friendship/brotherly love) and agape (unconditional, selfless love).

As I mentioned earlier, the choice of Greek words and terms are reflections of the foundation my religion gave me. The specifics in the names of different types of love are also a reflection of the depth of words and meanings beyond the surface. Just as love is powerful and conquers all, its depths are felt differently in different circumstances. The more time we spend in meditation and reflection on love, how it moves us and through us and manifests in different ways, the more power the word then has over us in how we manifest it for others.

Pir - Sea of Fana

Def: A Sufi spiritual guide or master who leads a disciple through the dissolving territory of fana safely.

Plato - Gehinnom

Def: Classical Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, known for the theory of Forms and the concept of the philosopher-king.

Pleroma - Duality

Def: Gnostic term for the "fullness" of the divine realm, as opposed to the deficient material world.

Princess Bari - Gehinnom; Prophets and Kings

Def: A figure from Korean shamanic mythology, an abandoned princess who journeys to the underworld to retrieve the water of life and save her dying parents, becoming the first mudang, or shaman, in Korean tradition.

Princess Bari is a name I've carried longer than most of the others. I only included her in the lake-of-fire scene in 88, without ever giving her the room she deserves. She was born the seventh daughter in a kingdom that wanted a son, and abandoned for it, set adrift by the same parents who were supposed to protect her. When they later fall ill with nothing else able to save them, she's the one who makes the descent into the underworld to retrieve the water of life, the daughter they discarded becoming the only one capable of saving them. She succeeds, and becomes the first mudang, the one others turn to ever since, precisely because of what the descent cost her.

Prophet - Recurring

Def: Generic title used alongside the specific named figures in the closing list.

It is my looseness with this word that got me into trouble with the community I used to be a part of. The term triggers a lot of ideas and

thoughts about what the word means; which prophets a given person believes are true and which are false. It's very easy to conclude I am a false one if I present something they disagree with or don't like, then project onto me the worst of many people who have claimed prophethood to abuse and exploit others, or who simply stand shouting nonsense at a street corner. I still have no personal difficulty with the word. At the end of the day it means inspired poet, and doesn't even have to be a good one. I am inspired, and I try to write poetry; therefore I am prophet. Beyond that, I don't care to argue something that would ultimately take away from what I am pointing to. Although it is my story and experience, I am writing it in a universal way, in hopes others may channel the same currents.

Psychosis - Testing the Waters

Def: A clinical term for a state in which a person's perception or interpretation of reality is significantly altered, potentially involving delusions, hallucinations, or disorganised thinking. Psychosis can occur in different clinical and situational contexts.

Qiyamah - Sea of Fana

Def: The Standing/Resurrection, the Islamic day of judgment and reckoning.

Quetzalcoatl - Candelabra

Def: The Feathered Serpent of Mesoamerican tradition, a deity of wind, learning, and priesthood; in some accounts, a departed ruler expected to return.

Rachel / Ramah - Enhypostasia; Rosetta's Shards

Def: Rachel is Jacob's beloved wife, mother of Joseph and Benjamin. In Jeremiah 31:15, a voice is heard in Ramah: Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.

Radha - Prophets and Kings

Def: Krishna's beloved, the model of devotional love in bhakti traditions.

Ragna - Section title

Def: Ragnarök, the Norse apocalyptic "twilight of the gods."

Ragnarök, along with other eschatologies in their interpretations, presents a vision of destruction. Although I don't share this vision, the name was selected to portray the literal interpretation of Revelation as

the destruction, rather than the words themselves describing an inevitable, personal prescribed destruction.

Ram - Rosetta's Shards

Def: Hero of the Ramayana, Sita's husband, an avatar of Vishnu; the one who eventually rescues Sita from Lanka.

Ramaa - Rosetta's Shards; Veins of the Seep

Def: Consort of Kalki; also a variant spelling of Ram, avatar of Vishnu.

Ramakrishna - Sea of Fana

Def: 19th-century Bengali mystic who practised the paths of several traditions and taught that they lead to the same G-D.

