

Witch Wars Defense Manual

A look at religious psychological warfare interpreted through the Pagan community

By Ed Hubbard

“You May Not be Interested in War but War is Interested in You” – Trotsky

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by Ed Hubbard

Why a Defense Manual on Witch Wars?

In the Pagan community the battle for identity and credibility is ongoing. Gaining respect of society, culture, family, friends, and other desirables occupies the time of so many Pagans. In this environment you can expect attacks from many outside sources and yet the ultimate conflict is credibility within our own community. Out of this desire for respect and having a voice, conflicts from different viewpoints emerge. Often these conflicts emerge to become what is known as a “witch war” and the participants engage in battle of words, thoughts, and, occasionally, a few spells.

Since joining the Pagan community, I have discovered the number two pursuit Pagans spend their time on is witch wars. No single activity is as strong. Although what a Pagan number 1 pursuit they do varies from group to group, all seem to say the number two pursuit with which they are involved are these witch war conflicts. Defending oneself is a near full-time occupation, especially for people who are just entering the community. From background gossip to out-and-out conflicts, you can find examples of one actively battling today. It is our version of contact sports, soap operas, and politics all wrapped into one.

All too often witch wars are buried under the carpet, smothered in good intentions and allowed to gather strength. The battles we face are a combination of innate territorialism, older conflicts, and current pursuits of power and glory. A number of other factors also play upon this. By the time we are engaged in conflict, we have this huge ball of pent-up energy. Each battle gets uglier. Every time, a battle bubbles up from where we had the last witch war. In some places it has become open season, and is the community’s only major form of interaction.

My hope is that individuals, especially among those who have suffered from witch wars, have a better understanding of these conflicts. By understanding how witch wars may form and be fought, it allows the future targets to defend themselves against, at least, the more obvious plays.

I feel witch wars are among the most difficult forces we face in the community. We fight them with passion and such intellect it is hard not to be amazed at how well each side does. It has an allure that breaks through our daily lives and offers some adrenaline-rushing adventure. To fight and test oneself against others is primal, and our basic selves have no problem indulging it. We rally to battle cries, and we are prepared to fight.

Those individuals who can resist the urge to indulge in witch wars and defend their groups, projects, even their very reputation are the ones who will accomplish things. Being able to identify a conflict and avoid it, even neutralize it, is an important skill. So if a few people learn how to avoid and survive the inevitable conflicts that come with Pagan politics, then maybe we can move toward something better.

I hope you find the *Witch Wars Defense Manual* useful.

What is a Witch War?

A witch war is basically an argument between two or more individuals or factions within the Pagan Community. Given this strange title, it denotes when the conflict is meant to engage the community itself. Unlike a private argument, this is a public brawl of words, thoughts, ideas, and all manner of tricks that human beings use when they want something. It is as natural as any other human endeavor.

The roots of all witch wars begin in the nature of tribalism. We like to fight and societal rules are all that prevent us sometimes from picking up weapons to do others in. We have agreed that killing and creating physical violence is not acceptable to us on the whole. Individuals who engage in violent behavior find that the Government will take a hand at some point. In lieu of obvious violence, we have picked up a ritual form of conflict that really emerged in the late 20th century. We learned to fight publicly and for effect. We learned we may not do physical violence to each other. But we can use words, images, and other influencing behaviors to attack those we disagree with or from whom we want to usurp their position.

The basic idea of a witch war is that it is about image. We are a young, raw community with strange ideas. Our community was formed as a revolutionary new way to live and yet it ties into the deepest and oldest areas of our spirituality. Coming from a place where ownership of books was a crime, and believing in Witchcraft and magic got you killed or confined to some asylum, we persevered. We became a community, and we discovered that so many more people shared the same basic concepts as we do. They are people we may not agree with, some we love, and some we hate. We discovered that we were not the only individuals who have taken this path.

Once we learned that violence was unacceptable and undesirable, we began a highly ritualized form of conflict known as a witch war. A witch war is basically a battle of images and energies that are meant to destroy the public good will and private friendships of the target chosen. This is meant to isolate and make a pariah of the individuals, much as was done to us as Pagans by the world at large. The desire to be strong, and stronger than those around us, appears to be an essential part of the Pagan psychology. Witch wars are the available avenue to reach this goal.

For the purposes of this defense manual, a witch war exists as a form of combat in the Pagan community to achieve the objective of discrediting, eliminating, and harming the images and public reputation of other members, so they may not carry out their tasks. By taking such actions, the antagonists maintain the community they desire or create new structures in the same community. witch wars focus on preventing others from succeeding and becoming part of the leadership of the community.

What Feeds a Witch War

Gossip and love of scandals is the major source of energy in a witch war. Tabloid magazines, national enquirers, gossip shows, and tell-all books are America's favorite entertainment. These highly-charged "alleged" secrets titillate the imagination and give us all something to talk about. The Pagan community, in this sense, sees witch wars as their tabloid entertainment.

An antagonist gets caught up in the allure of attention and begins a conflict. They get off on knowing the reason everyone is talking is because of them. This appears to be a powerful position even if it is transitory. The antagonist alone knows the whole script and has the ability to share the truth or deepen the falsehoods. Simply put, it becomes a kick for an antagonist to start a conflict.

Heralds, people who broadcast rumors, are also a fuel source because their popularity and acceptance depends upon their ability to gather gossip. Consequently, they are constantly combing the community for sharable tidbits. This keeps the fires warm waiting for the right situation to flare up.

The second thing that fuels a witch war is the pursuit of power. While the majority of people love the randy tabloidism of it all, for a very small number it is the real pursuit of power that is their focus. The ability to gain resources and increase influence in the community is their personal goal. For the cultists among us, it is about gaining more control over the members' behavior. The antagonist will continue to fuel a witch war as long as it makes it possible for them to pursue, gain, and eventually hold the power they seek. Real power pursuits include leadership roles, boards of directors, control over cash and assets, promotion to decision-making levels, creating policy or even being the last one standing intact. Each pursuit is a statement of temporal power.

Contrary to popular belief, spirituality does not feed a witch war. True pursuit of spirituality does not include the desire for the temporal trappings of power. The goal of spirituality is to have a place of inner peace and understanding of a higher level of things. People comfortable in their spirituality have no reason to launch a witch war.

The Goals of a Witch War

There are only a few real outcomes of a witch war.

1. The target/antagonist is removed or discredited from the community.
2. The target loses support.
3. The antagonist gains support.
4. The antagonist loses support
5. A stalemate.

All of these outcomes are possible and even a combination can occur.

In the worst scenario both the target and antagonist are discredited and lose support, and the community shatters. Unfortunately, this is the most common outcome. The reason for this is simple. When each side goes at each other, there appears to be no dramatic difference between the two sides and neither can win over the hearts of those surrounding the fight. In time the shrillness of the battle drives away all the weak and noncombatants away. Without clear-cut differences and an identifiable result, it just grates on everyone's nerves. Thus the lose/lose result often occurs.

All too often antagonists see a way to attack but never clearly state what they want to win. Targets retaliate with no clear understanding on how to end the attack. This leads to the conflict becoming a longer-term battle which drains both sides. Eventually one side collapses, leaving a victor. Or, equally, both sides collapse.

The problem that occurs when both sides collapse, is it means the battle becomes an armistice. Each side is merely waiting until one or the other has enough resources to launch another attack. Sometimes when a new group enters an area, they can change the balance enough that the armistice becomes a renewed battle.

The real purpose of nearly all witch wars is disruption in order to create a favorable environment for the antagonist. It is truly rare that an antagonist has a clear enough intent to actually win a conflict. That, in turn, is the source of long-term conflict.

What Defeats a Witch War?

Groups who have an internal sense of honesty and openness, who are loyal to each other, are the first great step. Being open about rumors heard or even concerns from within the community allows the clergy and other members of the group to share answers.

With respect to other groups, let them have their own rituals and enjoy having them as neighbors. If they are bad neighbors, simply ignore them. Utilize your group's ability to isolate combatant

people and let them share in their own rites.

As clergy, be as open as you can be. Your life, once you step over the line into Pagan leadership, is open for everyone to investigate. Law be damned, your life is potentially tabloid fodder. Letting people who share your life know you personally will help. They know the nonsense is just that and help buffer the nauseating waves of conflict that can emerge.

Loyalty, honesty and a thick skin, emotional stability and control of one's words goes a long way to pushing conflicts out. The more calm and collected one remains, the more likely the antagonist will take out outrageous actions.

What about Taping?

What about taping? It is not evidence usable in court but it can be pretty damning. Today everyone with whom you speak is potentially being recorded. We have lost our outer privacy and the freedom that goes with it. Tape in any of its forms offers first-hand evidence, that is, confession, admission, or even a previous stand. This can be a witch war breaker. Already our government, that is, the United States and all western nations, has every right to tape us secretly as part of any "terrorist" investigation. Actually, I do not believe any country will not allow taping. Remember, you always have the right to tape yourself.

How to Avoid Witch Wars

The truth is it's nearly impossible to avoid them where I live. I have been involved with one witch war or another since 1991. So has it been with the majority of the leaders in my fair city. Avoidance techniques need to be honed so that you do not become a target.

When entering an area, you can openly attend open events and introduce yourself. Once you have initiated contact, invite people to private dinners to talk with them. This is a wonderful way to begin building trust.

Your first goal is to detect toxic witches. A toxic witch is someone who creates events for their personal power and/or amusement. Heralds are commonly a toxic witch. They never have anything truly positive to say and that is the giveaway. If they are gossiping about others, they will gossip about you.

Practitioners of Bitchcraft are really a lot of fun. They are usually the keepers of the cool, masters and mistresses of the inner social circle. If you treat them nicely, they praise you. Piss them off, they will shatter you. If you meet a bitchwitch give them plenty of room and always have a compliment ready. I have met Bitchwitches who are great community builders and others who are dark and cultish. If you respect them, they will tell you their rules. Keep them and you will have a powerful, subtle ally.

The Point of Winning a Witch War

A win ultimately occurs when you can do tasks and do so without interference. Be it as an individual or as a group, the ability to use one's resources freely and be able to present them without interruption is really what peace is all about.

When antagonists win, they gain a peace to build the community according to their structures and standards. If the target wins, they receive much of the same. In either case, the lowest common denominator behavior is established. The common denominator is the worst behavior of the victor during the witch war. Peace is dependent on the worst action of the conflict preceding it.

As a target, you should realize that you are likely doing the right thing and that accomplishing your goal is paramount. Even if you fail, you know you have tried your hardest and that is really why we live this.

Witch Wars

Introduction of Part 2:

I don't take witch wars lightly. It is not a sport for the bored among us. It is not some afternoon entertainment to amuse soap opera queens and drama divas. I don't take Witches and Pagans lightly either. I accept and realize they do have abilities beyond the normal ken of life, and, even on a mundane level, they are a psychologically powerful group. I don't take Christians lightly. I accept them as they state, which is that they pretty clearly identify us as a source of sin and possible recruits at the minimum, and a full fledged enemy at the extreme. Anyone who says that any of this is just for fun or kicks does not truly appreciate the complexity and power within a witch war.

First, I do believe and accept the psychic, mystical, and spiritual power of an individual, and that an individual can have a great deal of control over these powers. Second, I further believe that these powers can be called many different sources and yet have a similar effect. Third, I believe that these powers can be used for good or evil, if you enjoy that nomenclature. In truth, I prefer beneficial or baneful as a paradigm description of the use of these powers. I feel it is more direct. When I discuss all possible forces that are used in witch wars, I accept that these powers are a part of the mix.

I also believe that the mind can be tricked and directed at another's whim. I believe in neurolinguistic programming, hypnosis, hypnotic trances, subliminal messages, repetition messaging, state change technology, and even the ability to alter a person's behavior. I surely know these technologies exist and are used against us on a moment by moment basis. Anyone who trains in these arts and technologies will use them in a witch war.

Beyond this I believe there are powers I have no knowledge of and any capability of understanding at this phase of my development--that there are individuals who do know powers and technologies that I am completely unaware of. Considering this, there is no reason to expect these tools will not be used in engaging in the conflicts among pagans. It is possible that the Gods and Goddesses are playing their own version of witch wars. I believe that this is possible.

Make no bones about it, I believe that a witch war is not merely a psychological conflict between groups but a truly mystic conflict that can exist on many levels, and can take place at different levels of our reality. The conflict does not happen on the physical level alone nor can these conflicts be confined to the level of the physical alone. Conflict can occur on several planes, levels, or states as you desire to think of them. These events can occur simultaneously, or they can be scattered across time and space.

When thinking about Witchcraft, Wicca, Magick, and about engaging yourself in a witch war, understand the level at which that conflict can occur. To consider anything less than what I have pointed out here, is an insult to the forces that most pagans claim dear, and you do so at your own risk. It reminds me of one of my favorite jokes:

Lord Proper: I challenge you to a Battle of Wits

Me: Sorry, I don't fight unarmed men.

The moral of the joke, don't be unarmed. Keep your wits with you always.

Most of the pagans who fight have all the skill and finesse of a stampeding rhino, and have simple, straight forward attacks. If you are reading this, you are very likely beyond this stage. If not, you better learn quickly, lest you be driven off the cliff. If you are reading this, then you are hopefully looking for the rarest thing in Pagandom--A Witches Peace. I hope this will help you get a little closer to this Utopian Ideal.

In Perfect Love and Perfect Trust

Funny words to see in a manual about witch wars, but it should not be. Before any conflict begins there is a moment when you have to weigh the consequences of your actions. Equally important are you following your true self, that part which dedicated yourself to your path. For me that is In Perfect Love and Perfect Trust. I believe that love is the most powerful emotion in the universe as we know it. It has power to change us all if we allow it, and where love flourishes you can build trust. Where love and trust walk hand in hand, you have peace and growth. It's the image of the community I desire to live in.

In order to pursue my American Dream, my following a path that is in alignment with the ideas behind the Constitution and our Declaration of Independence, I have to gather resources by working and by sharing my dream. In sharing my dreams I have learned about all sorts of things and I became an online internet educator. My Wiccan faith has allowed me to find a certain peace, and sharing it helps develop resources from people who share my vision of a society based on Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

Occasionally, I get attacked for my position and at those times I am tested. The testing is to remember I seek peace at all times. My goal is to educate, teach, share, love and learn, and not in any specific order. I am looking to be the best person I can be and to allow myself to reach out to be in contact with those who share a similar world view. I want to be able to be free to speak as I will and be able to live a life filled with wonder, magick, and even a little mystery and strangeness. I love my life and trust I am going somewhere absolutely amazing, to live a whole and full life everyday. So when I am attacked I need to restate my core, my real life, and I just chuckle and laugh.

It's funny, because I have been involved with witch wars every year since I have been a Priest, ever since 1989. That's right; I who profess a desire for a society of Perfect Love and Perfect Trust have had to play the psychological conflict known as a witch war. Not once, not twice, but at least once a year, every year. Now, since my goal is to seek peace, I needed to learn ways to create solutions towards answering the problem of witch wars.

In 1993, I started learning that witch wars were repetitive and that they were patterned over all the community. So I decided to study the ideas of witch wars and stretch my skills in discovering techniques that can bring them to an end. Ever since then I have been learning, and then teaching, techniques to answer and find ways to end conflicts within the community.

