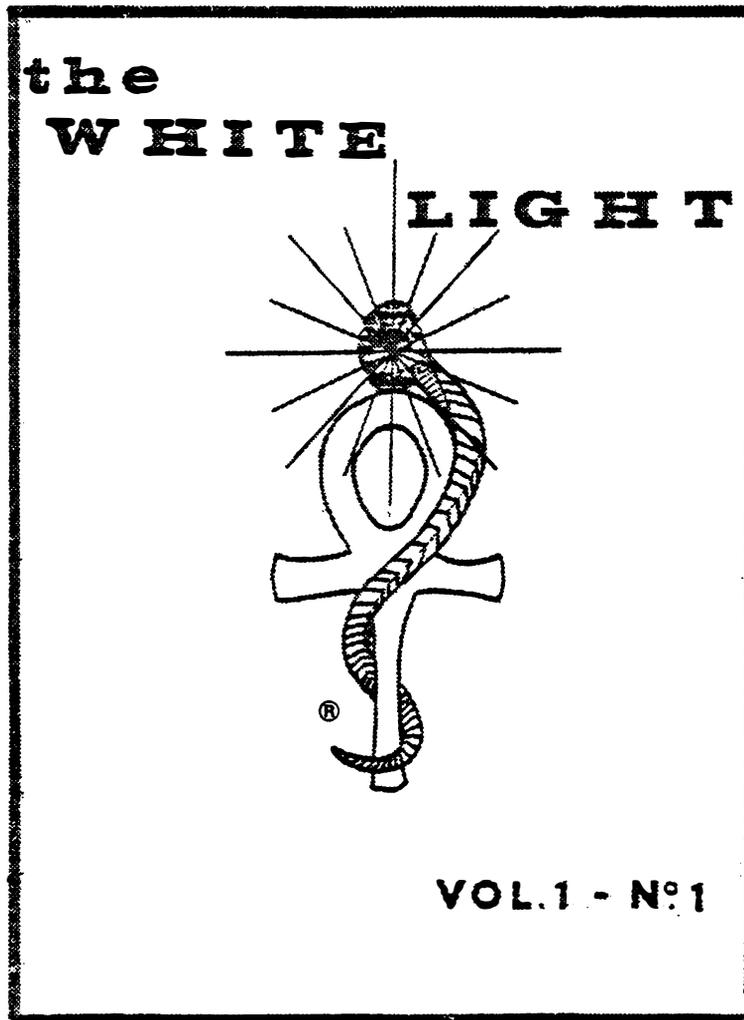


THE BEST OF



The Early Years (Vol. 1-4)

by:

Nelson & Anne White

THE TECHNOLOGY GROUP
Post Office Box 93124
Pasadena, California 91109
U. S. A.

THE BEST OF "THE WHITE LIGHT"
(The Early Years -- Volumes 1 - 4)

Written, Selected and Edited by:
Nelson & Anne White

First Edition

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MAGICK & ETHICS

This magazine, and the organization which it represents, is partly the result of several broken promises on the part of a person who styles himself a "High Adept" of another organization. While I was undergoing training there, (after putting in several years of work and a great deal of money), it became apparent that regardless of the promises made to me, I was becoming less and less an equal partner, and more and more a victim of this "Officer's" egomania, therefore I resigned and founded this my own organization.

In addition to Magick, I learned a great deal about how NOT to run a Magickal Lodge. Unlike this other organization, The Temple of Truth is NOT interested in recruiting only pretty, young, impressionable (and preferably rich) people. Neither do we use a 'written exam' as a screening device, outline for interrogation or quickie psychoanalysis. We also shun the fingerprint, mug-photo, "E meter" routine, all of which was used to intimidate potential members into accepting the "Word" and "Discipline" of the "Grand Master" without question. We also do NOT turn down persons who already have some degree of enlightenment and/or prior Magickal experience.

Mature, experienced persons are no threat to us, simply because (if for no other reason) we do not pretend to be the Fount Of All Knowledge (Magickal or otherwise). History, it appears is repeating itself. This sort of thing has happened before, not just in Magickal Lodges, but in all sorts of Occult and Religious groups, in all times and places.

We recognise that there are many different paths to personal enlightenment, one or more of which may be valid for any given individual. We recognise and are prepared to give full faith and credence (on a reciprocal basis) to those other organizations (representing these other paths), which in fact do not exploit their members, the public, or use fear, coercion, secrecy or hate to bind their membership to them.

These conditions eliminate a surprisingly large number of Occult and Pseudo-Occult organizations (and individuals). The remaining, without regard to whatever other differences may exist in doctrine, method, technique, et cetera, are acknowledged and welcomed so long as they are effective, beneficial, honest and non-coercive. We may disagree on any number of points, we may not even like them particularly, but we refrain from attempting to influence their activities or teachings, because that is essentially their business and not ours.

On the other hand, we will not tolerate attempts by others to influence our activities, or defame our persons or practices. This is only logical and just.

Having studied the rise and fall of several Magickal organizations, we endeavor not to make the same errors, hence we claim no "Secret Masters", accept no one single book as Holy Writ or Dogma, and we refuse to state that we are the only functioning Magickal Lodge in the Los Angeles area. Likewise, we refuse to claim either a Golden Dawn or an O.T.O. derivation. We refuse to coerce our own members by any means whatever into being "good" (whatever that is supposed to mean) unless their activity threatens the Lodge. We likewise do not use a rank structure, degrees, titles, Oaths of Secrecy, and so forth, because we feel that sooner or later such structure will become susceptible to mis-use and cause envy, jealousy, false pride and self-delusion, all of which lead to a loss of Magickal effectiveness and eventually the splintering or destruction of the Lodge.

We are interested in what works, consequently we are quite eclectic and inter-disciplinary in our approach. However we don't hide under a rock. We feel that if Magick is to be effective and beneficial to Mankind, it should be available and used, rather than just taken out, gloated over and played with once a week or so, hence our Shop. Many persons decry the operation of an Occult Shop as 'commerical', etc. Our reply is: "If your Magick is so great, why don't you use it to help people?" Please Note: "...Help People...", not hurt people.

This brings up an important point: Except for the defence of the Lodge, we will under no conditions engage in what we consider to be "black magic" (eg: Any Magick which attempts to control an individual or limit his scope of action, opinion or thought, for any reason whatever, with or without that individuals' prior knowledge or consent.) There are already far too many people doing just that right now.

We don't even attempt to help all of the people who come to us. We pick and choose those whom we think we can help. To the pathetic, insecure little people who are desperately searching for a new Messiah to follow or worship, we say: "Sorry, we don't work that way." To the lazy, greedy, shallow and obnoxious people who expect us to give them "The Secrets of The Ancients" on a silver platter in half an hour with no effort on their part; we also say: "We don't work that way", and would not even if we could. To all the scared, guilty, irresponsible people who expect us to intercede between themselves and either Karma or the American Legal System to prevent them from receiving the Punishment which they have so dilligently and repeatedly earned for themselves, we likewise say: "We don't work that way either." To a belligerent, vile, hateful person who wishes to use Magick as a weapon or equalizer, against another person or the World at large, obviously we say: "We don't work that way and we won't help you to work that way".

Nothing of value in this or any other world was ever obtained without cost or effort. Magick takes work, time and a certain minimum amount of mental maturity, honesty, and self-criticism.

We hope that in the not-to-distant future, we shall have suitable facilities to expand our counseling activities so that we may more adequately serve the needs of the community. We don't expect to get rich, powerful or famous doing this. We are practicing Magick for love and the advancement of the Art, and as a counter-force to all that we see as incorrect in this World.

OF CREDULITY AND INCREDULITY.....

I am continually amazed at the desire of many people to fool themselves. When given a choice between the real tradition system and a synthetic, most choose the synthetic. Some others, still wishing to fool themselves, deny the existence of both the true and the synthetic.

Meric Casaubon, in 1688 published a book on this very subject, regarding the superstitions rampant in London at that time. Allowing for the differences of language and editorial style, he could have been writing about a large segment of the American population today.

