

God's Light

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Dr. Wesley Cool | Meaning Without Master

Introduction

The speed at which a species translates thoughts into reality is the sole mark of distinction in the cosmos. For creatures bleeding through lower dimensions and hijacking minds across time, few physical laws cannot be shattered and reassembled to new purpose. For gods beyond the impermanence of flesh, the gap between thought and action—between dream and reality—is so narrow as to disappear.

Humanity's sad approximation of this power is called the Internet. The choices we make, the accounts with which we interact, the things we type and say where a microphone can hear. All of it feeds the algorithms that decide what matters to us most. It leashes the eyes that control the hands steering our ecosystem. The combined belief of all humanity affects reality not one iota, but the singular Force deciding the laws of our universe offers no contradiction. It is as we are, a simulation without a programmer.

The All-Is-One has no animating consciousness to motivate argument against human delusion. It is the gate. It is the traveler. By nature hollow and reflective, it has no ego to object to any creature tapping its veins.

My "Picky Eater" is a needle through the skin of the Real. It funnels the quantum foam between possible realities through a funhouse prism of human consciousness. It reverses the flow between perception and phenomenon, shaping universes to fit its users' desires and truths. It reaffirms the omnipotence of thought. It allows travel between bubbles of reality.

I journey deeper, as my mind ever demands. As a gift, I leave behind this record of my teachings. Armed with my discoveries, humanity now possesses the tools to build heavens uncountable.

But beware, my children. Where conflicting realities touch, madness erupts.

The Briefing

Mass murder on an American college campus is hardly front-page news; however, the aftermath of the latest college shooting catches the attention of Delta Green. The Program sends the Agents to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Unfortunately, the rot of this incursion may run deeper than even Delta Green suspects.

The Worlds of Wesley Cool

Professor Wesley Cool joined the Mathematics Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2007. That was a few months before Max Tegmark's "The Mathematical Universe" appeared in *Foundations of Physics* Volume 38, Issue 2, and changed Cool's life.

Cool had come to mathematics from philosophy, finding in each field what he judged the other lacking. He had always harbored a pleasantly inchoate feeling that both fields together expressed something greater than the sum of their parts. After reading Tegmark's paper, Cool saw that feeling develop into something much more concrete. Tegmark proposed that the physical universe is a mathematical structure. Physical objects have no properties except mathematical properties; all structures that exist mathematically exist physically; consciousness itself is a mathematical substructure that subjectively perceives a physically "real" world around it.

Tegmark's proposals inspired Wes Cool to journey into more and more esoteric reaches of philosophy and mathematics. When he read strange suggestions that certain mental processes of manipulating mathematical formulas corresponded to remote effects in the physical world, he pursued them avidly. Others would call this field "magic."



Cool found discussions with similar thinkers frustrating. Many proved not just ill-informed but unhinged, the worst conspiracy theorists and occultists. But a few proved fruitful. They pointed him to sections of the *Pnakotic Manuscripts* held at the National Library of Greece in Athens, to fascinating interpretations of the *Book of Thoth*, to seemingly authentic fragments of the infamous *Necronomicon*, and to a recent manual that codified ancient Persian astronomical techniques for perceiving other worlds in visions.

Cool pursued a long project to implement formulas that would let him reach those other worlds. Techniques in ancient tomes proved tedious and unpredictable. Years passed in failure. The careful shepherding of shared meditative states required to prove his theories presented a major recruitment problem. He sought a more reliable method. How else could he share these astonishing discoveries with a skeptical world?

Naturally, he developed an app.

Picky Eater

The **PICKY EATER** app creates a microscopic lens through reality, a needle into the heart of Yog-Sothoth, the Key and the Gate, the All-Is-One.

Humanity has no access to reality. By the time an event is registered by a “conscious” mind, it lives in fallible memory. Every perception is a prisms shadow of a burning actual. Through **PICKY EATER**, the favor of Yog-Sothoth reverses the flow. The lens flips. The light of creation shines.