At first I tried negotiations, open arms, consensus building and spiritual democracy. That just got me beaten up but with a reputation for being an event builder. Then I tried to be an asshole, nasty dirt fighter, and I succeeded for a while until I despised what I was becoming. Then I decided the best way to be a witch warrior is to embrace Perfect Love and Perfect trust. I learned to build a defense, a way to assure that my resources and my projects are not destroyed by these aggressive antagonists. It is not completely their fault they are patterned to fight and be aggressive. For some people it is trained, for others it is just chemical, and for even more people it is a way to personal power. I simply trust that people will react from their deep seated needs, and if they do, I will need to defend myself from time to time. My belief and trust in the basic innate truth of my Wiccan faith tells me I will survive anything thrown at me.

When you are doing the right thing, for the right reasons, in service of perfect love and under perfect trust, no matter what happens, it will turn out as it was destined to be. We can not understand everything but with Deity's help we can understand how to live a better life now. So witch wars become a place we find our morals, ethics and values tested to the utmost and when we pass through the fires of conflict we will know the truth and the strength of our convictions.

So, when you must fight, fight well, fight hard and fight to win. Fight until peace returns and restore love and trust to all involved. Give honor to those who have fought for freedom, liberty and justice, and know that you too are a warrior for freedom loving people seeking justice and liberty everywhere.

It's that simple, to be a good warrior is to be the best answer for peace and, through peace, we can achieve perfect love and perfect trust. Being a true warrior is to be someone who seeks to restore peace and assure life is safe.

People are Not Rational

People are not rational, logical, controllable entities. They are creatures of passion, of open thoughts, moved by inner needs. To expect people to think similar to you just because you see yourself as rational and logical is hubris. Rational thought is just a matter of perspective.

I am not a rational, logical creature that can be easily predicted or provoked. I am a fully aware human being who accepts that he has had experiences that have created filters through which all life is moved to be organized somehow into an active mind, trained to interpret this material through a self-actualized paradigm. To put this concept into simpler terms--I learned to think for myself and that isn't always rational.

It is easy to find a flaw in other's people thinking. It is harder to find out how their thoughts make sense to them. This is crucial to expanding your consciousness, your ability to think for yourself. You need to allow yourself to agree to listen and accept another person's view as having some value and comparing it against your own. Learning what makes sense to other people makes you acutely aware of your understanding of what makes sense to you.

When dealing with people, once you understand what makes sense to them, you can better communicate with them, even if it does not make sense to you. You work to understand a person's reason for their position and why they feel this is sensible and well within normal behavior. The more you understand, the better you can better explain your position.

But, before you explain your position, you need to understand the other person. Yet, that is not enough. You also must make sure the other person feels they are understood. By explaining back their position to them, they can examine your interpretation and agree that you have gotten it the way they meant. Or they can correct it. Eventually the person agrees that you understand their position.

Now you can stop here, and basically understand the problem of dealing with good old-fashioned people because we are all different in our thinking. It's why it is crucial for us to feel we have been understood. When the other person agrees you understand their position, he or she will be more open to your explanation. Having taken this time, you can explain your position, taking into consideration their thought processes. Depending on the goal, you assert your own position without intensifying the conflict, and you can defuse any anger or jagged emotions.

If you are saying "no," in response, and we all have a bit of trouble saying no, it's okay. Learning to say "no" does not mean we do not pay attention to their feelings and sensitivities. Make it quick and firm, and do not allow yourself to be dragged into further conflict. No is No, and the consequences begin immediately on the moment "no" is understood.

A key concept to understand is that, the more details and explanations you give, the weaker you sound and the more inclined others will be to argue with you. Making clean, sharp decisions is essential, and makes for better long-term decisions.

If it is a change of behavior you are after, you need to explain the impact that their actions are having on you and others. Once they understand the impact of their actions, tell them what you want them to do. Clearly request what behavior you desire.

Since people are not rational, you may be facing anger at this point. Should you resist that anger? No. Do not resist anger, defuse it instead. People who are angry expect you to resist. The very act of listening rather than resisting often defuses anger.

If you can continue the conversation, when you express consequences, it is far better to explain the benefits of cooperating than the costs of resisting. It is your best bet, and offers support in

their growing desire to improve. This works wonders and is a really clean and honest way to function in perfect love and trust.

It sometimes takes time, patience, and repetition. Going through the process several times on an issue is not uncommon. It takes time to make real changes. But this technique can be used to help defuse anger quickly and help gain understanding with less than rational people. But remember, knowing when to stop talking is as important as knowing when to start.

What are the Key Elements of a Witch War?

You need a target, an antagonist, an agreement that can divide people, and a willing audience to make it worthwhile. As witch wars have an interactive component, they are improved by willing participants and individuals who will be heralds and even amplifiers.

You can't have a witch war unless you have an antagonist. You need someone who starts the conflict, and it can be done quite intentionally or by accident. It merely has to be a statement that another will find offensive and feel they must personally correct. If there is any single element of a witch war then there is this...one person feels they must not allow another individual to continue to be able to have a voice in the community. This is the core element. Without it, all these conflicts would fade as phantoms of discontent unworthy of attention.

Once you have an antagonist, then you need a target. This is an individual who is to be attacked, made the centerpiece, the star of our psychological play. A target must be someone who has an opinion that divides people or some action or event that can be designated as such. The person must be willing to fight over it, and must be willing to publicly defend the statement, action or event against all the antagonists that emerge. A target must decide if the battle is needed or required or pull back off the play's main story line.

Now you have an antagonist, a target, and what comes next is the storyline or 'the dividing argument.' The dividing argument is one that people can take sides on. An example of this argument is found in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* with the Lilliputians and their argument of which side a soft boiled egg must be opened on. They used poor Gulliver as an amplifier, a way to increase the conflict. The Lilliputians asked Gulliver what side to open an egg. But the argument was perfect because it was possible to say one way or the other, and be hardened in the position. It was a tradition position and no matter how insignificant, it became an argument where you can say my way or no way. That is a 'dividing argument,' or an argument which can allow individuals to take a position in opposition to another individual or group.

Now we have the Storyline (dividing argument), Star (target) and the Antagonist. Like any good play, we also need an audience. It's the driving force behind this performance. We want people to know what is going on and to pay attention. In the world today that is the most single important resource that exists, the ability to create an audience. If you can prove you can produce an audience, you have power in today's entertainment-saturated world. Every witch war worth being called a witch war needs to have an audience.

Once all the factions are gathered, the play begins, and, depending on the initial actions and statements, we have the rules. However, because most witch wars are improvisational, we do not know what path the whole conflict will follow. Only someone who is so skilled at witch wars, a Director, can truly lead from the shadows to have the play come out as he or she chooses. A Director can even handle improvisation enough to get it back to their own personal storyline. Fortunately, these people are exceedingly rare, and, even more rarely test their powers. At this point, the play is open, improvisational in nature, and drags in game elements to have the actors seek a way to get their time before the audience. At this stage, the driving force is to reach the audience with their version of the storyline, called the argument. Without an audience, a witch war becomes a private disagreement and the damage possible is very limited.

Therefore, one of the earliest defense techniques is to limit the audience. By denying an antagonist a willing audience, the battle will drop. The phrases, "Doesn't anybody care?" or "It seems only I care about this" are signs that an audience is not forming. Another line, "If you understood it the way I do, you would realize the problem" is that of a person seeking and fishing for an audience. Whenever you hear these terms, realize that an audience is at best cool or can be down right cold.

If an audience can be found, and sometimes, even when one is unable to be discovered, you go to the Heralds. A herald is an individual known to the community as someone who has all the gossip and is willing to dish it out. In fact, a Herald's position in the community can be based on this sole ability. They carry a story to the right ears and can get it in front of the largest possible audience that may be receptive.

An Amplifier is one of two players in a witch war. One type can be an individual who adds more information that can bring a new level to the conflict. Their information may support the dividing question, and force the individuals of the audience to make another decision or choice. The second type escalates the intensity of the argument or increases the audience of the argument. Both types can change the tempo of the play, and make it more exciting.

I will admit something for those who ask me, how do I know this? I am a herald when I need to be, and I am in control of one of the world's largest amplifiers. Any argument I choose can be entered into and discussed globally. In terms of this part of the manual, I have the ability to take a witch war storyline, and take the dividing argument, state it clearly so that it becomes a "yes" or "no" choice, and provide people who want to know about these arguments. I can then point out the antagonist or target to them. Furthermore, if I choose, I can make it a storyline that can be published to people all over the world who have a interest in this. When I am a target, and I can not reason with the antagonist, I become my own herald and create the dividing argument, restating it in my terms, and then seeking an audience and exposing the antagonist to this audience. These actions help prevent some conflicts, and encourage others.

Therefore, these are the Key Elements of a witch war. Now, if you have been observant, you will have noticed I forgot one part that any reasonable playwright would never forget. But in witch wars it is so rare to find that it goes forgotten. If you think about it, you may understand how problematic it can be.

An Ending. A dividing argument can include an ending, but usually it's so ambiguous as to be bypassed. People don't know when to say that was great and clap. This is why witch wars generally seem like soap operas and occasionally a mini-series. A witch war with an ending is our equivalent of our action movie.

Why do Witch Wars Need an Audience?

Without an Audience witch wars would be no fun.

Without Participants there wouldn't be a show.

So witch wars require participants and an audience to achieve maximum effect. Audience is a crucial aspect of witch wars. Witch wars can create names faster than anything else except publishing. So a good witch warrior ranks just below published writers and community leaders. In fact, many Community leaders are respected witch warriors themselves.

Audience = The number of people who will access your data and information for their personal reasons. From private conversations to global broadcasting an audience is

nothing more than the number of people paying attention to you.

Audiences are also the primary source of material, financial, and resources. The larger the audience the more likely you can sell a certain amount of product or guarantee attendance. Building an audience is crucial to your ability to defend any attack quickly. Power is about controlling the audience.

Audiences are the reason witch wars can resemble soap operas. People love hearing the tale of it all. They even get to do bit parts in the best and most encompassing epic Operatic conflicts. It is all very exciting.

What is Antagonist?

The word “antagonist” will be defined and used throughout this book in this way:

“Antagonists are individuals who, on the basis of nonsubstantive evidence, go out of their way to make insatiable demands, usually attacking the person or performance of others. These attacks are selfish in nature, tearing down rather than building up and frequently directed against those in a leadership capacity.”

P.21-22, Antagonist in the Church, Haugh, 1988, Augsburg Press.

What is Pagan antagonism? It is the disruption of normal and special events in the individuals' lives based on actions taken by an antagonist. The purpose of the disruption is to create a situation in which the antagonist improves their position or brings down some else's.

Not everyone is an antagonist, even if they act antagonistically at times. Isolated behaviors do not make on an antagonist. It is the insatiable quality of the attack that drags the problem out for a long time.

So What's a Director?

A Director is an individual who understands all the key elements of a witch war, writes a script, and hands it to the antagonist, and, occasionally, to the target. Directors initiate the events and then, through the intelligent use of heralds, amplifiers, bit players, and interactive parts of the audience, keep the actors to their hidden script. As some point, the final act is set up, and the play comes to a point where deep consequences are possible and the various actors are forced off the stage until someone wins, the final choice has been made, and the play closes. Directors know their masterpieces and may or may not share them. It's their most hidden power, and does become a way for them to attack the community and never be seen.

Where do directors share their information?--with other directors and then they also challenge each other. The Director's Guild of Witch Wars & Community Interaction doesn't really exist, but a informal one does. You can find it at all the major festivals.

Introducing the Recruiter

Each faction in a witch war begins taking on cult aspects after the battle has lasted at least a few volleys. When the groups fall into a truce or stalemate, the groups can start to require loyalty oaths, pledges, and focused structures. The earliest form of this is the Recruiter. At some point an antagonist or a target realizes (or just believes) that they will need numbers to win. In comes the recruiter. This begins the cult-like structure of a witch war in the long-term entrenchment phase.

The recruiters' greatest assets are their looks, their ability to act, and their connections. They appear as knowledgeable and mysterious members of the community—aloof and daring. They are usually great talkers but do not appear slick. Once they give you attention, they are focused on one objective, and that is for you to join their group. They want you on their side.

They do not just want your good words or opinion; they want your total attention. With it comes your energy, your resources, and all that you value in your community. The recruiter wants you to join their groups, their events, and their friendships. They want you to change your frame of reference and see they are more fully sharing your beliefs and thus are your closest ally. After all, you have become friends.

How to Be Aware of Being Recruited

In being recruited you are approached by a friend or relative who is already a member, by a stranger who befriends you or through an event. They approach you naturally, honestly and openly. Very few people suspect they're being recruited.

Basically, the recruiter, posing as a herald, will give you the witch war story line, supporting information, and the dividing question. Then they ask for your opinion. No matter the answer, they are preparing you to be indoctrinated into the conflict and add you to the audience, at the very least. Once they have you this far, you find yourself compelled to listen.

What a recruiter looks for is a way to connect. They are looking for a channel to your unconscious mind. They seek to find a vulnerable time or place in your life, and will offer to help with that vulnerability, without ever naming a price or program. You will accept it and soon discover they hold a part of you. This is the moment you become one of the cause, a member of their circle, and join them against all others. By this point, the community knows which side you have chosen. That is the secret price.

What is A Witch Judge?

Another culty creature that gets established is the Witch Judge. A witch judge is someone who claims to know what a witch is and is invested by some authority to be able to declare who is and is not a witch. Because of the irrefutable nature and correctness of the embodied authority that cloaks the individual, no one else has this power to accurately judge these things. A witch judge alone has the necessary skills and insight, as well as status, to judge who is and is not a witch. Then they cast judgment, name a sentence, and expect all other true witches will support them or be charged as a false witch next.

This embodied authority is the core of British Traditionalist organizations, Gardnerian Groups, Alexandrian and Georgian Traditions. It is the central key authority of Covenant of the Goddess, the biggest of all Witch Judging Organizations in the world. The idea and control of saying who is and is not a witch looks powerful but is like catching the wind and calling it your own.

The counterbalancing force to a witch judge is the Eclectic movement which honors and respects no centralized authority or lineage. The title of "witch" is for anyone who says they are. This means no established standard can or will ever be recognized as the core of all witches and Pagans.

Techniques in Early Prevention:

Getting to know the community, and the leadership, is the best and easiest way to begin understanding people.

As part of my education on Pagans, I kept notes so that I can remember later. It's important to remember names and special dates. This level of respect and courtesy will win more friends than any other technique. It is because people want to feel important and remembered, to be honored with simple recognition they are alive.

If you send out birthday cards and other Hallmark moments you will assure some measure of good will from the majority of people. For those who practice this old fashioned courtesy will get farther than a majority of rude humanity.

Taking it to the next step is inviting people to coffee, cocktails, and even dinner parties. Any way you can get a personal moment with a person under pleasant circumstances, you are building a personal tie with them. You are being honestly friendly.

Personally, I love dinner parties. I love hosting them and I love having guests who can talk intelligently over a wide range of subjects. Since I host small dinners, an invitation is welcomed and taken advantage of. I always make sure that at least one person is new to nearly everyone else, like the time I had a physicist from Fermi visiting for the weekend. Listening to ceremonial magicians, hard core Wiccan ritualists, and a Doctor of Physics talking around long and regular shots of tequila is something you never quite forget. Such events build good will. That's crucial to have in preventing a witch war.

