

TAETYNISM
**DEMONIC SOLUTION TO LIFE'S
PROBLEMS**

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This project started as an examination of my own existence: I let go of my assumptions about what's real and began exploring solipsism, Descartes, "evil genius" theory, and Platonic idealism. I stumbled my way through Grand Unified Theory and got lost in quantum physics. I can now conclude that reality is way more complex than it seems and, as I continue my search, the evidence keeps piling up. While many of these ideas are vast and complex, I feel like there has to be some explanation that can encompass it all—a singularity that can be understood and experienced.

I have been dabbling in meditation and out of body experiences for a while now, but up until this point, my meditative practice has remained separate from my artistic practice. I have merged the two into a cohesive idea, not so much an answer, but as an action goal: I want to leave my physical form and transcend to the next level of existence. With this fundamental idea as the basis for my work, I created Taetynism, a "cult" inspired in part by Heaven's Gate (as *some* of their principles align with mine). Transforming my ideas into a cult serves as a way of "branding" these otherwise abstract concepts into the physical world. I use religious imagery and allusions to heaven and hell as an attempt to make the work cohesive and, in doing so, I place myself within a familiar context of a "church."

Taetynism is a genuine parody of cults and organized religion and, more specifically, the commodification of religious ideas. While it is a parody, I personally believe in what I'm preaching—that we can reach a state of being beyond this realm and transcend to the "Next Level." In the main video, I create a fictitious situation where "beings" or Demons" from another realm, in this case Hell, lure humans out of their physical forms so their bodies can be used as vessels to take over the world. In this hypothetical situation, I form a symbiotic relationship with the demons to recruit people into my cult to assist them out of their bodies, which are then left behind to be used by the demons to take over the world.

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