

Upon entering the space, they will proceed to cleanse it by reciting passages from their holy book, the [REDACTED] or by using someone else's holy book. Often, five different books are used, which causes some confusion among others in the place that is being cleansed (particularly if it is a restaurant or other public establishment: Discordians are known for locating particularly public areas to congregate).

Alternatively, instead of reciting passages from holy books, they may sing or hum a song, often a "silly" song, such as "Do Your Ears Hang Low" or "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt," often with the words of those innocent songs replaced with new lyrics, which are generally distasteful to those with a level of class.

Finally, two or more Discordians might engage in a single card game of Solitaire, generally using cards of the sort purchased in most adult stores. The resultant shout of "Bingo!" by the loser is often considered enough to consecrate all space within hearing range.

3. Emotional/Spiritual Cleansing

While the physical cleansing rituals seem bizarre enough to most respectable persons, the emotional and (particularly) spiritual cleansing rituals do not seem to make sense to anyone except Discordians. One well-known Discordian, [REDACTED], explained that sense-making was not something most Discordians were interested in. This is a typical response when Discordians are pressed to justify their actions.

3a. Emotional Cleansing

The first form of emotional cleansing is what could best be described as "Smacking the GreyFace." This particular cleansing ritual involves identifying the person (or persons) the Discordian wishes to be cleansed of, and overwhelming them with what is known as "Aneristic Energy." This may be done with "magic" or "curses" that seem to be nothing more than annoyances aimed at breaking a logical concept of reality down into illogical parts.

An example might be the well-known "Turkey Curse," "Paperclip Curse," or the astounding "Magical Pixie Stick of Death." Details on these are easily found in Discordian documents, which are plentiful in coffee shops and at various known Russian agent dropspots.

3b. Spiritual Cleansing

This most bizarre form of cleansing is particularly strange to followers of conventional religions.

A simple version of cleansing involves the Discordian imagining himself to be a cow and chanting "MU." This seems to reflect a deep knowledge of the universe, or possibly a

lack thereof. Pope [REDACTED] refused to offer a cohesive explanation, instead suggesting that the only way to determine the knowledge was to try it.

A very complex cleansing comes to us from the [REDACTED], where the Discordians are expected to enter a meditative state and think impure thoughts about Eris (the Discordian goddess) or another member of the congregation. This has the reported effect of introducing a focus to one's mind while simultaneously preventing a focus on the "magical" act. Certain magical circles indicate that it is vital to forget what you have done in order for the magic to take effect. The issue here, however, is that the Discordian has not actually performed the magic yet, but has found a way to focus on something other than the magical action.

While this seems terribly confusing, [REDACTED] explained it thusly:

"Instead of focusing on what the Discordian is about to do, he or she begins to focus on something else entirely, and yet continues through the magical act. This allows the Discordian to deprive the universe of his or her preconceived notions about the way the ritual should go, and instead focus the universe on the way the ritual actually goes. Really, it is a very advanced magical technique, used by some of the greatest magicians of all time, and held up by tradition to be the best way of doing magic. For examples, see the Fool in the Tarot, our own Magnificent Lady Eris K. Discorida, and that God guy (who clearly didn't know what he was doing when he told Adam not to eat of something he put within reach: I mean, have you ever told a kid not to do something and given them the opportunity to do it when you walked out of the room? Jesus, what did he think would happen?)."

Clearly, there is a sense that distraction is something that can be of strong advantage to the Discordian. The above reference to the Fool of the Tarot is a clear example of distraction fitting the cosmos in an intricate manner, and working with the cosmic order rather than against it.

On the surface, there are implications to the idea of working with order rather than against it (as most would expect a Discordian to do), but it is clear that chaos does not mean anti-order, particularly to a properly cleansed and understanding Discordian. In fact, "chaos" means something more akin to "flow" than "anti-order."

4. Combination Cleansings

Cleansings that involves the physical, emotional, and spiritual are very complicated. One particular ritual, relayed to me by [REDACTED], is of definite interest, though it should be prefaced with a warning that the content is not entirely wholesome.

Cleansing Ritual for Space, Spirit, Mind and Body By [REDACTED]

Begin by turning on the hot water in the shower. If there is no shower available, begin by heating some water in buckets.

All Discordians should begin to remove their clothing to a level they are comfortable with. Nudity is not required, but if it is not available, then white t-shirts (or garments that can be seen-through when wet) are. This is an important visual aid for the magical work to come.

Begin by entering the shower or dumping the water upon each person participating. As the waters wash over you, chant the following:

I sing to the waters,
warmed by their flow:
they give us clean bodies,
and sexual glow!

(further verses may be adlibbed)

As you chant, look about you at the other Discordians. Select one in particular and start to think the most unwholesome (and most enjoyable) thoughts you can possibly think. As you do this, think about the cleanliness you are experiencing and think about ways to bring this sort of cleanliness (e.g. by spreading the water, perhaps through ensuring that your now-wet bodies roll across areas that need cleansing; or by spreading laughter and joy to the GreyFaces around you by lobbing a waterballon at them; or by dancing a jig so that all within sight of your jig(gl)ing might find joy and cleansing in their life) to the rest of the world.

And, once you are done thinking about how to spread the cleanliness, start doing it, first by telling the person you were thinking dirty thoughts about what those thoughts were, and second by spreading the joy to all the others around you within that place (or, perhaps, acting on the dirty thoughts you may have suggested, should the other person be agreeable).

As you spread this joy and love throughout the land, reflect on how happy it makes you to be part of the community of jokers, jesters, magicians, clowns, and seers that make up the human race.

This ritual should never end.

5. Conclusions

It is clear that Discordians have a variety of ways to achieve what they consider "cleanliness," both religiously and physically. These varied methods are not always wholesome (and are sometimes virtually unspeakable), but they find strong identification with a variety of people.

While clearly a Communist or Anarchist movement, the general ideas of cleansing can serve some use in the context of Discordianism, and in defeating the Red Menace.