In another vein, building a factual basis for your stories and your credentials is important. What I mean by this is that you can get photographs and autographs as memoirs. They come in handy when someone says: prove it. Where there is evidence, no one can deny. Since so many of our community do feel who you know is as important as what you know, physical evidence works wonders.

Write your own event reviews. If no one else writes up your event, you can. It allows you to represent your feelings and spin on the event. Post it to a website or send it out to magazines, ezines, even newspapers. Publishing any review and sending it out begins a favorable paper trail.

Run the local newsletter. If you run the central newsletter, you can assure your events are out in public. You can build bridges by creating pro-community positive news articles. The more you can be seen promoting local groups, the less likely some will start a conflict with you needlessly. When they do, you have a natural forum, in which to get your side out.

Positive Early Defense Builders

The Power of Boldness

I discovered that being bold is sometimes the best way to begin a healing process. In January 1994, I invited all of Chicago's pagan leaders to attend a conference free of charge. People thought I was mad and no one would attend. But it worked out, and 55 people attended this event. They came nervous and ready to fight.

Instead of declaring some new order of things or any equally egotistical declaration, I simply said the community has leadership. Then I handed the conference back to the Chicago leaders to talk about themselves to each other. They loved the event and I believe it began to heal some deep old wounds.

Being bold has its own greatness, and may go against common wisdom. When it succeeds, boldness creates wonders.

There is a thin line between being bold and being brash. When you are being brash, you are working from ego and may be acting in a way to cause others to see you as too risky or dangerous to deal with. Being bold recognizes limits; brashness recognizes only its own place in the world and not one wit about limits.

When you succeed at being bold, be humble. This makes it doubly rewarding and beneficial. You can recognize your limits and your contribution without demanding a parade for your good deeds. A little respect and occasional thank you serves the bold and the humble. It is this type of behavior that is rewarded with something truly important. That is control and access to resources. Being a bold and humble person makes you a prime candidate to be an excellent witch warrior.

Be Assertive, Accept Credit

Bragging does not impress anyone—but neither does false modesty. It is important we accept credit for what we do. We must stop saying things like I got lucky or anyone could have. Instead, we need to say thank you, I worked hard and I am pleased with the outcome, too.

When you deflect a complaint, you are refusing a gift. Accept their gifts and do not play small. Being bold and humble is about accepting small gifts, so others can share your joy and glory. Shared joy is the mother of peace, and kin of hope. Sharing joy is a humbling experience.

Creating Truce Zones: Being in More Neutral Space

The community moves from a eclectic openness to central authority to secretive trads to eclectic structures once more as the mood strikes them. The Trads/Groups who stake themselves out between these two polar forces will inevitably see the most amount of traffic. Pagan Pride is an example of an organization that sits between all groups and is a great place for low-level witch wars and truce zones.

Truce Zones are those events in which everyone is invited to come and, more importantly, no one is allowed to discriminate against them. Pagan Expos, Witches Balls, and Pagan Leadership Conferences are examples of truce zones. Pagan Pride is the largest producer of truce zones in the community today.

Truce zones can also create Boycott Tactics. They can be attacked if a number of people or groups stay away to deny a sense of success. It is an effective denial of attendance and size. Pagan Pride suffers from this as well when competitive groups stage PPD events against each other. While the event is a truce zone, they can establish warring camps with conflicting dates

and basically create a dividing argument. This is a Northeast United States Tactic and a increasing in popularity in the Midwest.

I love building truce zones. They are among the best defense tactics you can employ. Basically, a truce zone brings Pagans together to enjoy something you can do only with numbers. A picnic, an expo, a garage sale, a fund-raising dinner, a witches ball, are all examples of events that benefit from larger numbers. They also have very little political value except to benefit the hosts' image. Nothing of true political value will occur, at least on the surface.

The biggest temptation will be to blackball the worst of the community in order to have the best.

To build a truce zone you want to design an event where everyone is invited to attend, that has a core event that is fun to a largest number of people, and has no overt political significance.

Creating a True Consensus

The true consensus comes from wisdom and respect. When one recognizes what they know and more importantly what they do not know, they can see limits to their ability to know everything and must eventually cooperate with others. Consensus emerges when each person is allowed to work to their strengths and get help with their weaknesses.

An example of this would be how I must deal with programmers. I don't understand much of the arcane art of programming and I am at their mercy a bit and so they think they can play me. Not so, for I consistently ask questions and receive promises and evaluations of projects. I work together with them, asking when they will complete a project. This technique is effective because I show how their work affects everyone else's work.

Leadership Secret: People are happier to know they have a place in society, a duty to serve, and respect for doing a job well done. A leader assures that the place, duty and respect are available for each person who wants to share in their vision.

Volunteer Management: It is rare that a volunteer will want to do the job they are paid to do. Few accountants want to be Church treasurer. An accountant by day is more likely to desire to be security or ritual leader, simply because it is more exciting than the day job. A cop, while willing to do security, may instead want to serve in the kitchen or be a counselor. Be aware of this when placing volunteers. They want to have an experience that they can talk about during their day jobs and employment.

Common Arguments to Start a Witch War

The Satanic Interfaith Argument

Should we reach out and embrace our Satanic brothers and sisters.

The Christian Witch Argument

In the end, this will be one of the major thrusts of the neo-Christian sect. Christianity's syncretic nature will allow it to devour large parts of Wiccan theology as practice and spit out the freedom-independence represented in Wicca.

The Hindus are not real Pagans Argument

This is to say, Hindus don't consider themselves pagans and, therefore, are not. This means they need not be included in making a pagan community in your area. This allows the groups to remain mostly white Europeans and to include an occasional Hispanic or African American.

Where Matriarchy Rules...

No Man shall hold true power.

The Drug Front

While rare, certain groups can be drug fronts for one or more members.

50 Dirty Tricks That Everyone Knows and Still Falls For?

All dirty tricks are established based on the fact that they are quick and they work. It's like a magician's sleight-of-hand, they almost always produce the desired result.

1. Did you hear what they are saying about you? This is a great way for a Herald or Antagonist to begin their game. The answer they are seeking is "No, what?" and have you open yourself up to suggestion.

2. Did you hear what they are saying about so and so? This is similar to number 1, but they are hoping that you will herald or amplify the message to the target and the audience.

3. Did you hear they are closing the store or center? This one places doubt in your mind, and unless you go and find out, you will think the store or center has closed. It will allow you to shut it out of your mind, and even pass this on, without knowing the truth. Sometimes, it takes years for the target to discover they were deceived.

4. You were not properly initiated. This raises hackles all the time, and should warn you of an elitist attack. They want to cast you as something less than an accepted Wiccan by their standards.

5. There was a secret council of the real Wiccan leaders and they say... Let me say I fell for this one for years. I hunted them down and discovered I knew every single one of them and no secret council ever existed. I have done this to other rumors of secret councils. This one smacks of conspiracy and secret hidden power we may have, and is an invisible hand discrediting you.

6. They only want the money? It's one that goes to say the target is greedy and selfish, and has no spiritual value as we all know money is evil and they want money. It's nonsense we fall for over and over again.

7. You don't charge money to teach the craft? It's the little brother of 6. It basically says that only Pagans who are wealthy can really teach. Anyone who has enough wealth can host a group, and they can keep the members poorer than themselves. No one can ever challenge them and because no one can afford to.

8. Spells for greedy purposes always fail. It's terribly Pollyanna and guess what, if spells work for good, then, yes, they can work for evil. It's not one or the other, it really is both possibilities.

9. 'Wow, you really are timid (coward, scared). You can't be a Witch until you do <insert action>: The idea is to prove your Witch status by doing some action that is likely stupid, unnecessary, and will make you look foolish.

10. Call the Department of Family Services, and report that these parents are brainwashing their kids in Satanism. The Government is required to investigate abuse, so they have to respond.

11. Call the Police or Fire department during a ritual. The police or fire department has to answer, they have no choice.

12. Out a Pagan to their families or co-workers. This one forces you to deal with all the problems of being a Witch coming out all at once, and put you under extreme pressure. The idea is some of your relations will suffer, and you will weaken in time and energy.

13. Casting spells and pointing out superstitions on Friday the 13th: This one I must say I do a lot, and I just love it. People will believe anything under the right frame of mind, and Friday the 13th is just one of those psychological undercurrents I can't completely leave alone. Basically, a Witch can pull the meanest jokes on Friday the 13th.

14. Tell someone to wear their robes to a coffee shop event. Basically, say robes are accepted to newbies to events where most people will be in street clothes. It can be embarrassing, almost like being overdressed.

15. Give out the Target's phone number to nutty or psychotic people. This sends people who are just whacky or worse to you and gets them off their back.

16. Give someone a funny but disrespectful nickname based on their magickal name, and share it widely. I did this with Frozen Poultry, one of the most prevalent of all nicknames. For a long time I was Fast Eddie, the used Card salesman. I was a tarot reader at the time. They work, ask any kid.

17. Rumored Cancellation of an event: This dirty trick is so simple that it is biological and viral in it's nature. Basically an anonymous source declares the event is cancelled mere days or even hours before the event occurs. It spreads like wildfire and the target has to resell the event by quelling the rumor.

18. Rumored Drug bust/Police at Event: Claims that a drug bust will take place at the event or narcs are passing through. Some claim that the police are coming to disrupt the event and you risk arrest by attending.

19. Rumored FBI/CIA/Secret Police at an Event: The idea is that the oppressive gov't regime is sending spies into an event to collect information, faces, and evidence. If you are there you may be discovered by the secret governmental forces.

20. Rumored Violence: The rumor states some sort of violence, from a fist fight, to a gangland hit, to a full fledged rumble. It can be over husband and wife, over money stolen or owed, over lovers, over a magickal spell, even simple revenge. The rumor of violence and the reason have to be titillating to get passed on. The underlying purpose is to say if you attend , you may witness violence and even get hurt yourself.

21. Rumor of an event to be Boring: Not the harshest rumor but insidiously effective. After all being bored is the worst, I mean we can be bored at home more comfortably. A boring event is simply not worth going to.

22. Rumor of an event being expensive: The idea that it's unfair they are charging for the event, and the price is too expensive. It does not matter the price really because anything not free is too expensive to this Herald.

23. Rumor of Psychic Vampires at events: Well, you see these energy vampires always come to these events. Last time out one of the vampires drained one of my friends, and they were drained of energy for a week. I heard some people have gotten worse than that. See, they attack without you even knowing, you will be just having a good time. You will just get tired. ...this is to create the idea of the attack is insidious.

24. Rumors of Curses to be at event attendees.: basically a group (sometime for effect a previously unknown Voodoo, Santeria, etc group, not like us Western Pagans) has casted a curse upon the ritual/event and anyone who attends the event will be potentially cursed or harmed. The basic purpose is to state that attendees will be cursed.

25. Send in a secret Saboteur: This helps extend any rumor by allowing the person pass it inside the remnants of the event. It is really effective with a Cursed scenario and mention each mistake and accident. It makes people nervous, unconsciously, and of course increases the mistakes. Heralds would simple do the rest unknowingly set up.

26. Rumors of Christian Protestors: This rumor is used to frighten the timid and non-confrontational while attracting the angry firebrands and activists, who will be squirreling for a fight. This has an effect of creating a hostile environment and has long term paranoia and disruption factors.
27. Rumors that the event is simply low class: It is said that the people throwing the event are low class, white trash, Durban Poor, Ghetto, or any number of hurtful labels. To be seen at the event is to imply you are also low class (and I will always attend an event that is allegedly low-class...they are the most fun).
28. Threat with being a Pariah: basically the threat is you don't do what I say, I will make sure you will be made outcast.
29. Threaten to sue them....enough said.
30. Threaten to file a police report...again, enough said.
31. Threaten to shoot them. This generally fails with Pagans.
32. Threaten to shoot their kids or loved ones. It happened and I withdrew my kids from public events with strangers for over two years over a particularly believable threat. It's a dirty trick and nothing you can do but fall for it.
33. Get pissed off and yell at the antagonist publicly, even threaten them. It always works the same, the antagonist speaks quietly with the most poisonous and toxic fighting words designed to needle you hard. You fly off the handle and looks like you just screamed at this person for no good reason. You might even threaten them, and that is then in front of witnesses.
34. Tell everyone you got hit by target or antagonist. People react to violence, and even if they deny it, you can call them a liar. I despise this trick as I despise violence whenever possible.
35. Subscribe them to all sorts of magazines. This does two things, floods you with magazines you are not interested in, and hurts your credit rating when you dispute the bills.
36. Call the Jehovah's witnesses and ask for a counselor to stop buy.
37. Call the Mormons and order the book of Mormons. They are very persistent.
38. Post a suicide article on the net about target. When this happened I had dozens of people calling me if it was true I was going to commit suicide after reading a spoof article someone made. The same day as my group made the front page in the Chicago Tribune. Paganism can be so bittersweet.
39. Send in an imposter. This is useful when someone who is just entering the community or is not really well known they can grab at identities from other parts of the country or world. Especially if you talk about magickal names and people with just nicknames. The imposter pretends they were there or sometimes is someone completely different than who they are.
40. Pretend to be a reporter. When this works people disclose a lot of information, especially being susceptible to pressure for a good story. Then they are told to listen or watch for themselves to be seen. It is a double ended barb, one you reveal all sorts of information and secondly, you are embarrassed when you don't show up in the press like you thought and told others. Then the barbs gets ripped out, when you discover you were set up, and you are at the end of a very cruel practical joke.

41. Create a rumor of Sexually Transmitted Diseases: This is of course devastating, and enough said.
42. Put ad in local sexually oriented contact magazine. This will be of a sexual persuasion that the target is not, and kind of create a possibility of personal embarrassment and/or humiliation.
43. Offer someone a sexual favor and steal their clothes. This is funny to out and out outrageous. Depends where and when. But I have seen pants stolen in bars, full outfits in the forest, and seen and have heard every variation.
44. The claim of a Curse casted on the individual target. The more people who talk about it, the more entrenched the idea becomes, and it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.
45. Creating Nude Photo's of the Prudish. Basically your head is put on a nude body. It's funny but it really can bother you, if you have low body self-esteem.
46. Create a doppelganger of your target. Take a close name at yahoo, hotmail, or other basically free service. Do this quietly then you can bring this character out to create havoc, making a person look like they said something they didn't. If the antagonist is pursued they can simply disband/delete the account.
47. Claim to fall in love with them, even sleep with them, and then drop them publicly. I saw this when a group of girls saw this guy hurt several of them. The real pretty girl went after this guy (and a coven of young female witches casting love spells) and he fell in love with her. Finally after a few weeks he wants to marry her, and he has been basically manipulated by her friends, often through their male friends to propose at some public function. Then he does do this proposing publicly, and every scorned girl came out. She smiled and said no, and all these women just laughed as they broke their love spell. Six wishbones were broken, and that's a sound quite unexpected, and I heard this guy's heart scream. He was torn up in front of everyone. He smiled, laughed, and got out of the event. He got a job on the coast about a month later. He left pretty quiet.
48. Pass out Voodoo dolls with the targets face as party favors or gifts to some situation. If it's a roast it's hysterical, if it's a Halloween party a little scary, and a revenge divorce party, well I would not want to be you.
49. Drawing funny Caricatures and place them up on every post and public place. Make sure it's funny, understandable, and does not directly point at the target. It's insidious in how this works.
50. Call the FBI/CIA and state that the target is running a mind cult: This happened to me, I had it reported that I was a suicide cult and we were planning a mass suicide. Then whoever reported that, did the same to Jack Armstrong and accused him of being Star Temple, and stated I called the FBI. It made a huge mess for all of us for a few days, and the FBI walked away happy. Never did find out who did it.