Ramayana - Rosetta's Shards; 999 Introduction

Def: The Sanskrit epic attributed to Valmiki: Rama's exile, Sita's abduction by Ravana, and her rescue from Lanka.

Rand - Gehinnom

Def: Ayn Rand, philosopher and novelist, founder of Objectivism, rational self-interest and laissez-faire capitalism.

Ratu Adil - Enhypostasia

Def: Javanese/Indonesian messianic prophecy of a "Just King" who will restore justice and order.

Ravana - Ramaa; 999 Introduction; Prophets and Kings

Def: The ten-headed king of Lanka who abducts Sita; also a great scholar and devotee of Shiva.

Renovator - Candelabra

Def: One of your own composite titles for the cascading-avatar device, not borrowed from one single tradition.

Ruh - Sea of Fana

Def: Arabic, "spirit"; the breath G-D breathed into Adam.

Ruha - Hymn of my Pearl; Brother

Def: In Mandaean religion, Ruha (sometimes Ruha d-Qudsha) is an ambivalent, largely darker figure, mother of the seven planets, associated with error and the material cosmos, in contrast to the higher beings of the Lightworld. This is a meaningfully different Ruha from the general Aramaic/Syriac word for "spirit," worth being clear about given how easily the two could be conflated by a reader who only knows the generic sense of the word.

Rumi - Sea of Fana

Def: 13th-century Persian Sufi poet and mystic, whose tradition describes the intoxication of fana, the mystic's speech and actions becoming a by-product of divine encounter rather than their own.

S-M-L - Gehinnom; Eve; Am I (closing names)

Def: Recurring abbreviation encompassing two names at once.

Written this way intentionally, it is meant to hold both Samael, the accuser/adversary, and Samuel the Prophet, who anointed David.

Sadhana - Jesus; Sea of Fana

Def: Sanskrit, a spiritual practice or discipline undertaken toward realisation.

Sakshi - Second

Def: Sanskrit, "witness"; in Vedanta, the pure awareness that observes the mind's activity without being changed by it.

Samskara - Prophecy and Archetype

Def: In yoga philosophy, the latent impressions left by experience, which shape later tendencies.

Saraswati - Enhypostasia

Def: Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, and learning.

Saoshyant - Candelabra; Enhypostasia; 999 Introduction

Def: Zoroastrian, "one who brings benefit"; the world-saviour born at the end of time, who brings about Frashokereti.

Seth (biblical) - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: The third son of Adam and Eve, born after Cain killed Abel; the line through which humanity continues.

Seth (Gnostic) - Candelabra; Candelabra name-list; Sea of Fana ("Sethian Hymn of the Pearl")

Def: In Sethian Gnosticism, Seth is elevated from the biblical figure into a heavenly redeemer archetype whose "seed" is planted in the elect as a spark of gnosis.

Seven Fires - Seeds From the Hearth (Children,); Navajo Unity Chant and Seven Fires

Def: The Seven Fires Prophecy is an Anishinaabe teaching describing seven eras in the people's journey. In widely circulated accounts, the

Seventh Fire presents a choice between paths, including one of renewal through a return to ancestral teachings.

This prophecy's choice between two paths, one to destruction, one to a return to original teachings and a gathering of all nations in peace, is close to how I understand the whole shape of this project: descent through what's broken, then a choice about which current to enter. I invoke it here rather than claim to interpret it fully. What draws me isn't ownership of the prophecy, but recognition, the same fork in the road, named by a tradition I wasn't born into, which is exactly the kind of overlap this whole book keeps finding wherever it looks closely enough.

There's a specific passage here, the Dawn's Invocation, that still catches something physical in me every time I reread it, a Shepherd gathering the scattered home, the Eighth Fire that knows no end. It's the same intensity I tried to put into words on the mountain elsewhere in these pages, the sense of a love too large to be only mine, holding everything that has been and will be. I don't think that response means the vision belongs to me. I think it means the opposite: whatever moved through me reading it is the same thing the prophecy has always said moves through anyone who turns toward it, not a private experience I happened to have, but a shared one I happened to notice. I'd rather it be recognized as everyone's than mistaken for mine alone.