Why is it, that nominally sane, sensible people, who usually use their logical, critical facilities in normal every-day living, when confronted with a situation that even approached the area of Religion, Mysticism, "The Occult" or even some branches of Philosophy, shut off that very facility that makes Philosophy so interresting: Rational Thought? I am at a loss to explain this sudden and drastic shift in mental modalities exhibited by most normally sane people.

A modern example of this skewed thinking, would be the assumption by most people that Magick is "bad" or necessarily anti-christian (or anti-anything). Religion as well as all Science, spring from ancient (and primitive) Magick. Obviously, that which becomes known through Human inquiry, is no longer 'unknown'. Such knowledge is 'natural' instead of 'supra-natural'. Why then do persons in the 'sciences' tend to deny that there is something more to explore? (I note with satisfaction, that the U.S. Patent Office has not been required to close its doors, due to a lack of inventions and discoveries, as was suggested not so long ago.) Most particularly, why do persons engaged in religious pursuits tend to be the loudest denouncers of anybody else's pursuits, religious or otherwise.

By what right does a man or group of men enforce their morals and ethics upon some other man or group of men? Especially when there was no prior agreement for one group or person to place itself under the control of another, or when such agreement has been terminated. On the other hand it is equally absurd to complain when a group of people have joined together and set a standard. If you join their group, and afterwards decide that you do not like their standards, then you have only two choices; conform to the standard or quit. You have no business telling the original group to lower their standards.

Magick is not a threat to any sane individual. It is likewise no threat Christianity or any other religion. Idealy, Magick would give an individual, be he Christian, Moslem, Jew or Pagan, a broader understanding and

affinity for his religion (if he has any). Magick, per se, is not a religion, it is an Art. Like any art-form or other human ability, it can be used in a number of ways. Is the manufacture of engravings considered Anti-Religious? I think not, yet there are those persons who have used the art of Engraving to the detriment of a given religion, Church, or belief. Does this give rise to a great tumult of protest that engraving should be banned, and that Engravers should be prosecuted, burned at the stake, etc.? Certainly not. Of course, good Art and good artists are a slight threat to poor Art and not-so-good artists, in the simple field of competition for acknowledgment. Most good artists tend to bend over backward to HELP the not-so-good artist, rather than to exploit him. Good Art is only a threat to the pseudo-artist. Magick is only a threat to those who falsely claim to work Magick, or those who attempt to use Magick as a cover for some other activity which has nothing to do with Magick.

Let me again state, that there is no correlation, positive or negative, between Magick and a given single religion. It is true, that in ancient times all of the real Magick was done by persons in the Church, simply because such Churchmen were the only literate people who had the means, education and spare time with which to do Magick.

All Religions have a Magickal base or origin. Most Religions also contain either symbolic Magick or the degenerated symbolism of Magick, somewhere in their structure of dogma. Most Religions and all 'religious cults' contain some part or element which must be taken wholecloth, that is to say, accepted on 'faith' rather than on the evidence, and followed without interpretation, examination, or question. This also holds true for some organizations or schools of thought which have removed the partition between Religion and Magick. Organizations which have mixed Magick and Religion, will sometimes feel threatened by an organization which practices the Magick alone.

To the extent that an organization uses fear, secrecy, 'faith', or ignorance to bind its 'followers' to it, then it is to the same extent that those 'followers' are susceptible to 'subversion' (or liberation) by empirical evidence, or an impirical approach. If that empirical evidence tends to support your religion, fine. If not, that is your problem. Perhaps you don't know enough about your own religion.

This, of course, gives rise to a new series of questions concerning individual credulity. I am curious about how many people in a given 'faith' have studied the origins or history of such 'faith'. From what I have seen, perhaps as many as 1% on a national average. Unfortunately, persons in the 'fringes' or even 'the Occult' appear to fall far below this already small figure. Furthermore, of this small percentage, how many have studied the origins and history of a 'faith' from a critical viewpoint?

Why is it, that the three largest 'Churches' in the world, have 'must not read' lists? What are they afraid of? Why do 99% of the people turn off their mind at the mention of 'miracle'?

The practice of Magick would (hopefully) train an individual to use and train his intellect as well as his psychic potential. The proper practice of Magick makes use of Science and the Scientific Principle. The only 'faith' involved would be the self-reliant individual's 'faith' in his own ability to produce empirical evidence.

There is one pitfall regarding the practice of Magick, when done by a novice, alone. There is no-one to check on the objectivity of his evidence. The hazard is that the student in his eagerness may end up fooling himself. In the beginning, a student should have an instructor who is physically present during training sessions. The student should also keep meticulous records and notes, for the same reason; to prevent self-delusion.

The alternative to all of this, is to fall prey to unchecked ego-mania and insanity, both to the detriment of the Art and the individual. There are far too many examples of this syndrome presently available, for us to choose other than as we have outlined above. There is no other way for Magick to become a practical, usefull tool in the daily life of the practitioner.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED READING LIST (Ceremonial Magick)

- Conway, David: Magick, An Occult Primer; Bantam Books, New York;
 Chapters 1 through 5 only. (many errors in remainder)
- Cavendish, Richard: The Black Arts; G.P.Putnam, New York (also in paper)
 Read chapters 1,3,6 & 7 first, then the rest.
- † Butler, W.E.: The Magician, His Training & Work; Wilshire Books, N.Hollywood
 Read all.
- † Gray, W.G.: The Simplified Guide to The Holy Tree of Life; Labrys Press,
 Pasadena, Ca. Read All.
- † Crow, W.B.: A Fascinating History of Witchcraft, Magic & Occultism; Wilshire
 Books, N. Hollywood, Ca. Read all.
- † Butler, E.M.: Ritual Magic; Newcastle Publishing Co., Hollywood, Ca.
 Read All.
- † Hartman, Franz (M.D.): Magic, Black & White; Newcastle Publishing Co.,
 Hollywood, Ca. Read all.
- † Shah, Idries: The Secret Lore of Magic; Frederick Muller Ltd., London
 Read all.
- † Regardie, F.I.: The Middle Pillar; Llewellyn, St.Paul, Mn. Read all.
The Tree of Life; Samuel Weiser, New York. Read all
- † Waite, A.E.: The Book of Ceremonial Magic; deLaurence, Chicago. Read all.
- † Mathers, S.L.(trans):The Sacred Magic of Abra-Mellon the Mage; deLaurence
 Chicago, Read All.

(† available from The Magick Circle, -- see ads elsewhere in this issue)

EUGENICS,
The Hornet's Nest.

(Editorial, from Volume 1, Number 3)

Back in the late 1940's, C.M. Kornbluth foresaw monstrous social problems in the population explosion which was just beginning at that time. Many of his predictions, some of which were contained in his novel, "The Marching Morons", have become disgustingly and truly real in the world today, and it appears that many more of his predictions will come true soon unless something is done NOW.

Eugenics, is the controlled or selective breeding of Humans, for (hopefully) an improvement in the genetic/physical/mental/social individual characteristics. In other words, population control, both in numbers and quality.

Many Occultists have noted with alarm the growing trend toward gross mental and psychic defects in the general gene and population pool of the Human Race. This trend is steepening and unless the Developed people breed more and the undeveloped people are restricted from breeding, a disaster of colossal proportions is in the making. Some feel that it is already too late to effectively alter the outcome.

We realize that Eugenics is a politically dangerous subject, and at the risk of exciting the more unstable elements in our society, we feel that we must publicly state our position on this critical subject: WE ARE FOR IT. The alternatives are very real and curiously un-mentioned in today's media. Either selective breeding NOW, or: (1) A world-wide plague or natural disaster; (2) a general war, either conventional or atomic, or; (3) a gross rise in criminal and/or anarchist (terrorist) activity, resulting in a large scale failure or collapse of civilization, all of which would scythe down the population.

The problem is how the control is to be exercised. Should a Government agency or a private (and presumably independent) board decide who may have children?

We would like to see a dialogue established on this subject, however we don't have the space to carry letters in The White Light.

We would like to encourage all those who can elevate the consciousness and quality of the world to breed, in order to counter-balance the inferior defectives who are dragging down the level of the Human Race, in a deliberate effort to dominate the world, that world having been made, discovered, created, developed and operated by their betters.

