

REVIEW: THE RED DREADED SPINDLE, SASHA RAVITCH

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[This is a translation of a blog post published in French, on November 16th, 2022, [here](#).]

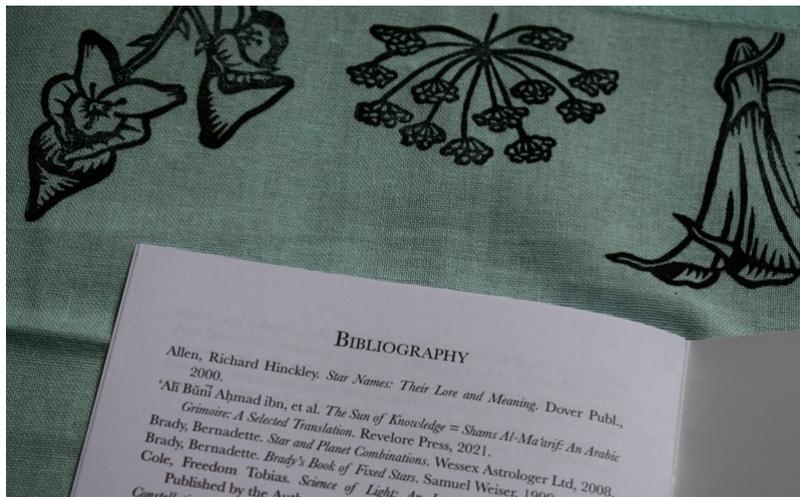
An colleague of mine, astrologer and astrolater Sasha Ravitch, whose work I enormously esteem and whom I consider one of my main inspirations, has published a short volume dedicated to the Stinger stars of constellations Scorpius: [*The Red Dreaded Spindle: An Astrolater's Guide of the Stinger Stars of Scorpius*](#).

The stars of Scorpius discussed in *The Red Dreaded Spindle* are Acumen, Aculeus, Lesath et Shaula. Most of the information readily available about this constellation pertain to the alpha star, [Antares](#), the heart of the Scorpion. Thus, I am particularly enthused to be able to read about the other stars in Scorpius, especially from a person as accomplished as Sasha Ravitch, whose technical skill, erudition and ritual experience make into a formidable guide to study the stars.



As its title suggests, *The Red Dreaded Spindle* is not a strictly astrological work: it is an astrolater's approach to the stars, which is to say relational, animist, devotional. If astrolatry isn't your cup of tea, I think you will nonetheless find interesting information and perspectives about Scorpius' stars, but *The Red Dreaded Spindle* appears, in my opinion, to be primarily intended for ritualists, or people interested in astrolatry.

Be that as it may, Sasha Ravitch's rigor when it comes to mythological, historical, cultural contextualisation is remarkable. There's a rich bibliography, and a considerable amount of information is condensed in a few pages without it ever being heavy. On the contrary, it's a fluid and enchanting prose. Ravitch's passion for the stars is palpable and contagious.



The review of traditions surrounding the stinger stars of Scorpius is followed by an exploration of these stars as **Poison initiatrixes**, as well as considerations on **dancing as exorcism** as it pertains to Acumen and Aculeus in particular. The last part introduces a **consecration ritual**.



Fabric by [Le Duc Va-Nu-Pieds](#)

You can purchase this volume via Hadean Press [here](#). Illustrations were made by [J. M. Hamade](#).

Sasha Ravitch writes regularly about the stars (among other things!) on [her page Patreon](#), which I emphatically recommend if you're interested in this topic. She generously shares her wide knowledge, and the discord server available to subscribers homes incredible discussions. You can book her via [her website](#), and she maintains a presence on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and since a short while on [Tumblr](#) as well. If her work piques your interest, I would also recommend listening to the podcast episodes she appeared on, such as [SaturnVox](#), [WitchHassle](#), [Spirit Box](#) or [Rune Soup](#), among others. For more information, see her [Linktree](#).