Seven Generations - Second

Def: A principle of long-term responsibility found in some Indigenous teachings, commonly associated with Haudenosaunee thought, that decisions should consider their effects on generations to come.

Shambhala - Garden

Def: A mythical hidden kingdom in Tibetan Buddhist tradition, associated with purity, wisdom, and a future age of peace.

Shear Jashub - Enhypostasia

Def: Isaiah's son, whose name means "a remnant shall return"; a prophetic sign-name rather than a person acting independently.

On a personal note, Isaiah is not necessarily my favourite author, but I do see his writings as most consequential in informing my own writing and process. There is a great deal more than the actual words to consider and meditate on; it presents a series of stumbling blocks, and

some of those stumbling blocks appear like they are to protect, some feel like punishment, some like protection, some like teaching. They are all the same; it is subjective how we interpret and feel them. It is also difficult for me not to see the name as another point on the way to Gerizim, as Samaritan Jews are but a remnant that remains.

Sinbyeong / Gangshinje - Candelabra

Def: Sinbyeong is the "spirit sickness" preceding a shaman's calling in Korean tradition; gangshinje is the initiation ritual resolving it into vocation.

Although I had no specific guidance from a specific mudang, the concept and learning surrounding it and Musism coincided with the writing of Usurped: having some sort of physiological experience some people might call possession. Having gone through it, I never stopped being me, though at the time there was nothing left but a shell; all of my previous relationships were either sacrificed or taken through the experience and writing.

SinterKlas - Candelabra

Def: Sinterklaas, the Dutch and Belgian folk figure based on Saint Nicholas of Myra, celebrated each December 5th or 6th. The direct historical source of the American Santa Claus, carried to New York by Dutch settlers.

There is a personal connection to me, one of the greatest feelings I had in the past was, when I had my beard at its longest, my kids' friends calling me Santa Claus. There is a reference to him in the Tekel scene, the humble cart is his. I do hope that these words come to represent a gift of spirit.

Sita - Rosetta's Shards; Possession

Def: Wife of Ram in the Ramayana, abducted by Ravana and held in Lanka; a figure of exile, fidelity, and suffering.

Although the story of Ramayana is generally consistent, there is a lot about Sita, her story and alternative views on the ending. I think it is valuable for all of these, however I also understand that not growing up in the tradition means that I may be overlooking things as well as missing some deeper underlying meaning associated.

Socrates - Enhypostasia

Def: Classical Greek philosopher; an unusual inclusion alongside

religious/prophetic figures rather than another messianic name.
Although he claims no direct revelation, what he wrote, contributed alongside the narrative surrounding his death, parallels what many enlightened spiritual people live out: staying true to their principles to the point of death is something shared.

Soham - Candelabra

Def: Sanskrit mantra meaning "I am That"; identification of the individual self with the universal self.

The book by Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj is worth reading, and this process is part of what allowed for the journey that 88 reflects. Although perhaps nuanced, and I hesitate to conflate things in ways that may confuse or cause people to react instead of reflect, I see duality in a great deal. The process of identifying the universal and individual, seeing how they operate in the same register as well as separately, is tied to the dual nature that inhabiting helps.

Son of Man - Usurped; Candelabra

Def: This term is used in the Hebrew as well as Christian tradition and basically means human, although at the same time it is a title used by various prophets in their calling narratives as well as to refer to Jesus.
I think the term is overvalued as a title for Jesus in Christian Tradition. I am Son of Man, as is anyone else. One who is like Son of Man is a very general and broad statement.

Sophia - Manna; Gehinnom

Def: Greek for "wisdom"; in Gnosticism a divine feminine Aeon whose fall or error leads to the creation of the material world and the Demiurge.

Styx - Styx

Def: In Greek mythology, the river separating the world of the living from Hades, crossed by the dead with Charon as ferryman.

SunDancers - Seeds From the Hearth; Candelabra; Epistemology

Def: Practitioners of the Sun Dance, a sacred ceremony held by many Plains nations, including Lakota, Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Blackfoot among others, traditionally involving prayer, fasting, and personal sacrifice offered on behalf of the community and the renewal of creation. The ceremony was banned by Canadian and American governments for decades and has since been revived, and continues to be practiced today.