Dealing with Antagonists

In dealing with antagonists, working at behaving in a professional manner, to which I mean to be consistent, responsible and self-controlled. It does not mean only if you are a leader, but everyone involved. Being in a position where mature, congruent behavior will serve you well, and will have an effect directly on how you feel about your own actions.

You may think that your reserved behavior will upset and even anger antagonists, and it might. Yet there is a greater chance they will learn to respect you.

Keeping your distance is important. Once you identified the antagonist you have every right to keep them separate of you. Do not run from antagonist but do not invite them to your hearth and home. It's perfectly acceptable to keep your distance, physically and emotionally from this individual.

Hold onto your glove. Do not bark challenges lightly. Every fight is potentially deadly, always dangerous, and assuredly disruptive to your organization or group. The antagonist desires you to react to them and you need to be assured that the antagonist's actions warrant action or you will be seen as belligerent. People less aware of the true destructive nature of the conflict may be drawn in. This is essential, be sure you time it right.

Learn to hold your tongue. It does not matter that an antagonist is provoking you, seeking your immediate response. The point is don't react yet. Responding quickly to attacks can be counterproductive and lowers your energies to their level. It can be seen as the antagonist got you with their insults and complaints. Use your tongue when you choose so, not when the antagonist demands.

What an antagonist will try to do to force you to acknowledge them? Here we have the first is public attacks and accusations. The problem is that any answer elevates the accusation to have a significance beyond what it deserves. Do not look for sympathy either, as weakness invites and prolongs the attack. Only through personal strength can it be repelled.

Nor allow yourself to be talked into a special committee to look into it, as this will make it more credible. You don't have to look unbiased at all times.

So do not be forced to respond against your desired will, avoid hunting sympathy, and don't allow yourself to accommodate special status to the problem. Otherwise you are adding energy to the accusers' authority and power.

Antagonists tend to attract an audience, sometimes even followers. The reason people join antagonists are many but here are a few:

- *People Mistake Antagonists for activists
- * Bad news is more exciting than good news
- * The truth is less exciting than gossip well told.
- *Some people are intimidated by antagonist.
- * Some follow out of a personal sense of loyalty.
- *Some follow because the antagonist makes them feel important.
- * Some believe in the antagonist's magick and charms.
- *A offer of tangible offer is promised.

In each case the antagonist is seen as an important and substantive person deserving of support. They gather strength to continue their assault against their enemies, imagined and real.

Antagonists have an uncanny ability to find power voids, which they subsequently rush to fill. Be careful as you grow and move that you fill in your cracks and power vacuums of any sort form.

Why has there been so much antagonism in Paganism? Because too often Pagans have felt that antagonists had to be placated and feel welcome. Our job is to make everyone feel better about themselves in a harsh and

ugly world, and even the most disruptive personality should be accommodated. After all, we are Gaia's children. While the idea of being universally open means accepting people as they are, it does not mean that you have to accept every behavior. Disruptive and destructive behavior is given huge berth within the community because no one considers it right to stop it.

Antagonism can never be truly stopped by one person, the entire group and community must agree to not accept disruptive behavior. Of course smaller groups can band together quicker and force antagonists out or at least mute their disruptions. It is obvious larger community structures are much more difficult to convince. That is why antagonism rolls on forever.

Again no one person in the community can stop the antagonist, it takes a community to do so. They need to stand strong, stand tall, and agree certain behaviors won't be tolerated. Once applying the rule, they don't flinch or feel bad about it. They recognize the long term health is based on improving relationships and antagonism is a toxin at every level of group relations. Banding together makes a huge difference.

Identify Antagonist Early:

All antagonist mark themselves early. While many people show some signs of being a potential antagonists, most do not carry out their actions. When you begin to see an accumulation of warnings you should act quickly, utilizing early defense techniques to stop them before problems are created.

Histories of attacks are a real good indicator. No matter what you believe, if an antagonist has attacked other leaders or groups before, they are more likely to attack yours. You can say I know how to stop it or It won't happen to me but in the end, most leaders will say I should have done something sooner.

Similar Group attacks are where an antagonist leaves your group alone behaves badly in other similar groups. They may belong to a healing circle where they are fighting. They May even gloat about it. Most antagonists have a need to boast and expand their audience.

The former Leader assault is insidiously simple. They down play, even insult lightly the previous leader. They identify what they did not like in them and why they were not good for the group. Then within a few breaths state they see you are a far better person and that I can relate to you. They will seek to create a bond, like our signs match or you have really good energies. It may feel great but it is a flaming sign when a person is attacking a person and simultaneously flattering you. Some day you will be the former leader and they will do the same to you.

The Group Hopper is someone who goes from group to group. This is not simply occupation or residence changes, I mean going from one practicing group to another in the same area. It's understandable to seek out groups you are compatible with, but too many different groups means they are not likely to be compatible with yours. They can also be a herald, bringing grief from other witch wars, and even a spy or recruiter. Group hoppers are someone to be careful with, for they are likely charming and friendly as well.

The Degree collector is someone who desires to learn everything and get their ranks as quickly as possible. They hold multiple degrees in multiple arts, and not they want to add yours. At one level, be grateful for here is a intelligent human being joining us. But my statement to you is to watch their behavior. If they are humble students you will know this quickly. They deserve respect and the education you promised them.

If they boast constantly and interrupt making a similar point in another Art style, then you have a collector. A collector desires the best collection of whatever they choose. A metaphysical Degree Hunter has a great time because it's so easy to get paper.

The Degree Collector when they finally attack does so from the belief they have collected a great deal of information. They do so with your degrees in hand, and tear you a part piece by piece with information from the arts and traditions they have degrees in. Once they complete this task, they will either leave for the next degree they are hunting or if they 'like' your group offer to stay on as a teacher. From there you can see what type of mess it can become.

Let me give you some fighting techniques...

What's at Stake?

Discover what it is you are fighting about. This is important because it's rarely what is being portrayed in the public fight. The conflict could be over a reputation, an event, or even a casual word. It can be something far more important. It could be devious. Identifying the real target of an antagonist, and his eventual perceived achievement, will tell you where the fight must be fought.

The Double Day Events

This is a great witch war technique, and can be very effective. Simply start a second event on the same day as another group, and watch what happens. People will do this to you to get at you and to harm your event's draw. If you do it, you are working on making it economically or personally unfeasible for your antagonist to continue. Unfortunately, depending on the size of the community and the quality of the events, the non-combatants can get very angry of being put in a position to choose and miss anything. Events are rare enough in our community and forcing the average laity pagan to make a choice between two leaders by attending their events makes them feel manipulated. Sometimes it even drives away trust.

However, sometimes you do not have a choice other than to create your own event, and the choices of days are limited. Witches Balls at Samhain are a perfect example. These are among the best fundraisers of the year and one of the most fun. Splitting the community on this is not always that difficult, especially when you can and do a wider-than-average crowd. Full moon, new moons are another matter and it can be a time when those limited resources are strained without enough participants. It is best to avoid same day if you share part of your community and group with other organizations.

The "Our Group Only Alone/Isolation" Technique

The individual leader or group states that by studying this tradition or path you forsake all others. This means they want you to resign from every other pagan group, remove yourself from committees, websites, etc. The reason is almost always that they want you to receive training untainted and uninfluenced by outside sources. It is because secrecy is required, and it even includes some secret ritual or information. This technique is especially common among Gardnerian-based groups.

There is value in asking people to not have more than one training group. Participation limited to recognize that group as primary can be a positive thing. It is when that focus becomes isolation from all aspects of the pagan community that it becomes something more dangerous, something unhealthy. It is here we see the grounds of a leader fearful of their innate position, and reinforcing control by limiting access to any opinion besides their own.

Resignation Technique

The resignation technique is used a lot to disrupt committees and groups. Basically the technique requires the individual, either antagonist or target, to resign, either publicly or privately. The private resignation is a real statement of disagreement and leaves a lot of questions unanswered but allows the group or committee to continue in some form. This is always a way to deny resources from a group but can cost you friends and social contacts.

A public resignation is nothing less than a statement to the public that this group is tainted and needs not exist. The resignation is supposed to lead to more resignations and eventually to busting the committee or group.

A similar technique is called Pushing the Resignation. Here the antagonist, and occasionally a target, will push for the resignation of a member. This is usually over some scandal or alleged offense and because the person failed to uphold some high standards of the group. The goal is to remove an obstacle and gain greater control over the committee or group. The reasons are varied. I have even seen whole committees resign leaving thousands of dollars of publicly raised money fall into the antagonist's hands for their private use. It happened to the Pagan Leadership Conference in Chicago, as it took out one president after another in a violent and psychological conflict, until the money and the antagonist were all that remained. It was around a 4 grand heist made legally and with the blessings of Illinois Law. It was heart-breaking to watch.

Passive tactics:

Attending in silence: This is really effective for creating a damper. It allows an event to occur, all maximum support through attendance, but withdrawing your voice and others takes away a lot of energy. It is not directly confrontational.

Leaving at ritual's End: Effective to avoid confrontations and ways to create a vacuum. In many cases, the vacuum created will cause the opponent to explain why they believed you or your group left early. Heralds love this and spies know this is a crucial moment. True antagonists with very little encouragement and believing themselves among friends, will reveal the evil plot/ugly confrontation to show the 'new' people how smart the antagonist is, or put upon if it's a sympathy plea. It's a great single ploy and an even better double up action with spies or heralds.

When The Heart Breaks....

Whenever an event, a battle, becomes so overwhelmingly emotional it will become so energized that it will need to ground or explode. Too often, it will explode and when it happens often only hurtful painful devastating statements and actions take place. No matter what else happens, this moment changes everything.

Somewhere within the emotional storm you can hear the sound of breaking, and you can see peoples heart breaking. It's an ugly cruel sight to behold, one that shocks the senses. For the individual experiencing it, it is like the end of life. In a way it is, for the pain can kill you and harm you in so many ways, and on so many levels. Never discount the damage a broken heart can do to a person. It is often the emotional equivalent of a heart attack.

A broken heart is immediately toxic, and that toxin must be cleared as quickly as possible. If allowed to remain, it will fester, and then it creates an even more dangerous emotional state. When the toxin goes full bloom, hate and revenge are the outcomes. A broken heart is a serious matter and controls inhibitions that it may lose, in seeking to end the pain.

Passion is War's Dark Stepson

We are all driven by inner emotions, parts of us that no one truly knows. It's the private part that we feel is known as 'I am'. From this 'I am' spins our identity. How we view 'I am' becomes the building blocks of our life. It focuses who we are and gives us a label to hang our thoughts on.

Passion is a word to describe an intense emotional state that we make people feels a need to act upon it. Passion is born from something deep within that private part called 'I am'. The cry is 'I am passionate about.... You recognize the passion can be an unstoppable force, and it is sometimes described a fire in the belly.

Passions runs high in war's, as the inner most self is seeking to accomplish it's primary duty, to stay alive and avoid pain,. It does not matter if the war is physical, emotional or psychological, the inner self will seek to protect itself.

When passion run high, when matters of love, life, family, friendship, money and/or personal ego are being disputed, passion can turn on you, fill you full of fire and break down inhibitions. You can strike out and really hurt them. It's why we have something called Crimes of Passion.

When we fight witch war's, we engage in the Battle intellectual, personal, and with tools sharp and deadly. You simple will create a passionate response in those you fight with, if they remain truly human and engaged. Passion will remain long after hate goes to sleep, love matures, and anger fades. Passion burns awaits until it can bring it's one burning desire and that is revenge. The stepson of War, his adopted emotion Passion leads to hot decision making at it's most demonstrative and cold hard revenge in it's most destructive. Revenge seems to be all the quenches Passion demands. Otherwise the pain never fades never completely.

Meteor Crises

Meteor crises, as the name implies, fall from the sky. They appear from nowhere and there is little you and your group can do about them. It can be as tragic as a killing or a crime of passion to a divorce to a building burning down. It can be your country is attacked or you're being recalled to war, or even a giant wave strikes and destroys everything you know. It happens and these crises are a measure of your group.

When the event happens here is a list of survival techniques.

- 1) Grief can wait until all legal decisions are made. Keep focused on the solutions that need to happen.
- 2) Present and maintain a positive and accurate perception of your group.
- 3) Make sure access to the latest information is possible for your group's members.
- 4) Have at least one member of your group accessible to the media and other constituencies.
- 5) Gather and monitor information disseminated through media channels related to the crisis in order to catch them and correct misinformation early.
- 6) Accept assistance from outside services.
- 7) Maintain member, family, and community support.

And remember everything passes, and things will improve.

Derived from *Public Relations on the Net*, Shel Holtz, Amacom, 1999

When Animals Die!

Occasionally witch wars picks up a psychotic who is willing to use blood sacrifice. They will use chickens, rabbits, squirrels, birds, cats, dogs, and even horses. The most tragic is pets. This is a very very rare event but it does happen. People want to win their conflict so bad that they will cross taboo lines.

If this happens, Call the Police.

In a small number of cases there is some escalation, and they could follow you. Some of these people who cross lines become a fetish collector. The one thing that they desire is an enemies or targets hair, cigarette butts, anything you throw away. Then they move into invading your space and finally your life or those of your family. This is serious.

I CAN'T SAY THIS LOUD ENOUGH, never accept dead animals at your doorstep or anywhere else as anything less than A THREAT ON YOUR LIFE.

So call the Police and cut off all contact with that individuals. Document everything. Make sure the threat stops. Your safety is always paramount.

Having said that, understand animal sacrifice can range from wild-eyed teenager raging hormone and hot-blooded lust making a horrible mistake to the most vicious serial killer the world isn't even aware exists yet. You just don't know.

Killing is Killing and to be taken seriously. Your life may depend on it.

Time is Valuable

“Most people overestimate what they can accomplish in a year– and underestimate what they can achieve in a decade.” Anthony Robbins

In all things we do as Pagans it is important to remember some of the frustration we feel as a community is that everything takes time. Worse time is the most precious and rarest resource in the world. We want things done now, and as quickly as we can. We want prizes, we want the treasure, the magick we were promised. We want it quickly and everyone should help because we all want this thing now.

But ask where we are to be a decade from now, and watch all the blank stares and ambiguous answers. It is the no man’s land of unidentifiable prophecy, invisible to the seers inner eye. It’s our communities blind spot of epic proportions.

In a year you can talk about events and personal training; In a decade you can talk about event management and educational systems. In a year you can talk about your dedicated first degree clergy; In a decade you can talk about dedicated a committed clergy community of all degrees, from High Priest and Priestess, to the humblest members of the outer court in training.

Now imagine commitment made over twenty years, the average span of a career these days, and you can create even deeper changes, and accomplish more than you can imagine.

Today you are talking about renting space and housing and in twenty years you should be discussing renting out space and housing to our members. Today, we offer teaching to anyone who needs it and ask for help, in twenty years we will have ten thousand teachers helping each other.

