



Jean de Cabalis - Guardian Orders Paper

For Members of the Following Orders



The Difference between Black and White Magic

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The Difference between Black and White Magic

By Michael Freedman

In theory, the distinction between black and white magick is simple enough: a black magician works for selfish or evil ends and a white magician works for good, having selfless motivation. In practice, the distinction is often blurred.

A true story of Grey Magick

Some years ago in London (**Note:** Michael Freedman did not put his name to

this article, which is referring to the period when the late Senior Guardian was living in Britain. I am guessing that this was during the 1950's - Jean) before I had met the wise teacher with whom I later served my magical apprenticeship in Australia, I needed to contact someone urgently. She had no phone of her own and had not answered messages sent to her through friends. I did a simple spell to compel her to phone me. I knew that she had been the last person to use my typewriter, so I carefully wiped its keys with one of the slips of special paper that I used for spells or amulets. This transferred any traces of sweat left by her to the paper. By the laws of contagious magic, this would ensure that my spell would surely reach the person concerned.

I drew a Sigil of Hermes, Messenger of the Gods, on the paper and said some appropriate words designed to invoke his power. I passed the paper through the smoke of an incense compounded from cloves, cinnamon and marjoram, all incenses of Mercury and then placed the paper on the charcoal with the incense and, until the paper was entirely consumed, concentrated my will on the message, "Telephone me tonight." This spell was more forceful than was wise, but it was hardly evil at this stage.

I then went out for the evening. That was a spiteful thing to do, even though it was not actually harmful. It certainly pushed matters over the border between white magic used foolishly and black magick designed to do someone a mischief, even if it was petty spitefulness rather than evil.

The spell works, then backfires. I arrived home about midnight, having spent the evening chattering with various people in a coffee shop. The phone was ringing as I entered my flat. It was my friend, in a mild panic. "Is everything all right? I've been ringing you all evening," she said. I felt that I had to get in touch with you. I was about to come and see if you were ill or something." By then, I had a headache from too much coffee and cigarette-smoke, and I spoke brusquely. Our conversation soon developed into a quarrel. I didn't even raise the urgent matter I had wanted to discuss. We were not reconciled for several weeks. On top of that, a man whom I had met for the first time that evening, swindled me and some of my friends out of several hundred pounds in a dud share deal not long after. The bad Hermes vibes I had built up had clearly attracted to me someone with really bad vibes, also linked with Hermes, but in the god's aspect as the patron of liars and

thieves, not as messenger.

There are both good and bad ways to use magick, and any person can slip from one to the other, without necessarily being wholly good or wholly evil. No rigid lines. There are no rigid dividing lines between good magic and bad magic or black magick and white magic. Every action needs to be tested in the light of reason and in terms of whatever the situation is at the time. To use force, whether magical, mental or physical, to compel anyone to do your bidding will result only in eventual revolt by the person concerned. Humans achieve most when they co-operate together, not when they force others to their will. This is an adaptive evolutionary trait which the human race is very slowly learning. It is one that needs to be applied at every level of the universe, not just socially and politically. Co-operation is not weakness. Only those who lack self-confidence have to play the bully or engage in constant competition to bolster their own inner weakness.

Of course, there is nothing intrinsically evil or good about the colours black and white, whatever the Ku Klux Klan or other racists might say. Just as there is nothing good or evil about either the right or left hands or the right or left hand path. Phrase such as "the evil Left-hand Path" and "the good Right-hand Path" are born out of ignorance and superstition. In this respect, I pass on to you the Five Marks of a Black Magician which I first heard from one of the wisest magicians I ever met, who died about a quarter of a century ago, after having been practising magic for nearly seventy years. And though the language is rather old fashioned and do not all necessarily hold true in this day as absolutes they hold principles which should be well regarded. [See Appendix 2]

Appendum 1: 1st Comment on Left and Right Hand Paths

The Left Hand Path: Ask yourself what path? Life is what is important. Definitions of Left and Right are somewhat arbitrary. The Left Hand Path is: Tantra; Working the Left Hand Pillar of the Qabalistic Tree; The Way of the Warrior; The Making of gods; that is a way of control rather than surrender.

The Right Hand Path: Ask yourself what path? Life is what is important. We should question every magical action. Is it towards more life? Or hast it

less life. Does the fate carry 'I' lead one towards Godhead or not? Is it Right? Many magicians become too serious about labels. Forgetting that magick is foremost a game. Life is play, and magick should be fun. So choose your magical character and play the good game of Light, Life and Love.

Appendum 2: Five Marks of a Black Magician

You can test whether any occult teacher is good or bad, white or black, called the Five Marks. The more of the Five Marks they have, the more likely it is that they are false not genuine, evil not good, black not white.

Know that the Five Marks are:

- Demands for money
- Demands for oaths of secrecy
- Demands for obedience
- Demands for the use of intoxicating or mind-altering drugs
- Demands for the use of perverse or cruel sexual practices

Understand that not all occultists who have one of these Marks is evil. But even One Mark is enough to warn you that they have little understanding of the Way. When occultists have two Marks, be sure that they have little understanding of the *Great Work*; but they might be innocent, just puffed-up folk, who have a little magical knowledge, perhaps from a book, and think to make a little from it, by way of money or esteem. Be sure that if any occultists hold three Marks, they do not know the Way or the Work and they are most unlikely to be innocent. You will lose more than you will ever gain from such people. Beware of those that follow four or five marks for they are false teachers and can only lead you into delusion and dark paths, where they can rob you at leisure of everything you hold worthwhile.