I use the name here symbolically, from outside the tradition, not to describe or speak for its actual ceremonial practice. What draws me to it is the symbolism: a willingness to take on personal cost, even suffering, in service of healing something larger than oneself. I believe that desire, to fix and heal the whole regardless of what it costs us personally, exists in some form in everyone, whether or not it ever takes ceremonial shape.

In my own learning about mezoamerican traditions from practitioners, I also have a different understanding of what human sacrifice was to them and how it was practised as well as perverted by some into what westerners now see; child sacrifice and cruelty when in reality, they were 52 year cycles in which their Messiah would do much the same for them as Jesus did for Christians.

Tanakh - Candelabra

Def: The Hebrew Bible; an acronym of Torah (Teaching), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings).

Tapas - Trisula Wedha; Nandaka

Def: Sanskrit term for ascetic heat or disciplined effort, spiritual practice or austerity that burns away impurity and builds inner strength.

Tat Tvam Asi / Aham Brahmasmi - Sea of Fana

Def: Two of the great sayings of the Upanishads: "That art thou" (Chandogya) and "I am Brahman" (Brihadaranyaka), naming the identity of the deepest self with the ground of all being.

Tawhid - Candelabra

Def: The oneness and indivisibility of God; Islam's foundational doctrine.

Tekel - Tekel

Def: From the same Daniel 5 writing on the wall as Mene, meaning "weighed"; you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

Tenskwatawa - Candelabra

Def: A 19th-century Shawnee prophet and reform leader, known as "the Shawnee Prophet."

Tianchi - Candelabra

Def: "Heaven Lake" is a crater lake near the summit of Mount Baekdu, on the border between North Korea and China.

Tianming - Ship of Fools

Def: Chinese, the "Mandate of Heaven," the doctrine that Heaven grants a just ruler the right to govern, and can withdraw it when a ruler becomes unjust.

Trisula Wedha - Section title

Def: A philosophical and spiritual concept in Javanese tradition symbolizing three core powers of leadership and inner strength: intellectual intelligence, spiritual power, and moral uprightness.

Tzimtzum / Tzelem Elohim - Sea of Fana

Def: In Lurianic Kabbalah, tzimtzum is the divine contraction that makes space for creation; tzelem Elohim is the image of G-D in which humanity is made (Genesis 1:27).

Ummah - Candelabra

Def: The global community of Muslim believers as one body, transcending nation or ethnicity.

Unnai Kaanatha Kannum - Beginning (poem)

Def: Tamil devotional phrase, roughly "the eye that does not see you." A popular song which the subsequent poem echoes and pays tribute to.

Upanishads - 999 Introduction; Sea of Fana

Def: The philosophical texts that conclude the Vedas, and the source of Vedanta.

Upharsin - Upharsin; Inheritance

Def: Aramaic, "and divided"; the last word of the writing on the wall in Daniel 5. The kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Uriah - Veins of the Seep / Eve

Def: 2 Samuel's Uriah the Hittite, wronged by King David, who arranged his death to take his wife.

Although this name is included in a list of names, it is in channeling the lineage of Adam that inspired this poem. The lessons of our heros are free for us. A witness to how even one who appears chosen and elevated by G-D is not immune to human impulses. Just as Uriah is a witness to the danger and consequence of sacrificing morality to our base desires, Cain is a monument to the consequences of pride, of placing oneself above or apart from the wisdom of G-D.

Vaidyeshwar - Enhypostasia

Def: A name for Shiva as "Lord of Physicians," a healing aspect of the god.

Vaikuntha - Mene (second)

Def: The realm of Vishnu, whose gates are kept by Jaya and Vijaya.

Vak - Fajr

Def: Sanskrit/Vedic concept and goddess of speech; the divine Word.

Valentinus - Vow to the Veiled; Tekel; Enhypostasia

Def: A 2nd-century Gnostic Christian teacher, founder of Valentinianism; one of the most influential early Gnostic thinkers.