IF you are willing to commit ten-twenty years to a project you will have more success than if you make a short term commitment of undeterminable length without worrying about long term results. Witch wars are flare-ups in the context of a longer project and have far less impact.

Time is our friend and ally, or our enemy and master if we so choose. It runs through our lives as the rarest resource we own. It is the most precious treasure we can spend, even just minutes and hours of our time, and we exchange it as we need to for our needs.

Be aware of time, and give yourself a decade. You will be amazed at the degree of success you can obtain.

The Most Dangerous Volunteer

One of the most dangerous in the world to an organization is the volunteer who expects payment in authority. What I mean that the individual comes in, volunteers for everything, and asks/requests/demands permission to do more things. On the positive side of such a volunteer is the generally create and even finance their position. Further it is a generally needed position is created. As long as authority and respect are combined with recognition, reasonable people are satisfied. This can and does create a win-win situation.

When the situation is you have an unreasonable people, who seek their authority as primary payment, and seeks to use that authority. As some point, they move towards claiming themselves indispensable and should be accorded control over the organization. That no amount explanation or logic will deter the unreasonable, they are emotionally based and ego driven. Only a sense of control over others will generally satisfy them, no matter how unqualified or undeserved, or no matter how much unqualified or undeserved, no matter how much they have worked for the organization.

A Volunteer who moves up quickly and is in constant demand of being given time and the authority to act, is someone to set up a organized program of service with clear expectations and positions possible within the organization. By establishing rules up front allows you to exert focus over the group and keep your group working together. This will help prevent runaway volunteerism and authority attrition.

The Longest Term Tactic:

In the end, our lives will come to an end, no matter how unfair it may seem. What is left of our forms, our souls, after death is a matter of speculation, of now. Our history, our memory token, and our life in other people's memories is the only way we know to communicate with the future. It's a meta-tactic of great importance.

As we mature, histories will be created and all events may change. History is largely a process of diversion as historians divert and distort attention of the secret influences around recorded events. History takes these images and deepens them to mythological and cultural significance, and in a way that allows the story to be told, so that it lives again in the minds of a new generation. Lessons to be taught because another already paid a price to learn them.

A long term witch war Tactic of importance is the writing of history and the creation of archives. Basically no matter the conflict, we are building a foundation of thought that will be projected for at least a century in the future. Create histories and plant them far and wide, and in time they will be uncovered and breathe new air once more. It is not enough to be accurate you also need it easy to remember and entertaining.

If you have a real tradition, it will have a way to archive and retain information to future generations. They will have inner proof of their lineage. That's the point of a lineage, a way a history can be passed down of secret folks and public ones. Real Traditions by definition has a history, a lineage, and a story to be passed down and repeated for the sake of the lesson and that is the tradition. This is what makes the mysteries, not the quantity or quality of your reading materials, that's for living life. The mysteries are the stories of people who have gone before you and discovered something that can be only shown to you when you are ready. It is literally telling secrets no one easily explained. That's what a Tradition is all about.

In all cases, the person or persons who write the definitive history of events and people tend to be the final winners in a witch war. Their interpretations will be accepted. The only exception of conflicting histories that historians can not reconcile, the dividing argument as a historical divider. A true witch war through time. The stuff legends are made of.

So the long term tactic is to be involved in the writing of history. Who you write about, the events reported, and secret motivations uncovered in future generations will tell the story, and let history judge your tasks, your endeavors, and accomplishments, but the record must be there.

The Cruellest Tactic of them all, Operation: Forget

Operation: Forget basically buries people and forgets them. Make no bones about it, if you are hated enough, someone will go after your history. If they choose to dispute it, they will ensure you some immortality by writing an opposing view. History will love this and maintain this.

Or they will forget you. Any form of fixed history is vulnerable to be destroyed. If they destroy most copies of your writings, burying too revealing accounts in ridicule, ignore teaching them in educational circles and finally make sure they are not quoted, then in a generation or two, and occasionally three, they will be gone from the cultural DNA, you will discover that you did not exist. Your arguments and battles were for naught and your ideas remain unrecognized, and you will pass into another life, and all thought to this life unremembered.

So these movements of destruction and removing from the records, many millions of lives have been so forgotten. Burning of the library of Alexandria and other similar tragedies were designed to remove and forget what the leadership does not want you to know. It is the final and most destructive of the meta-tactics.

Forgotten and unremembered, this final Tactic throws the target into finally oblivion. What better revenge is there in the end?

The Internet

"It is dangerous to think of the Internet as a technology. True, Technology enables the Internet, and a certain amount of technological know-how is required to take advantage of it. But all the technology without people using it would represent a huge global network of nothing. The Internet is people connecting with people. Each member of the growing community of Internet users is an individual who, to varying degrees, has accepted the cultural standards that have emerged as part of the Net's social Fabric." -

Shel Holtz, *Public Relations on the Net*

The Internet is a powerful tool, medium, or any scientific principle you may desire to apply. It is also a wavelength, a consciousness we can tap into, a sharing place, and some have said it is a place without a space. With its connection to data, knowledge, works of art, and slowly and steadily accumulating the whole of human knowledge, the Internet is becoming something that irresistibly connects us together. It has become a new world in its own way. We can, in fact, communicate through it.

I believe what science fiction writer Neal Stephenson states is true, "The Internet provides people with the online equivalent of a wormhole. Whereas a wormhole theoretically brings two distant parts of space together, the Internet connects two distant parts of the world. When you are online, you are simultaneously in your location and at the location of the individual or institution you are in contact with."

If we accept the above statement as basically true, it is also the equivalent of the mystic concept that there is no true distance, only our perception of it. With this idea in mind, pagans have begun to create a global community where nationalities, borders, and other barriers are not the lines, but where technology, access, and people and their ability to share knowledge and communicating mark the lines of our new culture. The Internet has definitely changed the rules.

In the situation of witch wars, the Internet was a power and range booster. As I said, I do not believe any field of energy can be ignored in a conflict between powers. The Internet is an energy construct of epic proportions. In our context the Internet has turned local turf wars into city wide brawls, city wide brawls into regional conflicts, and regional conflicts into ones that have a global flavor. Some conflicts are growing increasingly national and international as resources are freed to build our mutual community online.

The Pagan community is a very local phenomenon in many ways. It happens where you stand and where you spend time. With the Internet acting as a cultural wormhole, a pagan stand in any community he or she chooses that has access and presence on the web. It doesn't matter if it's across national or continental borders, across cultural divides. Even language is no longer a barrier as translation programs begin to truly take hold. It only requires a technological and a cultural acceptance of individuals. They need to fit the matrix of the online community node they are involved with. So the Internet takes the idea of local community and turns it inside out, so that locals may in fact be people thousands of miles away or people you will never see in real life.

Therefore, the Internet makes possible conflicts that would have been resolved at a local and sometimes regional level, and now gives them a audience of hundreds, thousands, possibly upward of a million potential people to add fuel to the fire. This is like taking a play and taking it to Broadway. For those who love the soaps this is the place to play. Unfortunately, some of us do work on the Internet and this helps fuel the conflicts as well. The increased audience has benefits to those seeking to build community as much as it does those who seek to create conflict and bring attention to them. It is always easier to destroy than to build. The Internet makes it easier to destroy at a distance.

Info-Tactics

As we mature into an informational or digital society, Dr. Toffler's forecasted Third Wave rolls over us. In its wave we see nations, multinational corporations, political parties, media outlets, special interests and lobbies, as well as the expected military use of something called "Info-tactics." Nor are info-tactics solely for the old societal leaders. An ever increasing number of private citizens are learning to use info-tactics as well. These are power plays and ploys based on manipulation of information— for the most part before it ever gets to its audience.

The Secrecy Tactic: This is the first and oldest and most pervasive info-tactic. Knowing how and when to use a secret is a cardinal skill of the politician and bureaucrat. In the context of a witch warrior, revealing a secret has to be played correctly to be of value.

Secrets give rise to the second most common Tactic, The Guided Leak/ Basically secrets that are inadequately kept are called leaks and are generally accidental, or at best part of the ever common gossip. Leaks are the way people share gossip and it gets passed around willy-nilly.

By contrast a Guided Leak is an informational missile, consciously launched and precision targeted. It has a purpose in a witch war to open up a target to shock and even scorn, taking away some important covering they believed they had. While throwing them into confusion, they must consider their internal security. Depending on the quality of the leak, its expectation that it should have remained secret can throw a target deep into paranoia and panic.

Secrecy and leaks form the primary and most primitive of info-tactics available to the average witch warrior. In this environment, the No. 1 rule is: Never say anything controversial in a conversation with more than one other person present.

The Masked Source: Any data, information, or knowledge that is communicated requires 1) a source or sender; 2) a set of channels or media through which the message flows; 3) a receiver and, of course, 4) a message. Any witch warrior can intervene at each of these points to change the message being conveyed. Never fully trust any message that you cannot verify through every step it has taken to get to you.

Back Channels: All messages move through channels. But some channels are more equal than others. Simply put, in any community there is more than one way to reach other members. In the larger national and international communities this becomes even more of a truth. Simply put, we are all flooded with too much information, and have to find ways to deal with what we see is important. We accept information from certain channels because we trust that those channels will not waste our time and energy. In fact, letting reliable channels handle the flow of information can cut through red tape and save time and energy.

Back Stabbers are back channel controllers who have the power to betray the information or the individual at either the receiving or sending end. Usually they are faster to get to key people before the source of the information can cut through the static and channels to reach them.

The Double Channel Ploy: The sending of alternative or contradictory messages through channels to test reactions or plant confusion and conflict among the recipients

On the Receiving End!

Access Tactic: Attempting to control access to one's superior, and, thereby, to control the information they receive.

Need to know tactic: Basically, the information is denied to everyone who is not directly involved. The purpose is to limit the information to as few power players as possible.

Need Not to Know Tactic: If I know the information will I have to be required to act, and if yes, I really don't want to know about it. In this way a player can deny knowledge of said fact truthfully. The second form of this is used by subordinates to protect the superior. Leaving the leader free to claim ignorance if things go sour.

Forced to Know tactic, also known as the CYA or Cover your Ass Tactic: Here the power player makes sure another player has been notified of something, so that if things fall apart, the recipient can share the blame.

Secret Arrival Tactic: Information is received but quickly buried in the files, so that a power player can be accused of knowing and use the planted information to prove it, even if the files owner never knew the information was ever there.

The Message Itself Can be Altered

The Omission tactic: Where relevant information is not passed on. Gaps in information and balancing facts are completely absent.

The Generality Tactic: Details are so glossed over and filled with open common terms and airy abstractions as to have little value.

Timing Tactics: Sending out a message too late for the receiver to do anything about it. Sometimes revealing a secret too early before organizers can prepare a statement.

The Dribble tactic: Here data, information, and knowledge are doled out in tiny pieces at different times. In this way the pattern of events are broken up and made less visible to the receiver.

The Tidal Wave tactic: When someone complains about being uninformed, the shrewd player ships him or her so much paper and files that the receiver is drowned and cannot find the essential facts in all the froth.

The Vapor tactic: Here is a host of vaporous rumors are released along with some true facts, so that the receivers cannot distinguish the latter from the former.

The Blow back tactic: Here the tactic is to plant a false story at a distance, and have it picked up again locally. By coming from an outside source, it will have a feel of being more legitimate and therefore less questionable.

The Big Lie Tactic: Made famous by Gobblers in World War II that any lie macro enough will be believed more readily than any number of mere micro lies.

The Reversal tactic: Basically the whole message is reversed and sent out as if it were the opposite of what it originally was to be stated.

Assumptions, or the Declaration of Linguistic War

“If you believe in certain words, if you believe in their hidden arguments. When you believe something is right or wrong, true or false, you believe the assumptions in the words which express the arguments. Such assumptions are often full of holes, but remain most precious to the convinced.”

-The Open End Proof from the Panoplia Prophetica (Children of Dune, Herbert, 1981, Berkley)

Words are the cornerstone of our current civilization. Words are symbols auditory and Visual that we create an inner meaning too when we hear and see them. Most of our words, and their symbols, have been taught to us from our conception to respond to symbols. We learn what things mean without necessarily knowing why. It's simply common wisdom.

Our collective reality is based on symbols, conveyed by our words and actions. We agree to share certain sounds, images, and gestures as having a definite purpose, and that purpose can be translated so the inner self can understand. It is through this process we can develop cooperative activity we use to live, improve, and even, dare we say, create your life. By accepting a collective reality, we can share more resources and create a ever-increasing and abundant pool of symbols and words. We are in fact finding more and more parts of consensual reality that we agree on and share.

Wiccans and Pagan community has taken language, especially English, and is in the process of redefining words and symbols. They have declared linguistic war over the meanings and assumptions of our words, words we feel belong to us, and our goal is to change the very way we communicate about Wicca, Pagan and Witch. We are building a new collective reality based on these symbols, and it is expected to change the quality of life for all who agree to share in this new collective reality.

In order to win our conflict, we must change the idea of Witch, Wicca, and Paganism through out the world by substituting language. Christianity will seek to keep it the same as much as possible but we fight for it to be changed and broadened. By changing the symbols underneath the language, and by using new language it allows us to express what was once inexpressible. At the same time, we move to put certain assumptions to the test, and with all these actions change human knowledge and beliefs.

The fact we are willing to change the assumptions behind words and symbols and say we will decide for ourselves what they mean, you take power from the people who control those symbols. The fact you can decide for yourself any number of ideas with words and symbols from several different points of view broadens you, but it takes you away from perfect obedience that's innately explicit in a limited language world view.

Unfortunately, the more you change and differ in your underlying assumptions of words and symbols too far away from the accepted consensual reality, you no longer can share information. It becomes a different language and you can isolate yourself from accepted reality. So our linguistic challenge has begun and it ends with a new language and a new consensual reality, no matter how the battle goes.

IS THERE A MEDIA WAR AGAINST THE GODDESS CULTURE

Today the Goddess Culture is a growing, even thriving society within our Global Civilization. In the United States, We see various Groups seeking to provide service to the Goddess-Based Culture, others providing networking tools, yet others supply goods, while others yet seek to exploit it for commercial reasons. Hollywood adores the idea of a Goddess Culture and mainstream media has a love-hate-confusing relationship with the various communities. All of this points to signs of growth and changing ideas all around us, that have given the community space to mature.

When I speak of the Goddess Culture, I speak of individuals, singly and collectively, which hold that life is in itself, divine and hold at least some ideas of feminine forms of Deity, as well as male deity forms. Often they see the Living Earth as mother, and symbolically Our Divine Mother, provider of life. This community has labels that include Pagans, Wiccan, Isians and Ecospiritualists but may also include Gaiaist Scientists, Environmentalists, and even Evolutionists. This is by no means an inclusive list, just a sampling of individuals who share some belief in Divine life.

We have seen the Goddess Culture grow in the United States, Europe, Australia, South America, Parts of Asia, and now deeply in South Africa. The Temple of Isis is in 85 Countries, and the Goddess 2000 Project has coordinators and participants in 63 countries. Everywhere we turn see communities awakening and networking at incredible speeds. This has been a turning point for a faith that is most ancient and newly born for this age.

