

# The Lesser Key: Seventy-Two Names in the Dark

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The Goetia arranges seventy-two spirits into ranks, appearances and supposed abilities. Its imposing catalogue belongs to an early modern compilation assembled from older materials and attributed long afterward to Solomon.

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| STATUS         | Documented 17th-century grimoire; spirit catalogue and Solomonic attribution are traditional claims |
| CLASSIFICATION | STR                                                                                                 |
| MATERIAL       | Early modern England                                                                                |
| DISPOSITION    | PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY                                                                              |
| CATEGORY       | Strange Files                                                                                       |
| RECORD TYPE    | Ancient stories                                                                                     |
| STORY HISTORY  | 17th-century manuscript compilation; Goetia printed in 1904                                         |

## THE ACCOUNT

The Goetia does not leave its spirits shapeless. It assigns them names and ranks, describes how they appear and lists what they supposedly know. The reader meets a strange court of kings, dukes and other powers, each accompanied by a sign. Around that catalogue sit protective figures and commands. The imagined encounter has the form of an audience with a dangerous official whose rules must be understood before he arrives.

## FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The Goetia is the first part of the Lemegeton, also called the Lesser Key of Solomon. Joseph H. Peterson's edition transcribes seventeenth-century manuscript Sloane 3825 and compares related copies. He traces much of the spirit catalogue through earlier European demonological writing and translation. The collection's seventy-two entries are therefore evidence of textual compilation, not a register found in Solomon's palace. The familiar Mathers-Crowley printed Goetia appeared in 1904, adding another layer to its transmission.

## WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The book's eerie precision makes the impossible feel almost administrative. A frightening presence becomes something with an office, a seal and a place in a hierarchy. Comparing the manuscripts reveals a second kind of uncertainty: names change, copying introduces errors and later editors reshape what readers may mistake for an unbroken ancient instruction.

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## WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

### Lemegeton: manuscript introduction

Joseph H. Peterson, Esoteric Archives

<https://www.esotericarchives.com/solomon/lemegeton.htm>

### Lemegeton, Part 1: Goetia

Joseph H. Peterson, Esoteric Archives

<https://www.esotericarchives.com/solomon/goetia.htm>

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## RETURN TO THE STORY

### The Lesser Key: Seventy-Two Names in the Dark

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-ANCIENT-003>