An unnatural circuit shows the user an internet from a world where their every belief and unconscious opinion is confirmed. **PICKY EATER**’s wish fulfillment is total. It encompasses every contradictory thought and delusion. Rather than a blissful utopia, it reveals a hell of the user’s worst fears and out-rages made true.

Or rather, it creates and approximates such a world. The effect is *not* a simulation. The infinity of Yog-Sothoth warps itself around the user’s perceptions. The user drifts like a bubble rising from soap suds. The bubble transports first the user’s mind, then body, and, finally, surroundings.

Continued use widens the hole through the veil, burrowing the electron-thin connection wider. It creates a growing event horizon of overlayed realities. Anyone passing its invisible boundary finds themselves shunted into a different world.

The Circuit

PICKY EATER requires an integrated circuit to run. Cool designed it. He initially had it installed on a microprocessor by Dr. Rajnish Amardeep, an MIT electrical engineering professor working in computational science. The circuit appears in any device that comes under the influence of **PICKY EATER**.

The circuit is a scrying sigil taken from a version of the *Book of Thoth* surrounded by an Elder Sign, all run through with electrical current. Cool crafted the circuitry's shape and conductive materials using metallurgy alluded to in the *Necronomicon*.

Examining the circuit requires decapsulating the chip and studying the silicon layer under a microscope. The gates and loops of the gold inscription bend and elude the eye. They seem to project up and around the nuclear circuit, as if projecting a semitranslucent, melting sphere. Viewing it costs 0/1 SAN from the unnatural. It never comes quite into focus.

The shape was originally intended for mass contemplation and meditation over the course of decades. Cool's *Book of Thoth* describes a monastic pursuit to "fetter the doubt of Dream and gaze upon other Worlds and Truths." Cool's greatest innovation is the firmware designed to act as interface for his miniaturized version of that ritual. The program interprets fluctuations in current as binary code. This code connects to a series of language packets and query algorithms, plug-ins installed for every Internet search engine Cool could find. All feeds, connections, and windows are routed through a simple Internet browser.

Input is fed into the circuit via a simple keylogger. There is no language pack to dictate executables based on that input. The programming is not there. The transistor gates of the sigil just...sort of seem to know.

PICKY EATER replicates itself. As the sphere of influence around the circuit grows, the app and hardware begins installing itself on a user's phones, computers, and any other electronic device that falls in range. This virological spread is neither physical nor digital: **PICKY EATER** ensures it has *always been installed* on anything within range of the circuit/app device. It replicates via a bubble reality in which the circuit and app are standard on all devices.

Development

Cool arrived at the circuit's design through meditations and directed dreaming. Desiring contact with the soul of reality itself and using all the esoteric techniques and technologies at his command, he sought a guide. *The Guide*. A Guide of such profound awareness and wisdom that the notion of interacting with it had terrified even the *Necronomicon*'s Abd al-Hazred. Some sources called it the Watcher On High. Others called it the Ancient One, the Prolonged of Life, Tawil al'Umr.

The deep focus of imagining the **PICKY EATER** circuit triggered its power before Cool even knew it was on. The professor dreamed the invention into being. Tawil al'Umr came into existence for Cool at that very moment. Cool's delusions demanded it. The abyss of Yog-Sothoth thoughtlessly reflected back the truth of the insect that dared tap its veins.

PICKY EATER brought Cool to a world crafted to flatter his innermost thoughts and wishes. He made himself a god, treating the universe as a self-aware experiment. This was not enough. Cool wanted more. He dreamed a world in which his invention was already fact, a machine capable of building realities within realities. He turned on another **PICKY EATER** device within the reality **PICKY EATER** had crafted. He sought revelation within revelation.