Intellectual, developed persons are obeying the mandates to limit their population, while the defectives are doing the exact opposite, with ill-concealed malice to boot.

What is your opinion?

The Editors

BLACK MAGICK,

What it is, and What it is Not.

Basically, Black Magick is any type or kind of Magick whatsoever, that has as its objective, the control or influence of or harm to another Human Being without the subjects' prior knowledge and consent. This is a considerably more modern and more general view than the usually quoted medieval definitions.

These generally cited medieval definitions, dearly loved by the media, particularly T.V. and screen writers, are based upon an entire string of false assumptions. For one thing, the terms used in those days were very misleading. In actual fact, both "ANGEL" and "DEMON" are incorrect. The term "SPIRIT" has so many alternate meanings as to be almost useless.

The correct general term is "ENTITY". A somewhat less accurate term is "PERSONALITY FRAGMENT". In the medieval view, anyone doing Magick which involved anything but "Angels" was doing "Black Magick". In actual fact, this is far from correct.

It is highly unfortunate that the media persist in propagating such gross inaccuracies, when the truth is just as dramatic if not more so. Dramatic license does not condone ignorance, stupidity, laziness or outright vicious bigotry.

The extensive misuse of the term "Demon" has given the term "Demonology" a highly negative flavor, usually equating it with "Satanism", in the minds of the general public. In modern terms, the "Demonologist" is working with "Lesser Entities" or "Personality Fragments" which are less than Human. (Not to be confused with discarnate Human identities or Souls.) These entities are summoned by a particular type of Magickal Ritual: Evocation.

The true Magician (as compared to the dillitante or curious amateur) is never in any danger from these entities, for several reasons, the most basic of which is that the Magician is Human, and the entity is sub-human (or perhaps non-human). The second reason is that the Magician maintains absolute and positive control over all phases of the operation.

Evocational Magick and Rituals can be of great use to the Magician, in several areas, the most important of which concerns the ancient dictum : "KNOW THYSELF". Working either solo or with

a receiver, the Magician summons these entities from within the subconscious of himself (or from the subconscious of the receiver, if one is used). This is conventionally called a "contact" operation. If the Magician finds that there is within him (or his receiver) a sufficiently large fragment of this entity, then the Magician may wish to conduct a more intense and deeper operation conventionally called a "possession". In this type of operation, the Evocational Ritual utilizes that fragment from the receivers' subconscious as a link to the greater collective entity dwelling within the collective unconscious of several (or many) people, or the race as a whole (race memory).

These descriptions and operational evidence bear out a Jungian view of the Human psyche. Both Jungs' Archetypes, and the Magicians' Entities dwell in the same region of the Human mind. Everyone has them, to a varying degree or type, but that are present in everyone, regardless of Religion, Belief or practice. It is this aspect of Theurgy which incites the wrath of some of the more biggoted anti-Occultists.

What is really strange, is that these self-same biggots, when presented with a case of (what they call) "Angelic Possession" consider it a particular sign of 'grace', especially if this occurs during one of their own religious services. Yet, if the identical person is possessed by the identical entity in a Magickal ritual, they condemn it as "the work of the Devil", "Black Magick" etc, which of course it manifestly is not.

This brings up a subject which is the avowed objective of nearly all religions, but practiced by virtually none: The conscious aspiration to and emulation of "The God-Head". In Magick this is the eventual aim and objective. We call it "knowledge and conversation with the Holy Guardian Angel" or sometimes an "Abramelin Operation". All "Angelic" operations and most particularly K. & C. of H.G.A. are Invocational Rituals (as opposed to Evocational). In these operations, the Magician utilizes that spark of Divinity within him as a link. There are many different terms for the entity or Principal to which the Magician is aspiring, at last count there were over 40. Call it Super-Conscious, Higher-Self, God-Head, H.G.A., or whatever you like, the Principal is the same, and is the over-all reason for the practice of Magick. In operations such as these, the line between Magick and Religion becomes blurred, as Invocational Rituals are basically devotional in nature.

Many Religious services are also Magickal rituals in the strict sense, although frequently unbeknown to either Clergy or Congregation. The classic example being the Catholic Mass. A sensitive, attending any given Mass can determine if in fact an Angel has been Invoked. It appears to vary according to the Magickal ability of the individual Priest, although if more than one Priest is present, the not-so-adept can achieve results, partly because the more able are (either consciously or unconsciously) helping him along. The presence of an Adept in the congregation will have the same effect also.

If approached on the question; "Do you work Magick?", most such Priests would say "No". Many have no idea of what Magick is, and most have received no training in the subject whatever. They simply go through a ritual, by rote, and that's it. If accused of doing Magick, they would be very shocked and offended, as they view Magick as a very black heresy, yet a good many do Magick weekly, without knowing it. A good many more go through the same motions without producing a Magickal effect. Nearly all of them still equate Magick with Black Magick and Satanism. The benefit derived from any Religious service could be greatly enhanced IF the Priest was also a trained Adept, consciously working Magick, for the benefit of the Congregation.

We feel that those Religions and Churches that have deleted the practice of Magick from their rituals and religious observations are much the poorer for it.

THE NATURE OF CEREMONIAL MAGICK*

(from: Volume 1, #4, Summer 1975)

The nature of Ceremonial Magick closely reflects the nature of Western Man. The practice of Ceremonial (Hermetic) Magick is ego-centric, which can be a hazard, particularly to the individual student who is attempting to practice Magick without either an instructor or a Lodge to guide his studies.

In spite of the lucrative "pop" aspects of some of the Eastern Religions and Metaphysical practices, the flood of 3rd. and 4th. rate "Gurus", "leaders", and what-not over the last 30 years or so (and excepting some aspects of Tibetan "red hat" Lamanism), Eastern Religions and practices are not as effective or beneficial for a Western person as for a person raised in an Oriental culture, and vice-versa. The simple fact is, that compared to the present Western culture (depressed as it is), the Oriental culture on which the Eastern Religions are based, are vastly inferior (for the Westerner). The Westerner is far more interested in life, self, and so forth, whereas the Oriental tradition distains life, and seeks to ignore much of what the Westerner considers valuable. Until very recently, the Westerner was vastly more literate, more mobile, better fed, better housed, etc. All of these things tended to make the Occidental person enjoy life and glorify the "self". Almost the exact opposite was prevalent if not dominant in Eastern civilizations. By far the majority were illiterate, repressed by feudal or near-feudal systems, with virtually no mobility, and with very little spare time (or energy) to devote to things Spiritual.

Under these conditions, the Religions which did emerge are basically self-denying. To the Oriental, death is not the tragedy of a life ended, but rather, that death precipitates ANOTHER REBIRTH AND SUBSEQUENT LIFE HERE ON EARTH. This difference is quite evident in the Magick of the various cultures.

Regardless of the background of a given individual, when that individual undertakes to study or practice Magick (or the equivalent) that person should choose a system that is consistent with his background. This principal is called "Eggregore" and is borne out by experimental evidence.

Those of you who have studied the history of The Golden Dawn, or who are familiar with the life and works of Alister Crowley, should recognize the name Allen Bennet. Bennet undertook to change his studies from a Western system to an Eastern one, and although (according to reports) he achieved a marked success, he would have probably achieved more had he remained within his eggregore.

There is much of interest and value in many of the Eastern systems. However, if it is real world results that you are after, and you happen to be a Westerner, then Ceremonial Magick (or some other Western system) should be your first choice. This is slightly less important if one is already an adept, and one wishes to expand one's scope of knowledge.

What then should be the individual's motivation for doing Magick? The correct Western person's answer would be something concerning himself. That is to say; self-improvement, Knowledge and Conversation with the Holy Guardian Angel, The Great Work, etc. Please Note: No conveniently misty and far-off double-talk about "service to others" or "following the 'Great Master'" et cetera. Crass curiosity is quite acceptable... although I

* from an address given to the Hollywood Theosophical Center.

personally feel that the lust for "powers" and particularly "Powers over others" is not acceptable, there are those who would accept a student on that basis.