But we are seeing a conflict emerge between those who hold stricter Christian Beliefs and the newly emerging Goddess Culture. I am defining stricter Christian Groups as ones who believe in separation from

nonbelievers and obedience to God, Church, and State, usually in that order. That theirs is the only proper way of life and that Laws based on religious beliefs should be placed on all members of society. Of Course, not just the Goddess Community, but any community which does not share Similar Christian Values as community standards and recognize the appropriate power structure will come under attack. The Goddess Culture is becoming a much more frequent target by these forces.

The question is why the Goddess Community (Mostly Pagan/Wiccan components) come under attack and why this is just the beginning of a first volleys in a larger Media War? The Strict Christian Community depends upon a structure of Churches, Sunday Schools, Mass or Services, Schools, and Family Participation as the process to control and even grow their congregations. This structure provides stability and security for all parties involved. They are secure of the rules of society and their place within that community. Yet by having just such an alliance, it then becomes an easier task to elect individuals to government office that share this belief and support the continued advancement of the this structure. This allows the Church, and their leadership to carry out a crucial function, Control of Knowledge.

Control Of Knowledge is the primary mechanism of perpetuation of the Strict Christian Community. Schools, Government Officials, Churches, Families, even Law Enforcement require uniform standards of behavior according to this system. Lastly, combined with control of Media and sources of news truly controls the education and knowledge base, and in turn controls the behavior of the group with powerful means of forcing those who disagree into submission or isolation.

What does this have to do with the Growing Goddess Culture? It is a diverse community utilizing long-range forms of communication. We exist strongly in many places, we are active, and we are dedicated. In the older structure of State Christianity, we would have been left isolated in our local communities. But we believe in unity and fellowship beyond the local community and share across nations.

And we evolve.

Today's world is becoming hyperactive, accelerated, and wired for the concept of open communication. Regularly beyond any one government's or societies control humanity is communicating. Open communications threatens isolated communities, as new information enters. Individuals, singly and in mass, are gaining access to their own knowledge, be it for entertainment or serious inquiry. Isolated and powerless, together across vast distance we work together almost in telepathic fashion. This changes societies and old power structures break down, and in the end wars may emerge. Conflicts at the very least as old beliefs are tested.

When control is lost, one must surrender or conduct a war, even if only a war of words. War in the Media is the most acceptable form of violence available to those who insist on control today. We have begun to see the strategy laid out. Even a presidential Candidate and Governor of Texas has stated his opposition against Wicca in the military. We see the ability and timing of a conflict that could emerge beneath a presidential election. Already in South Africa, we see violence and accusations now on a weekly basis in Johannesburg and ABC News. As we turn we receive praise and scorn by the very same media.

Media Wars give power and substance to rumor, guilt is assumed, innocence is quickly lost. Powerful jealousies build and ideals can be squashed. In the end isolation, despair, tragedy and even death follow the those who fall victim in such conflicts. The Goddess Community has highly identifiable traits that will create a strong fodder in any conflict and enough people who will engage in it because we may not have a choice.

Six Mind Tools of a Media War!

In our modern society, the media has become a place of great information and great amounts of information, presented in literally millions of ways each and everyday. We have television, newspapers, radio, and now the internet as just some of the forms of mass communication know as "The Media". So much of our lives is into the media that we have seen this emerge as the most competitive force in the planet. It has become quite literally a battleground, were minds are won and lost, and to the winner great

spoils and to the losers infamy and disgrace

So what is a Media War? It is a conflict where words, images, and concepts are put before the public and they decided which thoughts will be allowed. The public chooses by what they choose to focus on, either by watching a particular television station or show at any given time, any radio show, any book that is read, every time a newspaper is read, a choice to what concepts will be allowed to come to the forefront, to our attention. Getting your attention is the opening and most important opening volley of this competition.

Now that your attention is gained, they present information and ask you to make choices, and once you make a choice you transfer a tiny bit of power. You take part in a collective action that benefits the those who you give your attention to and they get you to take an action on their behalf. It comes in many forms including these few examples; spending money, buying tickets, voting for a candidate, talking about their product, getting laws passed, talk about peace, agree to declare war, agree to executions and jailing of law breakers, fighting against executions, to accept taxes and fees, pay subscriptions to magazines, cable stations, and internet services. The list of actions is endless but they represent you taking action at some level. This is the prize of the Media War, all of us individually taking action in a collective way they choose. They gain control of our lives at some level with our permission.

In this case we are dealing with one group inciting action to declare another an enemy. The antagonist seeks out images, words, and choices that have people allow and get them to act against another group. The ultimate expression is a declaration of violence and all laws are disbanded except kill the enemy. But in most modern society is to get governments and people in authority to make the behavior and ideas of the enemy invisible and illegal. This occurs through the Media in democratic societies to force law makers, administrator, and more importantly the law enforcement agencies to act against their enemies. The ultimate goal is have no one want to be the enemy and everyone wants to be a good citizen.

How do they do it? What are the weapons they use, the mind tools to get you to take action or give others permission to act in your name, on your behalf collectively. Which ways is your mind affected to make the choices you make when thinking of a chosen enemy. Here are the six mind-tools used by propagandists, political consultants, and governmental officials use to incite the public. These are the tools of the Media War.

Mind-tool One is Atrocity Allegations. In it's most common form, it is the accusation of ritual murder, infanticide, rape, sexual depravity, mass murder and so on. This can go deeper, with unfounded and untrue statements as well as true statements of small numbers of people, left to fester. Remember, a Atrocity accusation can even be as simple as the wear black because they are afraid of the light, as long as it isolates the community member.

Mind-tool Two is Hyperbolic Inflation of the Stakes. This recently took form in Bosnia when NATO stated if we do not stop Serbia we will have another Hitler, and fight a larger war. For us, If children are allowed to wear Pentagrams soon all our children will be. Further, If children are allowed to practice Wicca then they will become involved with *Put you own derogatory here*.

These first two mind-tools create a powerful argument, no matter how true or false. Simply put, atrocity and Hyperbolic inflation assures that even if you are not sure it is true, you don't dare defend them in case it is true, and you certainly don't become involved.

The Third mind-tool is Demonization and Dehumanization. In every conflict, the enemy must not have a human face. Broad brushes are used to slander and deprive human feelings for the attacked, otherwise one would have to consider them as individuals. For Wiccans it was Satan Worship, but lately it is that Wiccans are nudists

trying to convert are children, which is used as a slander and force law officials to act

The fourth is Polarization, "Those not for us are against Us." Simple and is the basis for all manner of

fighters. This is school ground politics that we continue to the day all our lives.

The Fifth is the Claim of Divine Sanction, which frames all arguments, out of the human context and instead places it on God, Allah, or some other authority in charge of the action. Further the power to forgive for any excess of zeal is gained. This assures no matter how much one would feel the action is wrong, the person committing it is secure because God told them to do it.

The Sixth mind-tool is Meta-propaganda, and the most powerful. This discredits the other sides propaganda not by challenging the veracity of a single story, but by repeating holes and mistakes on the whole argument and discredit everything coming from the enemy. The aim is to produce wholesale disbelief and close doors to redress.

Being aware of the tools being used by those who would incite violence to get you to agree with them. Your choices are so important, so choose wisely

Being a Spy

When acting as a spy, you will notice psychological changes within you. One is a sense of paranoia and this is followed by a surge of shame and guilt. As quickly as that comes and passes for a thrilling body vibration. Get past this all to the calm observers place. You will discover that you have a more logical analytical approach to people.

Make your spying so natural that no one ever questions your behavior. For me, no one ever questioned my steropads or what I was writing. It allowed me to watch, observe, and record my impressions without alerting anyone.

I am a lover of radio as well, and I love sharing the public side of our Pagan Community. As a radio host, people share with you in a way they would not in front of a camera or even a crowd. People love sharing secrets as long as they feel listened to and respected for it. Again it is natural for one to ask questions, and people love answering them.'

So when you are acting as a Spy, you carefully watch and observe, find ways to gather information naturally, and never arouse your observational target. That's the challenge, not being detected.

Okay, you say, Ed you just revealed your ace as a Spy, and you told us two of your major techniques. Now we will be suspicious of you.

At this point, I am way to public to act as a spy, and people are always careful around me. So I must depend on others to do my spying for me. If I have trained them well, you may never know.

How do you build a Spy Network?

There are actually two different types of Networks.

The first is the Informal network of shared gossip. This is where most Pagan Intelligence is at. It's where the information used in witch wars is drawn from no matter how fault.

The second is a organized network. Here members agree to remain secret and share information in an organized way. They coordinate their information gathering in order to get even more information. This is very rare, and virtually unknown in the Pagan Community. It is rare in Christian Society but it does exist. Moslem Society is currently forced to secrecy and has organized information sharing.

Of course the United States and other National Governments definitely have spy networks. These are real groups with real people, with real weapons and real tools. It's not our imagination that these people exist. They do and they are at War as well, as monumental forces seek to do each other harm.

So while having Spys seems like nonsense, and taking measures against spying seems even sillier, take this in account. The highest number of spies currently employed is by Major Corporations to investigate their employees, and their competition. Business Intel from your name and address, to your credit cards, to your preference cards creates a highly detectable basis of data for their corporate intelligence gathering system.

If you think it couldn't happen to you, you are wrong, or at least I was. A Dr. R.J.Moore wrote his doctoral dissertation on us, called "The Devil Went Down To Hoopeston" Pagans, Cornjeckers, and

American identity. I did not discover it until it was posted on the internet. As of this writing, I still haven't seen the Thesis. This makes me very aware of what people can do in watching you. So taking Spy counter measures can save you a lot of grief.

Building a Spy Network

If you are going to be facing Witch wars then the next step will be gaining information. This is not some wild eyed fantasy game, even though it can pretend to be. It's about seriously trying to understand and minimize the ability of people to find an audience for their next series of attacks. By depriving them of any chance of getting a surprise attack on you is important. The more you know the better off you will be. Developing a spy network or really just a network of informational sharing.

The first place you go and keep in mind is your friendly Herald. The Herald is a useful service and can provide you with basic knowledge and quickly offer any new gossip. They should be a cultivated source. Email lists are good as heralds as well.

Go directly to the group and see their information and data they are offering publicly. If you were investigating the Correllian tradition you would discover they have integrated record keeping and that they do this to create a clergy that is as ironclad as possible under American and International law. If you were investigating a Gardnerian Group, you would seek out their lineage and their teachings as they descended through their books of shadows, and find out they practice secretly many things unspoken by them. So it is true for every branch of Wicca and Paganism. The need for new members eventually makes them have to create some public face. Find out that public face.

From here you need to make decision what type of spy master you want to be. Essentially you have three choices, you are a maverick who works basically alone and uses people on a short term basis, a master of a secret group, or you are leader of an intelligence agency. Each has it's abilities and powers.

When you are a maverick, you are essentially working for your own beliefs, and you have a focused goal to accomplish. You remain a player, joining no faction, and keeping the little guys out of the way. You are a hero in the mind's eye against more established members of the faith.

As a maverick, you need just occasional agents to help get you into places, check it out, and get out. Also you want them to provide information and maybe use them to carry messages and coded neurolinguistic barbs. There is not a lot of structure to your system, you are a glorified herald who knows to get something for what you know. I love honest mavericks, because they are either despicable bastards or glorious legends and usually both.

When Master of a secret group, this is a powerful tool. Even being a member of a secret group of spies gives you a source of information that will be of higher quality than any single other concentrated source. The exchange price of course is information or bribes. If you have information, then we share it as good story tellers should, and if not, buy drinks, food, pick up a tab for listening. As a master of Spies never ever give away a card for free, unless of course, there is a good reason.

When you are a leader of an intelligence agency, your people are basically systematically looking and collecting information as if it were second nature. They are passing it back and forth among themselves and sending it up the chain of command or pecking order. The virtue of this style of agency, very few of the actual members realize they are part of an information gathering group.

The fourth and one that will not be further discussed is an Invisible Hand organization. This methodology is actually the most evasive and disruptive, but under current Homeland Security under the Patriot Act would make any group practicing this style a potential target. But realize that an Invisible Hand exists whenever events happen and you can't figure out who started it and why. The world's largest invisible hand is the CIA. Just kidding, You and I don't even know who they are, but we know they are far more secretive than the CIA.

When Conspiracies form?

Conspiracies do occur. History is full of them, and in fact it is a riveting force with natural causes as a source of Societal change. Conspiracies are any network dedicated to taking action to benefit themselves above all others. What makes it a negative is that most conspiracies are secret societies or groups. A conspiracy is a secret, compared with a corpocracy which is public.

A conspiracy forms when at least one individual seeks revenge or some action to create favorable conditions for themselves, and has something to offer individuals to act as agents or spies for them.

My Favorite Spy Spell

I have a Spying/Scrying Mirror which I keep covered except when I use it. When I use it, I enter a blackened room, devoid of all light. I use a black and white candle for illumination. Then looking through the mirror, I visualize a corridor and through this corridor I can see out of any mirror in the world.

After 10 or 15 minutes of trance, I will generally get strong impressions of what I see, and with some control I get to see things I maybe should not see. I have seen a lot of morning faces and open mouths. I have also seen fountains where secret meetings have been held. Mirrors are everywhere and are generally forgotten about.

Because this exercise can draw deep from within the psychic mind, it can be used for gathering past information as well as forward looking precog-visions. The limits of your vision will be limited to your understanding and your ability to accept information. Some of it will not make sense and some of it will appear frightening. It is your bravery that will see you through all these possible visions.

At best these visions are unsustainable and are merely your thoughts. When the exercise is complete, all you have are impressions, visions and so much that are phantoms in the physical realm. Having said that, you can use this insight and experience to seek into the places that turn these visions into information, and finally into proof. Using this spell as a place to find information is an eerie but amazing tool.

Now when I can combine this Mirror with the Internet, I will be able to use my Spell Checker. (Okay, Bad pun.)

My Favorite Hypnotic Charm

You open the usual conversation and then you begin:

You: I see that you are very observant."

Target replies.

You: "Not everyone is observant, and worse, no one really listens to an observant person."

You then ask: "Do people listen to you?"

Target replies

You: "Well I don't know <Insert name> very well and I want to form the right opinion of <insert name>. Since you are a pretty observant about these things, can you tell me what you know about <insert name>?"

Target replies,,and if any sort of resistance, cut across it, with:

You: It definitely would be a big help and I will definitely listen. Your opinion is the best I have right now.

Generally the target spills their guts, because you have said they see things and you will listen to them, and that they can influence your mind. That is a thrill that most people rarely get, and they jump at even the illusion of gaining that experience.

Special note: sometimes the target will walk away, without revealing a thing. Let them. In some cases they have evolved beyond this little charm and you have revealed a touch of your magic to another warrior. Other times it simply takes a while to sink in as they, the individual, must discover the consequences of talking and the natural itch to tell it all. It can take days or even weeks and months, but you would be surprised how effective this charm can be.

The Master Conflict

At the core of every conflict is the essential element that makes all conflicts appear worthwhile. Most people have been trained to think of power as a negative and a burden. With power comes great responsibility, the more your responsible for the busier you will be, are statements we accept as common wisdom. While innately we all strive for power many of us fear it and want nothing to do with it.

Power has many meanings in our society and they are based on being able to have the ability to accomplish something Essentially power is gained through one of three means, or the mixture of them. The means to power is violence, wealth, or knowledge. Our entire culture is based on these three pillars. Powerful people control the means to carry out tasks they desire. Depending on what they want to accomplish they have one of these three assets to obtain it. They can use violence, use money to buy or acquire, or trade unique knowledge for the purpose of obtaining whatever they want to have How much power you have depends on the value of the asset you have. . So we see power is the essential tool in our relationships to acquire what we need and carry out all tasks required to obtain those needs.