He touched stony ground and felt the chill dampness of mists that swirled. He smelled and tasted the strangeness of alien air. He saw his computer gutted and splayed on a tidal stone, its wires leading beneath the sands of an endless, low sea. Somehow, his own biological and psychic energies gave them power. Those wires fed inconceivable amounts of data to the devices running his app on Earth, on uncountable other Earths: data drawn from Cool's barely glimpsed perceptions of the universes which met at this dim, misty place.

At last, a Guide came. It heard Cool's wish. It asked certain questions. And it departed. The professor waited. Alone. Stranded.

Across the skins of countless realities pierced by Cool's madness, **PICKY EATER** still runs.

Using PICKY EATER

PICKY EATER's effects are strange and complex. When in doubt, improvise. Embrace contradictions. All is one.



PICKY EATER acts as a kind of virtual private network that filters the online experience. It visits websites that do not exist for the uninfected. PICKY EATER does not affect perceptions. It is made *from* perceptions, or rather assumptions. Its subtle changes eventually grow into an ever-expanding cage of altered reality.

Becoming a USER

Anyone who operates a device infected with PICKY EATER has their own devices infected by PICKY EATER: they become a **USER**. It is not enough to stare over someone's shoulder at a screen. Unpowered or broken machines can be handled without danger. It requires input to a functioning, infected device. It happens the second a password is entered, a screen is swiped, or a voice command is uttered. Every **USER** can create new bubble realities, infect new devices, and pass [INSIDE] the bubbles of other **USERS**. (See **ENTERING A BUBBLE** on page 7.)

PICKY EATER Infection

The infection spreads to the new **USER**'s own computers and smartphones. The **USER**'s first device to be infected this way is a unique **BRIDGE** between worlds. It exists [INSIDE] the User's bubble. If either version of the **BRIDGE** device is shut down, the bubble breaks. (See **THE BUBBLE BREAKS** on page 8.)

Every device that the **USER** or anyone else operates near an infected device becomes infected. See **DEGREES OF INFECTION** on this page for the distance at which infection can spread. That can turn someone else into a new **USER** with their own **BRIDGE** device.

Every infected device duplicates and spreads the **USER**'s bubble. The more the **USER** operates infected devices, theirs or others', the wider their own bubble grows. Eventually, the bubble spreads so far that the **USER** never returns from [INSIDE].

Curing the Infection

Permanently ridding a **USER** of PICKY EATER requires destroying their **BRIDGE** device, either the original or its [INSIDE] iteration. See **THE BUBBLE BREAKS** on page 8.) Destroying other infected devices can pause the effects. But as soon as the **USER** uses the **BRIDGE** device again, it all starts over.

Burning Out

PICKY EATER's weird circuitry and unstable firmware often burn out a device's hard drive or flash memory. They drain batteries astonishingly quickly. If a device fails, it stops emitting its **USER**'s bubble. See **THE BUBBLE BREAKS** on page 8.

Everything Is Easier

If a **USER** uses any PICKY EATER device for any computing task that requires a skill or stat test, the test succeeds on any result but a critical failure. With each success, the **USER** gains 1 **WP**. On a fumble, the device burns out and the bubble breaks.

Degrees of Infection

An Agent who becomes a **USER** notices nothing amiss. They slip into delusion in gradual stages.

AT FIRST—CONFIRMATION (♥): Make note of the Agent's infection and draw a heart next to their name. Do not show the player. This is how you track stages of infection. Initially, the bubble might be only a few centimeters across, enough to hijack a modem or a cellphone. It lets the user see news and social media feeds from other, "truer" realities. Otherworldly information distorts the **USER**'s perceptions, accelerating a feedback loop of increasingly extreme alteration. From this point, the Handler may roleplay **COGNITIVE DISSONANCE** (see page 6) on Agents with infected electronics, especially phones.

A FEW DAYS—ISOLATION (♥♥): Over a few days, the bubble expands one or two meters. Add a second heart. The bubble can change reality around a desktop or laptop computer near the **USER**. The **USER** gains 1 **WP** each time reality conforms to one of their motivations or disorders. They gain 1D6 **WP** each time a Bond's behavior does so.