I was quite amused (and gratified) by the press coverage of the in-fighting between a teen-age playboy "Eastern Master" and his home organization in India. It illustrates something that I have long felt and believed, but have been unable to prove, which is: That most of the vast array of Eastern Mystics (or whatever) that come to the U.S., do so primarily to make money and live the good life, and were in fact failures or near failures in their native lands. Compare these, to the activities of the Tibetan refugees which escaped the Chinese Communists' massacre in Tibet. Those refugees which did escape, carried thousands of scrolls, largely selected at random but representing a small fraction of the material left behind, from the libraries and Lamasaries. With these and \$300 of capital, they have built by hand a Tibetan library and cultural center in India. True, they have accepted donations to support this work, but they have not staged rock concerts or T.V. specials, neither have they organized a corps of flower children to accost persons on the streets for alms. Likewise they have not encouraged those persons wealthy enough to travel to India to do so, nor have they accepted those individuals who did visit them unless they were specifically invited.

To me, this contrast in behaviour accurately separates the serious Religious pursuits from the exploitative hucksters.

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Tobacco is one of the classical Mars Sphere substances or incenses. The case against the personal use of tobacco goes beyond the Magician receiving an unwanted Geburah influence. The habitual use of ANY substance should be avoided if a person desires to be a well rounded and balanced Magician. Not only is the habit itself an indication of a breach in the Magicians' Magickal Will, but when that habit involves a substance as destructive, accident prone and debilitating as tobacco (or for that matter marijuana, hasish, or any other physically or psychologically addictive substance) it indicates a serious defect in self-control.

Insurance companies have for years given preferential rates to persons who do not smoke, in fire, accident and life insurance, including automobile insurance. Insurance underwriters have found that persons who smoke are more combative, thoughtless and careless, both of their own safety as well as that of others. These certianly are symptoms of uncontrolled Geburah influences, although I doubt if these underwriters are aware of this correlation. The simple fact that non-smokers live longer, suffer fewer accidents and have fewer fires does not seem to make a significant impression upon the smoker.

The well balanced Magician is (or should be) aware of the desires, comfort and safety of others. Persons who smoke, particularly in public and in confined spaces, are uninterested in anything but their alleged pleasure. The fact that they may be seriously injuring someone else does not enter into their heads. If this is pointed out to them, they become quite indignant, even if the area is a posted "No Smoking" area. This reveals the smokers' shallow regard for others (or even the law) and his extreme selfishness.

To those Magickal students or practitioners who smoke, I would like to suggest a Magickally beneficial exercise: practice not-smoking for at least one hour a week (or 2 hours a month) whenever the Lodge or group meets. Not only will this assist in the training of the Magickal Will, but it will make the meeting

more pleasant (and endurable) for the non-smokers in the group. This simple exercise is even more important if and when any constructive Magick is to be done by the group. Not only is the reek of tobacco smoke exuded by the person and clothing of the smoker very noticable to the non-smoker, it may actually interfere with what ever is being attempted by the group. Furthermore, the wheezing and coughing of the smokers is a serious distraction in several types of Theurgic operations. A less immediate side effect of unrestricted smoking by the Magician, is his inability to react to tobacco as a Sphere incense when called for in a ritual. He is already saturated in the stuff, and hence the smell does not key his subconscious to Geburah, as the various other incenses should relate to their Spheres, in the mind of the Magician.

I realize that this whole argument will most likely be totally lost on Crowleyites of the more fanatical variety, who practice "Do what thou wilt" exclusively, without a thought to the second half of the Law of Thelema: "Love is the Law..." etc. To those I would say: "Its not 'Love' to subject an innocent and unwilling person to your smoke pollution. Furthermore, it is a violation of the other persons' 'will' to be subjected to your smoke".

I am quite sure that the smokers who pollute other peoples' air would be the first to complain if their drinking water was maliciously or thoughtlessly polluted. Perhaps non-smoking Magicians should carry a little Benzoin to burn when in the presence of smokers, to off-set the Geburah influence.

★

DIS-EASE AND DISEASE

There is a healing force within every one of us. Psychic healing is accomplished by the patients' own self healing mechanisms which have been psychically mobilized by the healer. Negative emotion causes many diseases. During depression mucuous membranes become altered, causing susceptibility to common colds. Fear, worry and anxiety are the most damaging.

The common cold might be self pity; cancer -- prolonged grief and anxiety; heart attack -- stoppered hate; and everyone knows the oft quoted: an ulcer is not what you eat, but what is eating you. Prolonged crisis, and stress can produce serious disorders and eventually structural damage, including cancer, heart attacks, strokes, rashes, colds, headaches, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, nervous and degenerative disorders.

It is very likely that all disease (except for the obvious exceptions like dietary errors, genetic and congenital flaws) are basically psychosomatic. The negative emotions cause negative chemistry and excessive gland secretions that change the bodys' ability properly to deal with already existing foreign and disease producing bacteria, etc. Negative emotions must be controlled to maintain good bodily health, prevent disease, and to cause healing.

If the patient could activate his own healing force, he could heal himself instantly. Until a more comprehensive study of this force is made, or even taken more seriously for that matter, the "Healer" must continue to be the "voice in the wilderness" working alone and trying to dodge the flack from medical, "scientific", and hyper-Christian ridicule, not to mention general ignorance of the public.

At this time, there is a heartening and encouraging interest in this form of healing by the public, as well as by Scientists, Medical Doctors, and hopefully practicing Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Counselors.

The health and life in a persons body is controlled by the

Mind. Negative emotions produce disease, good or happy emotions produce good health, but the Mind controls it all. Although there are many levels of Psychic Healing, all of which require study and training by the Healer, everyone can start with the control of negative emotions in a start toward self-healing.

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PSEUDO - SCHOLARSHIP

(Editorial from Vol. 2, #2. --- Winter, 1975)

One of the Hallmarks of the true scholar or Magician is his or her willingness to listen. Compared to the Glossy Gab of certain others whose non-stop mouth permits no meaningful dialogue as well as serving as psychic ear-muffs, preventing the individual from assimilating any new information (or even acknowledging the fact that there could be any other opinion or viewpoint, other than his own), the person who listens, continues to grow and expand his interests and abilities.

The verbal over-kill method used by some does provide an excellent front line defense against being asked a significant question or having the shallowness of ones ability, personality, or alleged scholarship plumbed. This is also one of the symptoms of incipient or actual bigotry.

When this is pointed out to the pseudo-scholar, the real harangue starts. When it is apparent to the pseudo-scholar, that the verbal assault has not worked in dislodging or submerging the questioner's brief glimpse of the true nature of the pseudo-occultist, and when the pseudo-scholar is a basically violent person, physical assault is occasionally the result. This is also the mark of the physical or mental coward. Put these together in the guise of a self-styled "Lodge Master" and you have trouble, no matter how articulate he may sound, or how professional his writing may look.

The genuing scholar or truly enlightened person, on the other hand, is always willing to listen, and even spends most of his time doing so (even though it may bore him to tears), there is always the chance that he may learn something new or hear something original. It is these very scarce "pearls of great price" that the scholar is constantly seeking, rather than the agrandisement of his personal ego in hearing his own voice (or seeing his own words in print) drown out any and all discussion.

This same personality type usually also refuses to deligate any authority if in a position of power (whatever it may be). He has to do (and control) everything himself. He really trusts no-one, although he may profess otherwise, actions speak louder than words*. His paranoia may be such that he sees threats and innuendos in perfectly innocent statements.

The real scholar does not attack a system or belief of which he knows nothing. Certainly not after admitting that he has never read anything on the subject.

* A cliché, true, but one that accurately describes the problem.

"MAGICK VS. 'THE DEVIL'" *

Like the early Christian movement of old, Occultism in the United States suffers from a poor public image and a bad press. Particularly in California, where perhaps the largest variety of Occultists accumulate. There is also a large population of pseudo-occultists here in Southern California as well. A good many, well more than half, of the persons claiming to be Witches, Magicians, and so forth, are not.

I have been a practicing Magician for over 6 years now**, and during that time I have met nearly all of the genuine serious Occultists in the Southern California area, as well as droves of phonies.