The choice of Valentinus is a nod to Gnostic tradition, reaching past how heresies like his have either died out entirely or survive today divorced from their original meaning and practice. It also invokes ideas about love, both through Valentine's Day and through the bridal chamber, a major concept in Valentinianism that parallels similar ideas across many traditions and is pointed to and hinted at in several places in the manuscript.

Valmiki - Gehinnom

Def: The sage credited as author of the Ramayana.

Vedanta - Candelabra; Second; Sea of Fana

Def: "End of the Vedas"; the Hindu schools of philosophy grounded in the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Brahma Sutras. Advaita Vedanta holds Atman and Brahman to be one.

Veles - Brother

Def: A Slavic pagan god associated with earth, waters, the underworld, cattle, and magic, often depicted as a serpent or dragon in opposition to the thunder god Perun.

Vijaya - Lunacy of the Sun; Candelabra

Def: Sanskrit, "victory." With Jaya, one of the two gatekeepers of Vaikuntha, cursed to be born as Vishnu's adversaries across the ages, including as Ravana and his brother Kumbhakarna.

Viracocha - Enhypostasia

Def: Incan creator god, associated with civilization, order, and renewal.

At the moment I am forgetting why I chose to include this name over others, other than to fill a specific cultural call-out or affirmation. My

travels to Peru revealed a deeply spiritual place and people who have a strong sense of community and cooperation. Although there are many indigenous traditions I love and respect in much the same way, I do see them all as outgrowths and augments of what came before. It is apparent in their cultural and religious traditions as it is in their ancient monuments and architecture.

Viveka - Sea of Fana

Def: Vedantic term for discernment, the trained capacity to distinguish the real and permanent from the unreal and transient.

Vyasa - Gehinnom

Def: The sage credited in Hindu tradition with compiling the Vedas and authoring the Mahabharata.

Waheguru - Gehinnom

Def: Sikh term for God, Wonderful Lord, Teacher.

Wormwood - Section title

Def: In Revelation 8:10-11, a star named Wormwood falls and poisons a third of the earth's waters; the name has come to signify bitterness and judgment.

Wovoka - Enhypostasia

Def: Paiute prophet, founder of the Ghost Dance movement of the late 19th century.

I became interested in the name in my search for indigenous prophets and prophecies. I think some of what he saw mirrors what others do, whether because they are all channeling the same thing or referencing each other bears little material difference today. What still interests me is the Ghost Dance, instilling a state of openness to Spirit, the way ayahuasca can do this, though it requires a skilled and empathic guide. I can't comment on whether he did this correctly; however, the size, scope, and recognition of him as a prophet speaks volumes. There is a great deal I am glossing over, such as the movement's violent suppression, including the massacre at Wounded Knee.

Wu Wei - Second

Def: Daoist effortless action; acting in alignment with the natural flow of things rather than forcing an outcome.

This is described in many ways throughout the text: the idea of accepting where we are, of riding the wave instead of fighting against it. It takes discipline and effort to make it effortless.

Yaldabaoth - Gehinnom

Def: The Demiurge in Gnostic cosmology, a flawed, lesser creator-god.

Yardena - Al-Barzakh

Def: Likely a stylized or feminine form of "HaYarden," Hebrew for the Jordan River.

Yetzer Hara - Brother

Def: Hebrew, the evil inclination, the innate human pull toward selfish or destructive action, paired against the yetzer hatov, the good inclination.

Yoga - 999 Introduction; Prophecy and Archetype

Def: Sanskrit, "union" or "yoking"; the disciplines of body, breath, and mind aimed at union with the divine.

Y-W- - Seeds From the Hearth

Def: A reverent partial rendering of the Tetragrammaton (YHWH), avoiding writing the divine name in full.

Zhuangzi - Gehinnom

Def: Ancient Chinese Daoist philosopher, known for parables including the butterfly dream, and for wu wei.

Zohar - Sea of Fana

Def: A foundational work of Kabbalah, a mystical Aramaic commentary on the Torah that first circulated in 13th-century Spain.

Zoroaster - Tekel; Enhypostasia

Def: Ancient Persian prophet, traditional founder of Zoroastrianism, from which Frashokereti and the choice between Asha and Druj are drawn.