

# Hounded by the "Black 12" for Her Father's Secrets



Aleister Crowley, clothed as the High Priest of a Cult Which the London Daily Express Said Is Allied with the "Devil Worshipers."



"Their diabolical eyes follow her everywhere."

## How Rasputin's Daughter Fled the Bolsheviki Only to Fall at Last Beneath the Sinister Threats of Paris's "Devil Worshipers."



Gregory Rasputin, Russia's Black Monk, Who Was Murdered by a Group of Patriots and Whose Sinister Secrets Are Believed to Have Been Inherited by His Daughter.

By HENRI LATIFF.

PARIS. MARIA GREGORIEVNA, beautiful and mysterious, daughter of the terrible Rasputin and believed by many people to have inherited her father's secret and perhaps diabolical powers, has escaped from the persecutions of the Bolsheviki in Siberia only to suffer a worse persecution here in civilized Paris.

In her "registration of domicile," which every foreigner coming to live in Paris has to file with the police, she described herself simply as "Maria Gregorievna, unmarried, Russian subject, formerly of Petrograd."

But before she had been here a week her true identity and parts of her tragic history became known. She is the only child of the murdered "Black Monk" who ruled Imperial Russia through his strange domination of the Czarina, and who was finally shot, poisoned and drowned by a group of patriots who believed that he got his dark powers direct from the Devil.

After the murder and the upheaval which followed, Maria Gregorievna herself threatened with imprisonment or assassination, fled to Siberia under an assumed name and entered many hardships.

Arriving in Paris recently, she believed she had found a haven of refuge—but it has proved otherwise.

A certain group of powerful but evil men and women, skirting the fringes of high society on the one side and the depths of the underworld on the other, and connected with an actually existing international organization known as the "Satanists," "Diabolists" or "Devil Worshipers," has sought alliance with her because of a persistent story that she is in possession of the occult secrets on which her father's power was based.

They want those secrets—real or imaginary—and they have gone to extraordinary lengths to get them. Their diabolical eyes follow her everywhere. Whenever she goes, she feels they are upon her.

Approaching her, at first, through high social channels, they sought to offer her money and position in return for the revelations she might be able to make. Rebuffed in this, they threatened her, and finally she received a direct communication, written in Russian and signed "La Dame Noire," or "The Black Twelve," threatening to kidnap her and inflict upon her the most terrible and prolonged tortures in the event that she persisted in her refusal.

Following this she has made a public declaration, announcing that she is not possessed of any such secrets and, therefore, could not divulge them even if she would; that she is not herself a follower of the occult at all; that she is not interested in the practices of the Satanists, and that all she asks is to be let alone and given an

opportunity to lead a natural normal life.

In order to understand why a group of people in Paris should be so violently interested in Rasputin's alleged secrets, it is necessary to know something of their nature and activities.

A few generations ago practically everybody, including learned scientists and theologians, believed in the actual reality of magic, witchcraft, sorcery and a personal Devil. Scattered about the world are a number of secret cults today—made up chiefly of abnormal, neurotic and frequently half-mad people—who still believe these things, and who actually worship Satan, with masses and sacrifices and solemn religious ceremonies, in the hope and belief that his favors or may center upon them certain magic, diabolical powers.

This Devil Worship is associated with all sorts of extraordinary orgies and debaucheries in which both men and women participate.

That such organizations exist as groups is a difficult thing for the healthy, normal person to believe, but they do exist, and many of the facts about them are known. Until about twenty years ago the headquarters of the biggest Devil-Worshipping Cult was in the Island of Martinique. For a number of years, recently, its center has been Paris. Generally such activities lie outside the province of the police, for the participants hold their orgies in private houses and practice their atrocities, which include flagellation and torture, upon willing members of their own cult, who take a perverse pleasure in having pain inflicted upon them.

It is only occasionally, when they threaten an unwilling person outside their group, as in the case of Rasputin's daughter, that the police and general public become actively interested in their affairs.

Why they should hope to extract valuable secrets from a daughter of Rasputin—given their abnormal beliefs and superstitions—is extremely simple to explain.

Rasputin, the "Black Monk," undoubtedly did possess some tremendous power. Dirty, ignorant, illiterate, he managed to fascinate, and at the same time, terrify not only the Czar and Czarina, but many of the most beautiful and aristocratic ladies of the old court. Through them and through the Czarina he wielded a terrible and widespread political influence, but this was a mere by-product of his direct personal influence over his victims.



Secret Symbol of Aleister Crowley's Mysterious Cult.

The extent of this influence and domination may be gauged from one or two of many authentic episodes that are on record. When a beautiful and modest young archduchess went to him for spiritual advice, being troubled about her soul, he forced her to strip off her clothes and dance before him until her feet were bleeding and she fell fainting from exhaustion—to teach her true Christian humility and purge her from the sin of pride.