Occultists, like the ancient Gnostics, are frequently accused of a wide assortment of crimes and perversions. Also like the Gnostics, these accusations are 99% spurious. They are the result of yellow journalism, sensationalist T.V. or motion picture productions, and occasionally paranoid Christian fundamentalist bigotry.

Magick, does not now and never has "worshipped the devil" or anything remotely akin thereto. I know of no Witches who "worship the devil" either. Satanism, is and was primarily a Roman Catholic disease. Historically speaking, virtually all of the Satanism, reported by Churchmen, was either wishful thinking or inaccurate reporting, as the largest single body of Satanists was within the Church itself. True, there are a few serious Satanists, here and there in the Los Angeles area, most of them are rather pitiful wretched misfits.

Like other religions which displaced older ones, Christianity took every-body else's Gods and made them demons or devils. This is an anthropological fact, not merely my opinion. Since Hermetic Magick predates Christianity by several thousand years, the entities that we work with are actually other people's Gods, for the most part. Some ancient Religions had real "demons" (ie: Negative aspects) which were worshiped or placated in various ways. This is not Magick, it's Religion.

A Magician need not worship anything. This is rare, but it does not greatly effect any given person's ability to do Magick. Most present day Magicians, and likewise most Kabalists today are Christian, of one denomination or another.

Virtually all of the medieval Magickal Scholars were Churchmen, for several reasons: (1) They were almost the only literate people in Europe at the time; (2) They had the leisure time and scholarship required; (3) They had access to the books and other documents concerning The Art; (4) They had little fear of the Inquisition finding them out, as they were usually the people who ran the Inquisition. However, nearly all of these scholars (with a few notable exceptions) did not fully practice what they researched and wrote about. They might have followed or practiced a Magickal Philosophy, but most of them did not actually use Magick in an operational sense, as we do today. To them, Magick was a field of inquiry, not a tool to be used to achieve an end.

Some of these Churchmen had a morbid curiosity about Magick and erroneously linked it with Satanism. This is the source of much of the present day dogmatic refusal to examine the subject, found in most allegedly Christian sects.

Magick is not a threat to any person, Christian or otherwise. If a person is basically good, he is good regardless of whether or not he happens to be an Occultist, Magician, or whatever. Likewise, if a person is basically mean,

* From a lecture given at the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

** at the time that this article was written---1975.

vile, greedy, narrow and biggoted, he is "evil" whether or not he professes to be a "Christian".

I personally do not believe that "the Devil" (an anthropomorphic ruler of the underworld, and source of all evil) exists as such. The source of "evil" in human society, I feel, is the work of individually evil men and women (or groups of evil persons) and has nothing to do with the religion of the perpetrator.

As a test for this premise, I ask you: What is the religion of the majority of the murderers convicted in this Country? Answer: Christian. What is the Religion of most of the Mafia? Answer: Not only Christian, but Catholic! Q. E. D.

The most superficial study of the Templars, reveals that the charges brought against them, and for which they were all put to death, were spurious. The real reason why they were persecuted, tortured and executed to the last man, was that they had become too rich and powerful, and in the eyes of the Pope, a threat to Rome.

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Magick is not for children. Although there is (or should be) a good deal of almost childlike "sense of wonder" involved, and the willing suspension of dis-belief, Magick requires emotional and mental stability. An immature, un-stable person, no matter what his or her age, is a hazard both to himself and to those involved with that individual.

It is quite true that Magick will assist the student or practitioner to transcend his limitations, and that the student should attempt to do this, but to admit to no limits whatever or to claim to make no mistakes, reveals a serious personality fault.

A mature person acknowledges his limitations, what ever they may be, and would correctly attempt to expand his abilities and overcome at least some of his limitations. This results in the student discovering new (or additional) limitations that were perhaps not obvious before. Not necessarily the same limitations as before, but limitations none the less. There is nothing wrong about a student or practitioners' recognition of his own ability and a modest amount of pride in his work is a good thing, but when an individual allows his ego to run away with him and make statements to the effect that he (or she) is capable of anything without limit, when he manifestly is not (or when his defects are quite visable even to the non-Magician) that person is WRONG!

To refuse to admit either limits or previous glaring errors, and to refuse to learn from or alter his mode of behaviour as a result of these errors, are serious symptoms of a basic mental dis-order which may already be beyond effective treatment.

This is the trap in anything as basically ego-centric as Magick. It is relatively easy to avoid in the beginning, but as the individual slips farther and farther into the vortex, it becomes progressively much more difficult to extract himself from the trap.

It makes absolutely no difference if the Magician is of the Right-hand Path or the Left-hand Path, the mechanism is the same. Some individuals are more susceptible to this sort of thing than others. Furthermore, those individuals who are susceptible, generally also tend to be attracted to absolutist regimes of one sort or another, where there is no effective method of checks and balances.

These highly structured and rank-conscious organizations also tend to attract persons easily awed by rank and rigamarole and likewise tend to drive away those persons with genuine ability, insight and intelligence. It is extremely difficult for an intelligent person to be bossed by a pompous clod, who is doing something by rote without the slightest glimmer of understanding of what he is doing.

Magicians, regardless of rank, school or stage of development, must cultivate the critical attitude, but most important of all, they should be self-critical as well. In addition to recognising the limitations of others, they should not be blind to their own limitations and short comings.

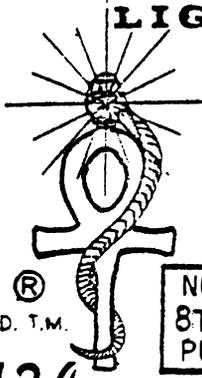
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INSTANT MAGICK

(Editorial from Vol. 3, #1 -- Fall, 1976)

In the words of the apocryphal Western Philosopher: "They ain't no sech animal!" Unfortunately, it's true, there is no such thing as Instant Magick.

The best possible student, with the best possible instructor, with all the time and facilities in the world to devote to his studies, would still take a minimum of one year to progress to the point of being a moderately competent Magician. People who say otherwise, are either fooling themselves or trying to fool others.

Sure, there are dozens of books, tapes and alleged instructors, Gurus and the like, purporting to give you instant "powers" or "mind control", or some other garbage, in a matter of hours or days. HOGWASH! Either what they are peddling isn't Magick, or the book is so oversimplified and diluted as to be actually useless from a Magickal point of view.

No one has yet published a really complete course in Ceremonial Magick* and I don't think that anyone ever will. The best and most complete attempt to date (1976) is Louis T. Culling's "The Complete Magical Curriculum of the Secret Order G.'.B.'.G.'" which, perhaps fortunately, is not as complete as it sounds. Another magnificent try is Israel Regardie's "The Tree of Life", possibly the best book the good Doctor has ever written.

This is actually beneficial to the Magickal Student, as it forces him to search about and consult several sources, and thus (to some extent at least) prevents him from becoming too lopsided in his outlook and too rigid in his thinking. Because many authors and authorities do not agree completely, the student is again forced to adopt something of the Scientific Method, and try out the various systems, and pick the one that suits him best, at whatever stage in his development he happens to be. Of course, he is free (or should be free) to change his methods as the need arises.

ANY school, system or discipline, or instructor, that attempts to limit a student's scope of inquiry, or to rigidly define what the student may or may not read or try, is (with a very few exceptions) doing the student a serious dis-service. Likewise, any school or discipline that does not allow the student to progress at his own rate, and either hinders his advancement, or pressures him beyond a few gentile reminders that his studies are lagging, is also doing the student a dis-service.

These are some of the primary reasons why we do not have a fixed curriculum here at The Temple of Truth, and likewise why we offer no instruction by mail. Mail order courses are per se rigid, paced and narrow, all to the detriment of the serious student.

Many people are disapointed when they discover that we do not offer correspondance courses, or a single book or tape that will solve all their problems for them at one stroke, without any cost or effort on their part. TOO BAD!!

The Laws of Thermodynamics, translated into human terms comes out something like: "You can't get something for nothing", or as Robert A. Heinlein put it "TANSTAAFL": There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch, (or a free ride, except down hill).

*See our review of "The Magickal Philosophy" by Denning & Phillips, p. 31.

Talents and abilities, insight and wisdom are gained at great cost and suffering, although squandering money, time and effort is no guarantee of success or even progress.