The difference that this generation at the beginning of the Aquarian Age, is that society is no longer stable. For many decades, even centuries, you worked and you got paid. You bought food and you went to church. Society worked well. Everyone had their place, their rituals, and all the power the need to live. If life wasn't perfect, so what and suck it up, it was better than your parents life and your grandparents life. You had it better than anyone else and life was generally good. Industrial society defined power and limited it's expression.

The computer age came in and slapped away all the barriers and ideas inherent within industrial society. It is changing everything in it's path, and in it's wake a new civilization is potentially emerging. Power voids form and vacuums appear as other areas of influence become overly crowded. How we work changed, how we make money changed, and how we exchange information changed as well. Power changed as well. Knowledge became an essential component of the new emerging society.

Pagans find themselves in a shift of the position, place and authority in the computer age. Where before they were isolated, with clubs and secret societies to survive, now Pagans are open and interconnect and heading towards a new society. The Modern Pagan Movement is essentially dependent of the computer and it's products for the growth in numbers, increase in resources, and gaining more power in society. Pagans embracing a Digital faith are finding success but it changed the community forever. We see authority and power shifting as well and it is leaving older Pagans behind and out of touch.

The Conflict that is emerging globally and at every level of society begins over the idea of older industrial based practices. In the case of Pagans it was the work of Gardnerism and Alexandrians that drew Witchcraft to a more modern form. These practices were essentially presented in a set laid out system, very modernized and made precise and detailed. If Witchcraft was a older tradition, then Wicca was its child, born of essential codes and perfect words and rites to command the heavens and control the elements. So Witchcraft represented the first Wave agricultural civilization that it was practiced within, and Wicca was the Second Wave Industrial Societies version of a Witch.

So the master conflict in the latter twentieth century in Wicca and Witchcraft was simple. The dividing question as 'Did you practice a agricultural faith handed down thousands of years or the modern faith 'created' by Gerald Gardner and similar leaders. Of course, most Gardnerians ignore hereditaries and native practioners in the same way Columbus 'discovered' the new world and ignored the natives already there.

Wicca essentially cannibalized and realigned the religion from an agricultural one to an industrialized secret society. By the late 80's the Wiccans won and Witchcraft lost it's preeminent position. The Traditions were the community.

Even while Wicca was being recreated into the modern civilization concepts, another societal change was coming into play. Computers and their ability to share a great deal of information. Wicca absorbed the internet and the growing computerized network loved Wicca as well. It also adored Paganism and treated it as a naughty little secret.

If Wicca took Witchcraft and quantified it, and made it teachable to a wide number of enlightened minds, then computerized Wicca expanded the ability to access Wiccan information by magnitudes, increasing many times the number of minds influenced by Wiccan thought. The people who control access to the information became essentially the new power brokers. Remember power is created when you control one of three assets, and in this case knowledge grants you power and authority. It changes the context of the entire community once everything becomes computerized, and that our whole world will change in ways we can not fully imagine.

So the main conflict in Wicca today is based on a Tri-sected community. You have your first wave Witches who work closely with practices common to most humanity historically. It is based on agricultural understandings and self-sufficiency. These are your witchcraft practioners. Then you have your second wave industrialists who practice witchcraft based on formulas and codified practices. Books, ingredients, training , and more could be obtained and duplicated by any individual with enough persistence and wealth. It represented the best thing about being a Witch, and if we call ourselves Wiccans, society will understand and accept us is the prevalent attitude. It was mysterious knowledge, and that had great value in a world of semi-conformity.

Today Techno Wicca cuts across and makes 'secret' information available in unlimited quantities and in whatever format you want in near encyclopedic fashion. It has taken all the practices of the Wiccans and all that can be found on Witches and Witchcraft and have made a public education of it. It completely reverses the relationship between the community within itself, outside of itself, and in how it chooses it leadership. Forming on a matrix of knowledge, wealth and common values. It distinctly changes the concepts of Witchcraft and Wicca. So we have a Hereditarys' vs. Trads vs. Technos, all for whatever power exists within our community context. We are all correct in our version of reality but we don't share all the same reality in how we think.

The main cause of our conflicts is a lack of understanding as we change the way we operate and think. Witchcraft, Wicca and whatever it's becoming is evolving so rapidly that even as we think about it has grown and changed again. We are beginning to see ourselves change faster and range farther than we ever thought possible and of course, conflicts emerge from the very changes we ourselves are creating. We are reflecting the storm of society feels as a whole. It's natural but it does not make it better.

My goal as a witch warrior entering into the games is to be able to find peace, and places where people can enjoy and celebrate their lives. I realize society is changing on a global level and a powershift is occurring, and someday soon we will face a great opportunity to build our dreams and a greater test of our growing freedom. I am praying that when the test emerges we are strong enough to withstand it and come through it as a the next great builders. After all imagine a civilization based on a truly religiously free people, and how we will see the blossoming of the human mind. Imagine a culture with a reverence of science, technology, and research, while exploring the mysteries of the psychic and magickal realms, and giving deep personal commitment to honoring nature and the world around them. For me that is worth fighting for and if I am going to fight I am going to do it to the best of my ability.

The main conflict is really about maintaining some identity as the chaos of change and societal restructuring and ever expanding knowledge base changes the very core of our lives and how we live, regardless if we want them to or not. We fight to save some part of ourselves we call us and we need just a little bit of power to do that. The other choice is to stand alone and powerless.

Three Degrees of Truth Testing

The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer stated all truth goes through three steps.

First, It is ridiculed.

Second, It is violently opposed.

Finally, It is accepted as Self-evident

In mainstream community we see all three evident. Amongst the most learned and educated, and especially in religious and interfaith circles where we have been active now for fifty years, where we find general acceptance, or at the least the process has begun. Even the United States Army recognizes Wicca.

Yet in many in mainstream communities they are seeing Wicca grow and become part of their community. Depending where you are, you will see ridicule and in some, it has passed in the violent phase. It is expected that Wicca will be opposed where Christians feel they are in control. They will not find Wicca acceptable faith, and will begin a predictable campaign.

The Christian's basic campaign to shut down Pagans and Wiccans follows this pattern:

1. Minister discusses the Pagan problem with Elders, Deacons, Superiors to assure a true threat.
2. Through oblique messages and pulpit positions they begin to lay out a biblical basis of a hatred of Witches and Pagan Ways.
- 3 Then the warn of supernatural powers that come from Satan, and how dangerous they are to you and especially your children.
4. Outing day and by now the antagonist is ready to accuse his target, and the Pagan/Wiccan group is ousted and made publicly attacked.
5. The promise of complete destruction of the evil one, and less than perfect actions may be taken. It ends when the Pagans depart, the law intervenes, or the Christians are rebuffed.

Calm and Order returns until another Occult example must be made, while Whisper rumors filter into the unconscious mind of the Christian Antagonist followers, awaiting to be awakened.

Basically the minister ridicules the Pagans and Wiccans, and if they survive that, they resort to more public and invasive methods, even violence to win their point. If the Pagan survives that, then the minister will have a bigger problem.

What surprises people is that survival beyond this violence, threatened and real, is acceptance. No one likes seeing people being up on, continuously without good reason. What people are not willing to fight against they accept. In urban areas, Pagans and Wiccans have greater rights and it becomes self-evident that they should. Diversity helps negate violence and leads to quicker acceptance.

In smaller monoculture communities, the battle can last years and grow violent, even deadly. Smaller monocultures have a deeper filters and a armor of emotionally protective ingrained behaviors that allow them to extreme actions on a very short term and focused reason. Support of the other members of the monoculture with an eye to this potential of violent behavior and never be completely sure of when this ugly possibility may emerge.

Feudalism is Alive and Well.

Paganism does not want to admit it, but it is definitely based on Feudalistic Society, based on Clans, Tribes, and Strong Man/woman leaders. We expect ourselves to be leaders of our given tradition in our area. We have turf and territory. We have knights and defenders who will help protect our turf, sharing the benefits of our personal kingdom.

Our national groups propagate this by granting near Monopolistic control to local organizations and then protects that entrenched leadership. The national organizations side with their 'nobility, priesthood or group

leadership' and then do not allow their decisions to be questioned. No matter what else you call it, it is feudalism. It is obvious from our structure we believe in Magical Monarchies.

We have hiving because it is easier to have more people issuing titles and promoting them upward and sideways. The most important person to be is the one who owns the original right to issue certificates and decide how the transmission of authority will take place. Our schisms occur frequently, when titles and title giving authority is questioned or reproduced by another outside group.

So we battle each other over our perceived rights under Magical Monarchies of our Traditions, quoting our spiritual lineages, and say with a straight face that we are a peasants faith, a faith of the people of the countryside.

Witches are not as feudalistic as overall Paganism and even Wiccans because more than one witch can work in an area. Witches can be mostly solitaire and have fewer overall contacts. Large Covens, Congregations, are Wiccans who are by nature Pagans as well and share in the Pagan Ideology of Spiritual feudalism. There are even traditions who use or have used titles Witch Queen and Witch King as part of their official Hierarchies. In Chicago, we even have a recognized Pagan Pope. He simply is, and that is even more demonstrative of our innate struggle with our feudalistic, tribal influences.

So one conflict is based on perceived rights to rule/lead/teach granted on a monopoly grant from one or more traditions or national organizations, and given full rein to carve as big as a territory as you can hold under the agreed upon by-laws, laws, codes, traditions and obedience to the Hierarchy. The Organization recognizing their own grant of authority will clearly state because they have groups all over the country that recognize them, they have the right to issue these grants. This mutual self-recognition build the authority and it is very vassal like in nature when all is said and done.

In other words, Nationals say you have the right to be us in your town and you make sure they know you belong to us. You will gain a say on the national level representing your personal community that you are creating for us. In exchange we will be you nationally, look out for our combined interests and improve your standing locally. Together we will assure no others will challenge us for position based on this agreement of authority and loyalty to each other.

In the end, the national organization becomes a kingly body, and each local member become a Baron, Count and sometimes even a Duke. So Pagans have a pretty traditional religiously based vassal hood, which was the prevalent style before the rise of Nation states. We haven't forgotten it, and we still fell it's way things should be. This part of our inheritance of being called Pagans and witches include this creation of Spiritual Feudalism and it's our inner governmental model.

Witch wars, Regional becomes National

So the game of witch wars has changed as we are deep into the first decade of the 21st century. As we develop new ways to communicate so do we have ways of creating a Global witch war. But how possibly can this happen.

The first will be local groups attacking each other on a regular basis, becoming involved in a national organization. They will not tell the national organization that they are fighting with another group in that area. In fact, the common answer is that we can get along with okay. It's because the need to be involved with a larger organization is paramount to increase local credibility. So they bring their baggage and hide it, seeking ways to improve themselves.

The next step will be a competitive phase, where each local tries to prove itself to national, and national benefits. Behind the scenes the local groups find allies to eventually lead to a battle to remove the competing local group, for crimes yet unknown. If national does not comply then they go after the national organization as well, forcing the local group involved to defend their position and national. It's a nasty little trap.

A local war is taken national simply by the ease of improved communications. The ability to share information instantaneously anywhere in the world, is a very powerful tool. The ability to be able to set up media centers that are operational twenty fours a day, and it never shuts down. It can be robotized, automated, compartmentalized, and need so many fewer resources than before anyone can create a national organization. It can also make local groups appear strongly on the national front. The barrier between local and global is falling.

Don't think I am kidding when I say this. Even as I speak I am involved with local groups in Chicago, Albany, Hoopeston, Virginia Beach, and Cape town. I have a relationship that puts me involved in the local community on a personal basis. This is not including my Church or School obligations, this is just my personal commitments. And I know of at least a few global-localists are emerging. The barriers that once protected groups from each other is crashing at the speed the computer network is built.

Pagan Pride, Pagan Unity Campaign, and especially, Covenant of the Goddess are organizations where local conflicts can be nationalized.

In the case of the Covenant of the Goddess, the best example is the Chicago witch war conflict put at least two groups of Covenant of the Goddess members against each other. The conflict was bitter, filled with letters, emails, and a lot of politicking. Even at the memorial for the Blessed Vicki Carlson the various factions of Covenant of the Goddess were trying to assure members would be attending the next meeting. The fights raged up all the way to national level and eventually lead to the disbanding/suspending of the local chapter for three years.

The tragedy was one of the Warriors, Jeff Benner, saw the writing on the wall. He saw that Chicago by it's physical and economically the regional engine. He worked on a plan to regionalize the Chicago Council, and incorporate a way to fulfill COG requirements, and at the same time increase the number of dues paying members. This would have allowed more people to be under this national umbrella and allow the sort of consensus building and educational requirements to become the norm in the Midwest. It was a brilliant idea, well within the emerging third wave civilization, and would have made COG a powerful force for Wicca in America's heartland.

But you already know what happened. No one supported him, no COG member could see why he was saying it, and accused him of power grabbing. In fact, several members shared they wanted him driven out of COG itself. His idea was simply too evolved. If he had succeeded Covenant of the Goddess would have been a real force in the midwest but today COG is basically irrelevant in Chicago and the Heartland. They are no longer role models.

In Pagan Pride, this is a great idea that spread with wildfire speed, and became a National organization in a blink of an eye. It has a simple concept, easy to carry out, and also is very competitive in nature. The events attract audiences not normally possible and they are powerful media magnet. They acquire a lot of support and volunteers and only a few apparent antagonists. It's a great event locally and globally it is attractive model.

The local coordinators are able to work at an incredibly high level of communication globally, and gain recognition internationally. For hosting their events. It is a powerful feedback system that allows it to reinforce positive interaction and build towards increasing amounts of recognition.

What makes this organization vulnerable to nationalize local witch wars is the exclusive nature of Local Coordinators and the monopoly rights over Pagan Pride in their region. They are vassals who carry out the central organizations commands and as long as they cooperate and provide the proper paperwork, the Local Coordinators can plan to be in that position for years to come. It makes long term commitment very attractive for both local and national bodies.

This stability is essential to the long term health of Pagan Pride as a event-based a national organization. Pagan Pride as a Not-for-Profit has a bottom line that looks like this: Events Run + Overall Attendance + Food Collected and Donated + Positive Media Stories = Success. As long as this improves Pagan Pride can

judge itself successful.

Yet the very desire to have this stability nationally can determine locally. In many cases local coordinators do a good job and even spectacular events. It has been a source of energy for many people and groups. But there is a number of Local Coordinators who alienate large numbers of people because of autocratic styles, mismanagement, elitism, lack of inclusion, inappropriate inclusion, misappropriation of funds, unwillingness to share information, and this on top of regular infighting.

Let me give you an example of Albany. She really angered many of her supporting groups by inviting Satanists to participate. When asked to rescind the invitation by several participating members and groups. The reasoning was that this was Pagan Pride and this was a day for showing we were not Satanists, and that this would confuse the participants. Needless to say the Local Coordinator flatly refused.

The event was Boycotted as violence was threatened, as a Motor cycle gangs was to show up to offer security. It was the ugliest witch war I had seen at a Pagan Pride, and the whole event left me with acid on my tongue. Unlike the 32 previous Pagan Pride events I visited, this ranked the worst and most contentious.