In another instance, he was having tea with a group of ladies of the court, when he took a cup of scalding tea and deliberately poured it upon the bare arms of a young countess, doubtless to teach her a similar "lesson."

The women not only permitted these things, but groveled at his feet and kissed his hands. Naturally the husbands, chiefly officers in the army of the Czar, were not so tolerant when they heard these continually repeated and extraordinary stories of his power over their wives and daughters.

The story of his assassination and the principals who took part in it are too well known for detailed repetition here. Prince Felix Yusupov, Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich and a group of patriots—to whom no moral stigma is ever attached because of the unusual circumstances surrounding their deed—lured the "Black Monk" to a dinner at the Prince's palace, where they poisoned him. The poison failed to kill him, and the Prince fired a number of shots into his body with a heavy automatic, but these also failed to kill him, and they were more convinced than ever of his diabolical, supernatural powers. As he ran out and fell through the snow, other shots were fired. He fell, was caught and was drowned through a hole in the ice in the river.

In Russia there was a difference of opinion about the nature of Rasputin's powers. Some



Maria Gregorievna, Daughter of Rasputin, Now a Hunted Exile in Paris.

believed that they were "Black Magic" actually inspired by the devil in person. His followers thought he was a "holy man" while the general public, though reluctant to believe in Diabolism, felt that he did have mysterious knowledge.

The reason the "Black Twelve" and the Devil Worshipers of Paris are so eager to get his secrets is that his "black magic" actually "worked," while theirs doesn't "work." What

that means is this: His power enabled him to dominate people outside his own group; their power is useless except when practised among themselves. They can force a fellow "Devil Worshiper" to do something in the name of Satan, but it becomes both and pish-posh and futile slush to any normal person who refuses to believe in it.

By getting Maria Gregorievna into their toils they hoped to be able to wield a power like that of her father, though they seem to have reckoned wrongly, for she sincerely declares that she never had anything to do with his machinations and knows nothing about them.

For a while it was believed that the notorious and brilliant Aleister Crowley, high priest and leader of a cult of his own, which certain journalists have sought to identify with the Devil-Worshippers, and who is now in Paris, was involved in the efforts to persuade Maria Gregorievna to disclose Rasputin's secrets; but a fair investigation proved that Crowley had been ill; also that on recovery he had been engaged in writing a huge autobiography, and that he had nothing to do either with the so-called "Black Twelve" or with any of the efforts to extort secrets from Rasputin's daughter.

She herself has been leading an exemplary and highly respectable life ever since she came to Paris, and bitterly regrets that the notoriety which attached to her father's name has caused her to be hounded by an organization in which she has no interest, beyond that of fear.

The efforts of various journalists to connect Aleister Crowley with the cult of the Devil Worshiper had their inception in a series of vitriolic attacks published against him two years ago in the London Daily and Sunday Express.

Crowley, at the time was the head and high priest of a colony in Cefalu, Sicily, called the College of the Holy Spirit. Strange and fantastic rites were practiced there, and Crowley claimed to possess powers and secrets which bordered on what is generally known as magic. Subsequent investigations have shown, however, that neither he nor his cult were in any way connected with the Devil Worshipers and that his own religion had its origin rather in a sort of combination of pure paganism and a deification of humanity. Two phrases from his creed were, "Every man and woman is a star," and "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law."

The London Express, badly overshot the mark in its attacks. Crowley, an Oxford man by the name of Lovelady died in the colony, and the London paper made sweeping accusations which were completely overturned when legal evidence was submitted to show that the young man died of a perfectly natural ailment which he might have contracted anywhere.

Then the paper charged that Crowley had been convicted and served a jail sentence in the United States for white slavery. Aleister Crowley, at times being denounced as a brilliant genius by leading American publications, and at other times being denounced as a dangerous charlatan, but the story about his being arrested was an absolute fabrication. At no time was he ever accused of such a crime. As he has just succeeded in exploding these charges, in an elaborately documented public letter addressed to a Lark Beaverbrook, owner of the Express, and signed by Norman Mudd, a distinguished Cambridge University scholar and lecturer, Paris is quite prepared to believe him when he says he has nothing whatever to do with the Devil Worshipers or the "Black Twelve," or the persecution of Maria Gregorievna.

As a matter of fact, the police have certain information which leads them to believe that the ringleaders of that gang are Russians now living in Paris, and who were perhaps associated with Rasputin during his lifetime in the old Czarist days in St. Petersburg.

They know of one house, near the church of the Sacre Coeur, on Montmartre, inhabited by Russians where rites perhaps connected with the Satanist cult have been performed, and they are extremely interested because the same group is alleged to be connected with a secret movement for the dissemination of Bolshevik and German international propaganda among French and perhaps revolution.

They had hoped to get valuable clues through Maria Gregorievna, but they are convinced that she is a wholly innocent victim and knows nothing whatever about these machinations of her captivities.