A Lodge, Order or Instructor might help you reduce the wasted time and energy, might help you reduce some of the cost, but you will still have to put forth considerable effort and time yourself, if you are to progress. No one else can do it for you, you have to do it for yourself, ANY alleged "school", "Master", "Guru" or book that says otherwise is pulling a fast one, and is not to be trusted in the slightest, and very likely is a phoney besides.

There is no "quckie" shortcut to Adepthood. You may compress the work into a shorter than normal period of time (if you are able) but the work must still be done, regardless.

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REAL WITCHCRAFT

The genuine practice of The Old Religion and an equally genuine pursuit of Magick have many things in common. Both suffer from similar public mis-conceptions. Both are afflicted with extremely large numbers of phonies and superficial look-alikes.

We of the T.:O.:T.: are very gratified to see a resurgence of genuine Witchcraft, amid the droves of commerical frauds and publicity seekings fools. This has, in the past, caused a problem to Magicians, when approached upon the subject of Wicca. Without some genuine Old Religion Groups to point to, the Magician was forced into one of two postures; The first was to ignore Wicca entirely. The second and equally bad, was to say something on the order of "Well... I suppose that there are some good ones, somewhere, but I don't know of any..."

Situations of this type have given rise to other mis-conceptions, among them the idea that the T.:O.:T.: is 'anti-Wicca'. This is not the case. Niether are we 'anti-Christian'. We are anti-phoney, whether it be Pseudo-Wicca, or anything else.

This problem is particularly accute here in Southern California, where there are hundreds of self-styled 'Occult' organizations of almost any desired stripe. A good many of these organizations cater to the credulous individual, who is asked to (and usually willing to) believe in something-or-other because it is 'The Word' of somebody or other. Fully half of these organizations, we feel, are incorrect for an American to go into, because they are anti-egregorie, occationally drug-oriented, or perhaps just plain destructive (in addition to being insencere).

The remaining half, are a very strange bag indeed. Largely credulous, frequently insencere, and even more frequently a money making gambit; I have visited some of these and observed that they spend more on special effects and electronic security devices than on anything else. (Spraying Christmass-Tree 'glitter' on a shack dosen't make it a 'Temple'.)

Most of the remaining organizations probably do believe in what they are doing, however sincerity is not enough. Many refuse to dig into the actual origin of what they are doing. Occationally they have 'must not read lists', or will admit when pressed that their origin or the history of their own organization makes them 'uncomfortable',

What is left, after removing all of the above, is a group of 'Witchcraft' organizations, some genuine, some not, and a few Magickal Lodges. At any range it is almost impossible to distinguish between the phony Wiccans and the real thing, if for no other reason than the phonies outnumber the genuine ones about 10 to 1. This confusion is augmented by the fact that here in the Los Angeles area there are two organizations, whose founders follow the Old Religion as a religion, but practice Magick from a qabbalastic viewpoint. There is no quick and simple way of classifying these people, as neither of these organizations have published any positional papers or descriptive literature.

A similar situation exists with regard to Magick. There are organizations and individuals who claim to be Magicians and the like. From the outside, it is quite hard to tell who is and who isn't. As in the case with some self-styled Wiccans, some of these would-be Magicians are in it for personal gain, real or imaginary.

The biggest single point of division in Magick, is whether or not a given individual or group is 'thelemic'. Thelemic Magick is based upon Crowley's "Book of the Law". (Thelemic refers to the 'Law of Thelema')

There is much of value in the O.T.O. and A.'.A.'. tradition, however we of the T.'.O.'.T.'. do not accept Liber al vel Legis as holy writ, or dogma. We view those who do, in a similar light to those other persons who refuse to examine the origins of what they profess to believe in. We have found that most religions, Christian and Pagan alike, as well as all 'Religious Cults' contain one or more 'articles of faith' which must be accepted without examination or question. This same mechanism exists in Thelemic Magick, and is the principal reason why we are not Thelemic. In fact this unthinking acceptance might be used as a test for differentiating between a 'cult' and a 'lodge' or 'order'.

At this point the difference between 'Religion' and 'Philosophy' becomes difficult to detect. A Magician, that I know said : "Philosophy is frequently a Wise Man's revelation put in terms to be understood by other Wise Men; Religion is the self-same revelation put into terms to be understood by fools." As with most teaching devices, this statement is an exaggeration, but a useful one, for it does point out the fact that (in this case) the Magick

practiced by the Magician could be the same as that practiced by the Wiccian. The only difference being the approach to it.

Consequently, we of the T.:O.:T.: are quite happy to see a trend toward genuine Pagan organizations, which are ready, willing, and able to differentiate between themselves and the general mass of popular phonies. We view this trend as a healthy sign, and hope that this growth will continue, if for no other reason than that the Public needs a standard of comparison, where none existed before. It is to our direct advantage to be able to point to an organization and say "These people know what they are doing."



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FOR THE RECORD

(Editorial, from Vol. 4, #2 -- Winter, 1977)

Once again it seems that we will have to wearily take up the cudgels and do battle for Truth's sake. It appears that many in the Occult have extremely short memories and/or little regard for Truth, Justice or Honesty.

A particular organization has recently made quite a show of their alleged O.:G.:D.: and O.T.O. connections, implying of course that no one else had any valid credentials. It isn't so.

Unlike this other organization, which is headed by a self-ordained, self-elevated (and self-inflating) individual, The Temple of Truth is headed by persons, all of whom studied for many years prior to the formation of the Temple, and/or hold Ordinations and Degrees from accredited, recognised outside organizations and institutions.

What this means is, that the T.:O.:T.: personnel are and were all trained before joining together to form the Order, rather than the other way around. A minor point, you say? Perhaps. However it does reveal a basic dishonesty of attitude and slipperiness of character of the leader of this other organization.

I too, studied under the late Louis T. Culling, and could just as easily claim O.T.O. derivation as that which they hint at. My original Ordination and Doctorate were bestowed several years before the formation of this other "order", and I have received several others in the years since then.

Much as I dislike pounding my own drum, so to speak, it seems that it is the only way to get the point across. So many people seem unable to read between the lines of our information statement that appears on the back inside cover of each and every issue of The White Light. Once again I call attention to the "Magick & Ethics" article which we printed in the Inaugural Issue of "The White Light", which explains how the T.:O.:T.: came into being.

We too, have ancient documents from the British Museum in our archives, perhaps more and better at that*. We too, use ritual and ceremony in our Magick. In fact, many of the rituals used by this other organization were originally written by me. My signature and seal appear on their original charter, certificates and Ordination.

Perhaps the largest difference between the T.:O.:T.: and this other organization, is our lack of coerciveness and refusal to victimise our membership. We intentionally have no rank structure. We don't treat our people like retarded children, watching, grading and "disciplining" them with scourge in hand. We likewise, make no "secret masters" claim, or variation thereof. We are not trying to fool anybody. We also do not stage a big initiation, with masked faces and priestly mumbo-jumbo --- somewhat reminiscent of a collage frat hazing, minus the goldfish, but with the fishbowl --- principally because that we feel that our students are already sufficiently self-disciplined and self-reliant not to need it, or at least not in this fashion.

Perhaps this lack of put-on and priestly airs causes the shallow thrill-

* We have also published many of these ancient documents for the advancement of the Art, which these other organizations have not done.

seeker, dillitante or self-proclaimed sub-culture "Guru" or "Master" to not take us seriously. Too bad! It's their loss. Of the thousands of people that we have helped over the last 5 & 1/2 years, there is no doubt. We abhor falsity and greatly prize peace and privacy.

Occasionally however, we do get sufficiently irritated at the rampant phoniness exhibitted by some other organizations, to come out with a statement like the one you are now reading. If this type of statement bothers you, we are sorry, but we feel that it must be said. ★

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THE TEMPLE OF TRUTH

(Article from Vol. 4, #3)

The TEMPLE OF TRUTH is unique in several respects when compared to other Magickal and quasi-magickal organizations presently operating in the United States.

First, and most important, the T.:O.:T.: has no rank structure. This means that there is no competition for recognition, no Ego-involvement, no snubbing of "inferior" grades by those in "superior" positions, and all the ramifications arising therefrom.

