

∴ ANATHEMA PUBLISHING ∴

Submission Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Since 2011, Anathema Publishing has operated under the goal of disseminating gnosis through the production of high-quality occult books and modern approaches to esoteric thought.

We understand that – no matter how ornate, arcane, or limited a title may be – the true value of an occult publication lays within the quality and consistency of writing, and the thoughtful, effective sharing of an author’s ideas and beliefs.

To accomplish this, and ensure our writers and contributors share the same vision, we have compiled editorial guidelines. Within these guidelines, you will find information on all aspects of the editorial standards we wish to uphold (and if something is not addressed here, please do not hesitate to ask).

THE BASICS

Anathema Publishing covers a wide range of subject matter, in a variety of formats including long-form books, anthologies within our PILLARS series, and shorter texts under our OCTAVO banner.

The subject matter varies greatly, and may fall anywhere on a spectrum that runs from academic and historical to personal and contemporary.

Regardless of subject matter, the first step in creating a manuscript involves an outline. This outline (essentially a sample chapter, along with an overview and a chapter-by-chapter synopsis) is important for Anathema to ensure that we not only understand what the writer is planning, but that we are aligned with the author’s ideas and proposed narrative structure.

Once this has been settled, and the author commences their work, we ask that other style guidelines are adhered to.

Finally, we ask that all manuscripts be submitted as Microsoft Word files. This is done to ensure we are able to track all editorial changes for the benefit of both author and editor.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ SPELLING

Anathema's writers can be found around the world, and come from many different linguistic backgrounds. In order to remain consistent, we ask that Anathema manuscripts are submitted in English. However, we believe that it is important for the writer to maintain as much of their identity as possible, so we do not insist that a choice be made between Canadian/UK/Australian spellings and American spellings.

We also ask that a writer refrain from writing in a language other than English, and then use an online translator such as Google Translate to convert the text from one language to another. Typically, this does not benefit the original text, as the subtleties and nuances of language can be lost in the process.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ CONTRACTIONS

When writing on occult subjects, there is a certain linguistic formality we look for. Above all else, this involves the avoidance of contractions such as can't, don't, won't, didn't, shouldn't, *et al.*

EDITORIAL STYLE/ LOFTY LANGUAGE & ARCHAIC PRONOUNS

Aside from our aversion to contractions, there are certain limits to the language choices one should use when writing for Anathema. We well understand that occult writing deserves a certain gravitas, however we caution against the overuse of certain archaic words that, while harkening back to another time, may read as superfluous or pretentious. Examples of this may include Thou, Thine, Ye, Thee, Forsooth, and Hast among others.

There are, of course, always going to be exceptions to the rule. For Anathema, there is opportunity to incorporate archaic wording if it is being used in poetry, magickal formulae, mystically-inspired sections, or pre-existing quotations. Let personal preference guide you when deciding on word choice, with the understanding that a little goes a long way, so to speak.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ TONE

Overall, we ask that writers maintain a tone that could be considered serious and engaged (but not arrogant nor patronizing), as well as sincere, thoughtful, and formal. Anathema never publishes work that is light-hearted, playful, or whimsical – the work must take itself (and the reader) seriously.

Because our subject matter is often entirely dependent on personal experience and interpretation, there is still plenty of room to find a tone that befits the ideas at hand. Often, occult concepts can be shrouded in metaphor or allegory, may be intricate or cryptic, and require a certain amount of context to understand – we encourage clarity in tone to ensure that these ideas are communicated effectively. After all, regardless of the complexity of your subject matter, your ideas still need to be understood by the reader.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ VOICE

Every published Anathema work has its own unique voice. These too vary greatly, but the one consistency is that they all (much like the tones they use) respect the subject matter. These editorial voices are the product of gnostic pursuit and esoteric contemplation, and communicate this through a serious and engaged delivery.

Our writers are not overly conversational or informal; they do not make jokes, use slang and overt references to popular culture (unless it can be tastefully justified in a larger context), nor do they treat their topics casually, with sarcasm or carelessness. The voice is knowledgeable, informed, and passionate.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ EMPHASIS & CAPITALIZATION

As with occult subject matter, there is a tendency to place an emphasis on certain words or phrases that, outside of this niche area of publishing, would not be otherwise done. Typically, Anathema tries to avoid **bold** and underlined emphasis; *italicized* emphasis is acceptable if it serves a rhetorical purpose, such as “Only then do we truly *see* where the work leads.”

Unusual capitalization may vary, depending on the subject matter being written about, where words that would not normally be capitalized, are. Exercise caution when applying capitalization to nouns unless a particular area of occult or esoteric belief/practice intentionally does so. If you do capitalize certain words, ensure that you do so consistently throughout your manuscript.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ FORMATTING

Please do not format with indentation for new paragraphs. This is because Anathema uses InDesign, which requires paragraphs to be formatted after copy is flowed into a layout.

Depending on the structure of the work, new chapters may include titles and sub-titles.

EDITORIAL STYLE/ CITATIONS, FOOTNOTES, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anathema books typically take an academic approach to including citations and footnotes/endnotes where appropriate. It is up to the writer's discretion whether they choose footnotes or endnotes, but we ask that they be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style Guidelines:

Crowley, Aleister *Gems from the Equinox: Instructions by Aleister Crowley for His Own Magical Order*, (Chicago: Weiser Books, 2007), pp 26-31.

For the bibliography, enter all titles in alphabetical order, following this format:

Crowley, Aleister *Gems from the Equinox: Instructions by Aleister Crowley for His Own Magical Order*. Chicago: Weiser Books, 2007.