This intentional lack of structure is extended to the training programme of the Lodge, in that the student is not forced or required to study any given subject at any particular time. Un-like the A.'.A.'. of the Crowleyian period, the student isn't forced to study what the instructor is interested in, but rather the student studies what the student is interested in, and the instructor merely assists the student in discovering for himself those Magickal Truths and revelations pertaining to that particular student.

For the same reason, the T.:O.:T.: issues no pretentious, self-gratifying certificates. Since each student is following his own path and course of study, there is no way a grade structure could be ranked, as each student's path is somewhat different from all of the others.

Of course, the instructors attempt to present information in such a manner that the student achieves a well rounded education in the Occult, however this is in an advisory capacity. There is no coercion involved.

This advisory service is available free of charge to non-member students as well, providing they manage to arrive at the Magick Circle location during our business hours. (We do expect such non-members to purchase at least some of their books and supplies from us, and to be reasonably serious in their studies).

As there presently is about a 2 year waiting list for membership in the T.:O.:T.:, this non-member advisory service is about the only course of instruction available to the public and would-be members. We advise all serious students, whether or not interested in joining the T.:O.:T.:, to proceed with their studies, with or without our assistance, as unlike nearly all other organizations, previous training and ability will not bar you from membership in the T.:O.:T.:.

Perhaps the second largest difference between the T.:O.:T.: and other organizations, is that we encourage students who have achieved a certain basic understanding of Magick, to practice Magick in their own Temples and in their own lives.

Third, we use Magick daily to help others, both members and non-members. Again, unlike most other organizations, we actually use Magick, every day to benefit others, not just ourselves. In this respect, the T.:O.:T.: is highly unique, in that we do more Magick in a week than most others do in a year.

Fourth, we do not require our students and/or members to refrain from joining or participating in Magickal activities of other organizations. The student is FREE to do as he or she wishes with their own private lives. We do not spy upon or attempt to control our students or members in any manner whatever.

This Libertarian concept applies to our representations of ourselves as well. We are not trying to fool anybody, or impress the gullible with our

mystical masterhood or spookey "powers". We put up no false fronts, we stage no extravaganzas, we place no mysterious advertisements and write no pompous articles for other publications. We do not perform like trained seals, for any alleged broadcaster, film-maker or author who happens by.

We are here, with an open door, six days a week. The truly motivated student or seeker will find us with little difficulty. We likewise do not hide behind a cloak of "secrecy" or exclusiveness to camouflage our activities, because we have nothing to hide. True, our membership is "secret" in that we don't publish or reveal our member's names, addresses or photographs (without permission).

In like manner, we conduct no mail-order lessons, nor do we sell tapes purporting to solve all your problems.* One of the very few requirements that we do have, is that all students or potential members must come to us in person. Another is that all persons writing in for information and so forth must include a stamped self-addresses envelope (or 3 International Reply Coupons) if they wish a reply.

Furthermore, we do not keep our "Magickal Goodies" to ourselves in a miserly fashion. We regularly publish in depth reports and papers written by both staff and students, as well as entire books from our archives. We do this principally for the advancement of the Art, as well as for the assistance of students who are unable to attend for one reason or another (as well as to assist all students generally, regardless of school or discipline).

We likewise abjure all claims to "Secret Masters" and variations thereof, in keeping with our commitment to openness and Truth. We are not "Empire Building", we are not particularly interested in large numbers of recruits, and we make no attempt to claim that ours is the only way to enlightenment. We also accept no book as dogma and consequently are not Thelemic, although we do recognise and acknowledge the great contributions to Magick made by Alister Crowley.

Furthermore, we take no part in the political quarrels that some Occult groups engage in with great regularity. Likewise, we will tolerate not the slightest mis-statement concerning ourselves, our organization and our practices. We respond with TRUTH, about ourselves, and if sufficiently provoked, Truth about whomever has attacked us. This is only fair and just.

We mimic no-one, we defraud no-one, we entice no-one. We adhere to very high standards of Truth, Honesty and Justice, and expect (even demand) to be treated in a like manner, and therefore we are active in Occultists Rights work. We are a Responsible, Legal, open and above-board Genuine Magickal organization. If this interests you, we welcome you, your comments and your support, moral or material.

* What tapes we do sell, are either commercial products, or tapes of our general lectures, which are "public information" tapes, and replace no portion of our requirements or training.

A Review of
THE MAGICAL PHILOSOPHY
(3 Volumes)

By: Melita Denning and Osborne Phillips

Reviewed By: Nelson H. White
Editor: The White Light,

Quite frankly, the first thing that I noticed about this series of books, was the rather ostentatious "OSV" seal on the facing page. Shades of Aleister Crowley! The second impression that I received, was that the whole thing was a put-on, a farce or parody of either O.G.D. or O.T.O. publications.

Another thing that I observed, was that the Copyright is owned by someone other than the alleged authors. Who the heck are Godfrey and Barcynski?

After reading all three volumes (Robe & Ring, The Apparel of High Magick, and Sword & Serpent), I am still uncertain as to the value of these works. To an advanced student or Adept, they are a total waste of time and money. I would hesitate to recommend these works to the beginner, for reasons I shall outline shortly.

If these works are treated as a "synthetic Magickal system" such as Bardon, there would be less hazard in recommending them to an interested student (but not a beginner). As with Bardon, the OSV system could be worked, provided one did not attempt to relate it to anything outside the system.

Of the three volumes, Vol. III is the most useable, but still not as concise and free from error as Regardie's TREE OF LIFE, and considerably more obtuse as well. There is very little in these books that is not available somewhere else, and frequently far better.

It appears that Denning and Phillips (if that's who really did it) have taken European Witchcraft, English Druidism, some scraps of Hermetic Magick, added a dose of Christianity and a sprinkling of Norse mythology, and stirred them with a stick. After accumulating 5 pages or so of notes of the errors in the first 50 pages of Vol. 1, I stopped writing them down.

The style of writing swerves considerably as well. Parts are written in the condescending manner of a tired grade-school instructor (Everybody get out a piece of paper.....and a pencil.... put your name at the top.....), while other passages abound with obtuse language, Latin phrases and pseudo-scientific terminology.

Volume One (Robe and Ring) purports to cover the History and Philosophy of Magick. Frankly, I feel that David Conway's "MAGIC, An Occult Primer" does a much better job, likewise "The BLACK ARTS", by Richard Cavendish is superior regarding this subject.

A passing remark is made about "non-human minds", sounding strangely like a "Secret Masters Ploy" to me. I seriously doubt the alleged "History" given about the OSV. I suspect that the OSV is not now a functioning Magickal Order, and perhaps never was.

Obviously Post-Crowley, as there are occasional references to the O.:G.:D.: and "The Master Therion". Another suspicious thing, is that there are no exterior references to either the OSV or the A.S. They do not appear in any of the standard histories of the period.

Parts of the series sound a good deal like "High Magick's Aide", a fiction piece by Gerald Gardner, while others are more reminiscent of "The Secret Doctrine". The covers of these books claim that they contain "A complete system of knowledge, rituals and exercises...." In actual fact the system (so far published) is far from complete and contains only passing examples of rituals and training schemes. As with Louis T. Culling's "The Complete Magickal Curriculum of the G.:B.:G.:", these books are not complete, but the omissions are not that obvious to a beginner. An advanced student or Adept can spot the omissions quite easily.

Perhaps the largest single error is their treatment of Alchemy, the making of "Gold", and in particular "The Philosophers' Stone", and the construction thereof. Compare this to Regardie's "The Tree of Life". ANY Adept or advanced student can tell you, the "Philosophers' Stone" is a non-material object, not something you cook up in a glass vial. In fact, it is this highly credulous treatment of Alchemy, more than any other clue, that brands the work as at least partly a hoax. Observe the following inconsistency: The statement is made that there are only three grades in the OSV, yet the alleged authors claim to be Adepti Minori (implying a 10 grade -- or more -- system). This is but one of the hundreds

if not thousands of errors and inconsistencies, large and small that mar what could have been a truly great work. Undoubtedly, there was considerable effort and even inspiration involved with the writing of these books, yet their remarks about Sorcery, clearly show (to anyone who has actually done Magick) that the authors have never done a Magickal Operation themselves. Their remarks about native American Magic and Taoist beliefs, connecting them to Western (Hermetic) Magick, are just plain wrong.

Although there are some excellent statements concerning Secrecy and Elitism, the final point is missed in both cases; The real need for secrecy, is that the truest, greatest secrets of Magick could be shouted from the rooftops, and be absolutely meaningless to the un-initiated. Hence, don't waste your breath, trying to explain it to an ignoramus, just tell them it's secret, and let it go at that. That which a person can not understand, that person will fear. Fear is the danger. Likewise with the Magickal Elite (or any other Elite for that matter), the Elite MUST judge the rest of Mankind, even pre-judge, if for no other reason (and there are others) that the mass of ignorant, superstitious humanity does have the power to destroy you and your work. Regardless of whether or not that person at some point in time, may become aware of his "true will", the Adept must not allow the possibility of the other persons potential adepthood to interfere with the Adepts' course of action. Brutal, callous you say? You bet it is, because that is the way the World is.

Failing to see what is, and seeing only what you would like to see, is Madness. Insane stupidity for an Adept. (I am not speaking of willed manifestations or image training that take place inside the Temple, but rather the Magicians' conception of the real World outside the Temple.)

I also do not agree that the most important Magickal tool or weapon is the ring. The statement that the ring replaces any and all other Magickal paraphernalia, is ABSOLUTE HOGWASH for a student. A High Adept can get away with things like that, but for a student to try it, is sheer folly. The student needs the symbolism that the equipment represents. The authors' comments about the properties of the ring, would hold true for any Magickal device or talisman. Personally, I think that the most basic tool

or weapon is the Pentagram, but this might vary, according to what system you are working.

The drawings of the elemental weapons are good, however their Wand could stand some improvement, and they have reversed the materials for Wand and Cup. The Cup could be made from copper, and the Wand of glass (or crystal) if you wanted to (but not the other way around). I prefer a Wand of Iron or Steel, or at least iron points. The color illustration in Vol.III facing Page 35 is up side down, and the one facing page 179 showing the Magician between the Pillars (if the Magician is facing East--which would be conventional) has the Pillars reversed; the Black Pillar should be North, and the White Pillar South.

Although the authors mention Jung, they ignore his large and vital contribution to Gnostic and Magickal thought. They poo-poo him as "not being a Magician". Frankly, neither are the authors, so there!

The statement concerning the necessity for good health in Magickal work is well done and quite correct, and could be expanded a bit.

The further I progressed into these three volumes, the more my doubts concerning the stated purpose and origins grew. The authors describe a Magickal curriculum, rather than give a Magickal curriculum. They do give quite a bit of poetry, several mythological stories and such, but that's not Magick. The Astral Projection exercise that they give is really image formation practice, not Astral Projection at all.

Conclusion: Alternately boring or infuriating to the Adept, possibly interesting to the intermediate student, and almost useless to the beginner, THE MAGICAL PHILOSOPHY, would be a low priority purchase in my estimation. It is overly verbose, needlessly obtuse and seriously damaged by error, mis-statement and omissions, as well as containing bits and pieces of Wiccan terminology. What value there is, is carefully concealed amid much fizz and froth, somewhat like cotton candy sprinkled with carpet tacks; to be consumed very carefully.

Volume 4 of this series "The Triumph of Light" was reviewed in Vol. 5, #3 of The White Light. See also, TWL, V.6,#4, Reviews Section (Summer, 1980).

AFTERWORD AND COMMENT
by the Authors

THE WHITE LIGHT of today (1981) is only slightly different from the examples given in this book. Principally, TWL has diversified and added several departments and areas of reportage that were not in the magazine during the early years. These new departments are "The Legal Forum" and the "Current Events in the News", both of which are more-or-less self-explanatory.

Why something as essentially harmless as Religion and Magick should get so tangled up in things legal, is principally the fault of the greedy Legal "profession". This has not stopped it from happening however. TWL has and does accurately reflect this increasing interest in the legal ramifications of Occult practices and consequently introduced the "Legal Forum" department to assist those Occultists who are not lawyers (Almost no Occultists are also lawyers). The focus of the "Legal Forum" department is to assist the practitioner of the Occult Arts in keeping himself clear of legal entanglements, and the concurrent severe financial drain imposed by a system that almost requires the hiring of a lawyer for the most simple actions. The second major thrust of the "Legal Forum" (as well as the Current Events section) is to keep tabs on the Government and especially the Church/State interface and First Amendment questions and cases.

For the through-going legal do-it-yourself type, there are several books in the "Magick & The Law" series, with new books coming out once a year on the average. These books are much more detailed than the short articles that The White Light could carry, and contain sample forms and the like.

Likewise, the longer Magickal articles are not represented here, as they are simply too long. Some of the more unusual or meritorious works have been printed separately as books, such as the "Arithmancy" book, just released, and several more of the longer articles may be released soon. Also not presented here are the large amounts of humor, satire, cartoons, limmericks and the like that make up one of the most popular departments in "The White Light" which is The Yellow Rag section.

This anthology does not contain the occasional article by "outside" authors. Most of these are still available as back issues however.

At the time of this writing, subscriptions to THE WHITE LIGHT are \$5.00 per year inside the U.S.A.; \$6.00 per year for Canada and Mexico; and either \$7.00/year for overseas surface mail or \$8.00/year for overseas air-mail.

Sample copies (usually of the current issue) are available at \$1.25 each including postage inside the U.S.A., as are back issues at the same price, except that volume one is sold out, and several other numbers are in very short supply, so please give a second choice in case that issue is sold out by the time we receive your order.

"The White Light" is still looking for good short articles on Magick and related areas to publish. All items submitted must be accompanied by sufficient return postage if you wish them back. No payment is offered for articles accepted, other than several gratis copies of the issue with your item in it.

We plan to come out with further anthologies every few years. Your suggestions and comments are, as always, appreciated.

★

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Nelson White was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1938. He graduated from the University of Redlands, with a degree in Government, in 1968. He attended Graduate School both at the University of Redlands and U. C. L. A.

First Ordained in 1969, he has since been Ordained by several other organizations. He received his first Honorary Doctorate in 1969, and has received several more since then. He also holds a degree in Electronics, and several California Teaching Credentials. Dr. White has taught in a number of public schools in California.

Together with his wife, Anne White (also an Ordained Minister), the Whites presently operate a Hermetic Magickal Order (The Temple of Truth); a Cabalistic Church (The Light of Truth Church); an Occult shop in Pasadena (The Magick Circle); in addition to publishing their quarterly Magickal Journal: "The White Light". The Whites have also been instrumental in the formation of several other Churches and Magickal Lodges. Unlike most writers and Magickal schollars, the Whites have maintained a public practice of Magick for many years.

The Whites have written over a dozen other books, and are guest lecturers at several Southern California schools and Universities.

Dr. White is a private pilot, an amateur radio operator, a 4-wheel drive enthusiast, and was the Southern California area representative for the Aquarian Anti-Defamation League.

The Whites have received numerous Community Service Awards, and are presently listed in: Who's Who in the West, The Directory of Distinguished Americans, Community Leaders of America, Two Thousand Notable Americans, Personalities of the West and Midwest, Personalities of America, The Book of Honor, and several other national and inter-national directories.

Due to his experience in law enforcement as well as their expertise in the Occult, the Whites are occasionally called upon to assist and advise various Law-Enforcement organizations.

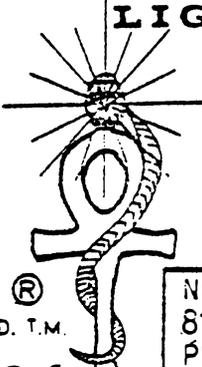
The authors wish to state, that because of their heavy commitments to other activities, they do not give advice over the telephone, nor do they conduct training by mail. Letters without sufficient return postage will not be answered.

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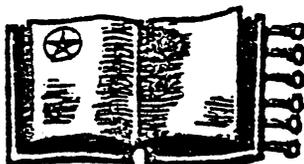


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