Several supporting groups, who provided insurance, meeting space, support, logistics and even finances wanted to see Pagan Pride to continue. They wanted to elect a new Local Coordinator and the old one agreed to this quite publicly. The community pulled together, and was ready to progress Pagan Pride to a real community binding event. The Old LC came into the meeting and informed everyone she was confirmed as Pagan Pride Coordinator, flatly refused the election she agreed to, and she would remain to run the event. This of course hurt the community deeply, forming a deep and now festering wound.

Locals wrote the National office furious and wanted her to be removed. The letters received back were really insulting and was very pro-entrenchment of this unacceptable Local Coordinator. So as a result 2005 Albany Pagan Pride is under a general boycott. Some groups have gone so far as to state they will actively sabotage it. It has become a dividing argument promising to fuel a year long witch war.

This would have remained local, but one of the supporters was the one of the highest ranking officers of a national tradition, and he was personally insulted. It went further, and a email was received that basically stated the Regional Officer said the keep this man's tradition and temple out of all events, and it was sent to local coordinators all over the Northeast. Let me explain, Albany local witch war got a regional officer to attack a national tradition and state they were to be discriminated against. This is Pagan Pride and they stated in writing that they were to discriminate against a Pagan tradition.

The Officer, who has contact with clergy and temples all over the world, and has many clergy of his tradition are Local Coordinators and many many more are volunteers looking forward to the event. So this discrimination is unknown to the majority of members, and so it is that the Albany Local Coordinator threatened Pagan Pride local stability and now is creating an environment in which it's central dividing argument and conflict can spread. In this direct case, The International Tradition, who has this letter stating they are to be discriminated against, may ask all it's members to simply boycott this year. That would mean at least 12 local coordinators and volunteers in at least twenty other events. In fact, even the mention of Pagan Pride has caused great anger and dissension among this tradition. All because 1 Local coordinator lied and went back on her word, that hundred and thousands locally, and possibly tens of thousands of people across the world will be affected by this conflict, and when it does happen, it will drag everyone through the mud. And Pagan Pride has become a new battleground, unless ways can be found to assure that local wars are not nationalized like the Albany Crisis has become.

In the case of Pagan Unity Campaign started originally by Stormbear Williams as a way to try to breakthrough the static around Washington. It began simply enough, mail in postcards to our National leaders. Good Idea and easy to execute. It quickly expanded with national, state, and local officers. It grew in a burst of enthusiasm. Life was good and it was a magical idea.

Then Pagan Unity Campaign aka PUC-PAC, tried to come up with a definition of Paganism for their organization, and this set off a international email thunderstorm. More electricity was pumped into the

global network, and it scalded the wires. PUC-PAC needed to create a quantifiable definition in order to continue lobbying with. Politicians, Lawyers, and Legislatures and the various underlying bureaucracies require you define yourself. It simply has to be done to play the game.

So what was the dividing argument, 'Did PUC-PAC have the right to represent Pagans by declaring a definition that might be eventually accepted into law?', and the majority of antagonists screamed in the most and highest terms they didn't. They wanted PUC-PAC destroyed and it came with six months of condemnations, resignations, and support fell away. PUC-Pac survived with a new president.

PUC-PAC made a second grievous mistake that created another internal conflict by not willingly ness to share numbers publicly. In fact, they went out of the way to make sure no one counted them independently. They did not want anyone to know really how many postcards and phone calls are being made.. The campaign has Pagans sending thousands of postcards a year to politicians, faxes and phone calls as well, representing the Pagan community. The value must be upwards of one hundred thousand dollars annually of resources spent. Yet we do not hear or see results because ultimately PUC-PAC is more concerned about witch wars then on its central mission, informing and influencing political entities.

If PUC-PAC was ever allowed to really carry out their mission with no antagonists at there back, I feel they would be sending lobbyists to Washington today. They have proven to be a entrenched warrior culture and we should allow them to function in the world of DC. We need this, and yet the community wants these very talented people to waste their efforts protecting against attacks from internal antagonists.

In each case, witch wars began are primarily local problem are getting advanced into regional and national conflicts. Where in the 60's and 70's which wars were no more than bands of local Witches and Pagans groping for identity have metamorphosed into the 21st century community of International Organizations with established diverse identities and structures. The tragedy we discover that the one part we carry makes both forms of our community vulnerable to witch war, from basically the same causes.

Somewhere in Pagan Psychology is a motivating structure that allows us to see the conflicts as useful and necessary parts of our faith. It appears we see it as an acceptable way to behave and how we compete amongst ourselves. I personally have not found a suitable answer to this, so I am forced to examine and share the actual symptom of this hidden motivator, and that is that we will seek a larger audience whenever possible, and therefore national and international groups are always vulnerable to local antagonists who seek ultimate conflict.

South Africa's Prevalent Tactic

The local-national-international system of conflict is seen most evidently in Cape Town South Africa and then all of South Africa. Whenever a conflict emerges, instead of working on solving the problem, everyone lines up support before proposing a solution. Then instead of applying the solution, on then counts snouts and see who is most supported. Then, maybe a solution is offered and tried. Success leads to back slapping and "attaboys." Failure discredits one's entire alliance.

In South Africa a solution is suspect if it has an American or international source. In South Africa a solution is suspect unless it can gain some international support. It is a paradox established to guarantee that you can find an angle to discredit the solution before it is applied. So, even if successful, it was not the way we wanted to be successful, that is, the method was flawed.

South African Pagans are notoriously tribal and have strong cultural and class prejudices created and manipulated by the Apartheid government. Free Africa suffers from the programs under Apartheid and the cultural scars it left are still not truly healed.

Here the Scorched Earth Policy is most prevalent. One example in the early 2000s occurred when a South African High Priestess left South Africa for the United Kingdom. She left behind a

series of nasty innuendoes, lies, stories, and toxic psychic creations to cover up a program she had mismanaged. The program was on behalf of the Pagan Interfaith to create a library for pagans in Johannesburg. As she departed the country, leaving a whole series of nasty statements about those who remained behind, she also had scattered the library and sold it. She took the money to set up shop in the UK. In the process, she scorched the earth so deep that no pagan group could start another library and would find little support if they tried. It also made it impossible to discover where the funds attached to the project went.

Scorched Earth makes the community so toxic and having so many harsh feelings that no one can grow anything. Scorched Earth leaves people so resource and attention hungry that they cannibalize and suck dry anyone who attempts to replant and re-grow the scorched Earth.

In this case, The South African High Priestess who created a scorched earth, while benefiting personally from the project in the UK, created a Defender of the Scorched Earth. A Defender of the Scorched Earth is someone who believes the dead zone is better than anything else it could be. They will attack anyone entering the territory left behind. In this case, she left two defenders who attack anyone who attempts to build national and international alliances. The whole goal of the defenders is to keep the South African community broken up until the high priestess in the UK can make enough money and prestige to return to South Africa as a heroine and reunite South African Pagans under her, a true South African High Priestess with International Credentials. A beautiful dream to live if she is successful but until she is ready to make her move, her toxic defenders maintains this ugly condition.

You can see this situation repeated over and over in communities all over the world. Scorched Earth is a way to truly level the field to its lowest common denominator and it is practiced to this effect in South Africa.

The Three Levels of a Scorched Earth War

Nuclear, in which everything is destroyed and even the survivors are contaminated from the attacks. No one can overcome the attack and resources are completely rendered unusable. This type of attack is so sickening and revolting that all who hear of it will avoid it at all costs.

Chemical, in which everything that touches the attack and target zone is contaminated and must work to survive the pain and poison. It remains in the target area until it is cleaned. This type of attack is so frightening and unnerving that all who hear it will avoid it at all costs.

Biological is a conflict that contaminated the targets and spreads through the community well beyond the target zone, and can linger for years as a disease under the surface. This type of attack is so unconditional and close to home that one fears that it will contaminate them even if they avoid it.

Nuclear Level Attacks:

- Accusations of Pedophilia
- Accusations of Rape
- Accusations of forced Sex/Sexual assault
- Accusation of Murder/Human Sacrifice

Chemical Level Attacks:

- Accusation of being a Satanic front
- Accusation of a drug front
- Accusation of sexual deviancy
- Accusation of false teachings
- Accusation of theft and financial mismanagement

Biological Level Attacks:

Accusations of AIDS and STDs
Accusations of Deviant Behavior
Accusation of gossip generation
Accusations of misbehavior
Accusation of insanity/cultism

How to Detoxify a Scorched Earth?

The first thing is to recognize the defenders, and to basically ignore them. They need people to argue with, and if they can't have that they will rant. Rant long enough and people won't care. Ignore the rant and they will have sore throats.

Carry out projects successfully, and acknowledge success publicly. (When?) Defenders scream, remember let them scream. Simply state success, and let it be.

Repeat projects and work on improving on success. Let it include more people or improve the quality of service. Sometimes just doing it no matter what is an improvement. The more you do this successfully the more it moves from an event to a tradition. An example is our new Witches Ball was an event, 15 years later it's a tradition. So can any annual, quarterly, monthly, or weekly event. It also in time will detoxify a Scorched Earth.

For us, it has been the quiet establishment of a second library project in Cape Town, and book sales for developing a Pagan (something)? The Toxic defenders keep attacking, but the core believes ignore them and continue on the project. By slow steady results we are developing answers in a Scorched Earth environment.

The thing that South Africans don't know or even realize is that they are among the most natural magicians and witches I have ever met. They practice magick as naturally as they breathe, it's never forced or contrived. It's a source of power but it is conceived by many as bad country manners. (I)? Like to say, polish comes from the city, wisdom from the country. South African Wiccans and magi are wise and filled with gleeful mystic energy that many of us would envy if we only knew.

The Unconscious Mind: The Key

We are at our core vulnerable beings open to outside influences. We have an unconscious part of us that acts constantly. The conscious mind has a narrow range of attention; the unconscious does all the rest. That's right, the majority of your activity, including breathing, your heart beats, your hungers, and the thousands of signals you receive. Because of this, the unconscious mind is the primary manager of information.

Our mind filters out floods of information every second, so that we can cope with those things we consider important.

In the normal process of things our minds are huge reservoirs of information, stored as images, sounds, feelings, tastes, smells and other nerve-based reactions. Our mind begins to build a sense of self, and connects all this information into our identity. Our identity is our filter, which works unconsciously and consciously.

Our mind, once it has an identity begins to adapt to its outside environment, and respond to a person's needs. If it cannot do so in an easy, direct way, it will begin to seek creative answers.

So we see we have a conscious mind, which we develop through our identity as a filter to

all our experiences. Our unconscious mind maintains the majority of information and carries out thousands of survival actions including breathing and keeping our heart beating. Then our mind seeks to fulfill the needs of the individual and utilizes creativity and adaptability to solve problems. The mind will, on its own, seek the path of least resistance.

As we grow older, all of this gets stored in our memories, and they come into play in all our decisions. Again the unconscious mind intruded deeply into the conscious process of decision making.

It is important to realize that the mind does not erase previous memories; it layers new experiences over them in a very systematic way. We have the ability to shift back into past memories. Our memories from birth on form a vast storehouse which can be tapped and explored. It can also be exploited and opened through various techniques including hypnosis. Any event or argument can be tied into your past memories, and you may or may not realize it. Your identity will work to support the mind's work, including memory, and filter out as much challenging information as possible, while storing this information internally.

This means that individuals trained in Hypnotics, Mesmerization, creative visualization, psychology, neurolinguistic programming, and a number of arts and techniques that are able to penetrate and make changes in the unconscious mind without the target being aware of it. One of the thrills I hear is when young practitioners score their first 'hit', or watch as a creation of an action inside another person through the unconscious mind and the target individual are unaware of why they carried it out. Frightening, but it is a reality in our community, and the knowledge of these techniques is spreading.

The mind requires a steady stream of information to function properly. If you deny information to an individual, their minds will manufacture some response. An example is that people who have been placed in a sensory deprivation chamber will begin to hallucinate and fill in the experience. The mind can not accept a void. It will accept anything for a moment, if its choice is that or the void.

The mind will shut down when it becomes overloaded, overwhelmed, shocked, and in pain. If flooded with incoherent information, it will simply go numb and weaken the individual. They can be guided out of the confusion by someone who can put into perspective the incoherent information that so shocked the mind.

We can see that both techniques, overloading and denying senses, deprive people of a frame of reference, a structure in which to form their thoughts. Change the frame of reference and you change

the way they interpret information. Change the frame of reference and it changes the outcome of any particular thought and any action emanating from it.

Where does our frame of reference come from? Our belief system is where our frame of reference is set. Our belief system allows us to interpret information, make decisions, and act according to our beliefs. The frame of reference is the belief construct which we place our filters on, and thus it makes up a formidable defense of our psyche.

Understanding how important one's belief system is, you must accept that when you make a decision we usually base them on information we believe to be true. We don't have the time to verify every piece of information that comes to us. If we could not, we would be continuously distrustful and paranoid, unable to decide if anything was safe. The other side, being too trustful of all information makes one naïve and can be taken advantage of. So we live with a mind, whose frame of reference is based on our beliefs, and the twin pillars of Skepticism and Trust, and they are able to defend the unconscious mind from unwanted intrusions. So we see the unconscious mind is a major battlefield among Wiccans, Pagans and other types

of psychological warriors. This force is a major source of energy, information, and power and it directly affects the actions people will take. Never doubt the value of a well honed mind which understands that it has many parts and many ways to be given data. Once you understand this you can really begin to understand the nature of a witch war.

MECHANISMS FOR DEFENDING THE MICROSELF

Acting Out: Reducing the anxiety aroused by forbidden desires by permitting their expression.

Compensation: Making up for frustration in one area by over-gratification in another or detracting attention from a weakness by emphasizing a strength.

Denial of reality: Protecting micro self from an undesirable aspect of reality by denying its existence (ignoring it), often by getting "sick" or over-involvement with job or hobby, etc.

Displacement: Discharging feelings (usually hostility) on people or objects less dangerous than those which aroused the feeling.

Emotional

Insulation: Withdrawing from emotional involvement to protect self from hurt.

Fantasy: Gratifying frustrated desires by imagining their achievements.

Identification: Increasing feeling of worth by identifying self with illustrious person or organization

Introjection: Adopting values of others to avoid rejection

Isolation: Prohibiting self from feeling the pain caused by hurtful situations, or separating incompatible attitudes into logic-tight compartments.

Projection: Attributing one's own unethical desires to others, or putting blame on others for one's own difficulties.

Rationalism: Attempting to rationally prove that one's behavior is justifiable and deserving of approval.

Reaction

Formation: Preventing expression of dangerous (socially unacceptable) desires by over-emphasizing their opposite.

Regression: Retreating to earlier level of development which demands less mature behavior and/or a lower level of aspiration.

Repression: Blocking painful or dangerous thoughts from consciousness.

Sublimation: Gratifying frustrated sexual desires by substituting nonsexual activities.

Sympathism: Gaining sympathy from others to bolster feelings of self-worth.

Undoing or

Attonement: Atoning for immoral desires or actions by causing self to suffer.

The consequences of reducing psychological pain by using these techniques of self-denial are, from the short term (micro) point of view, successful in reducing psychological pain. In other words they do work. That's why we use them.

From 2150 A.D, Thea Alexander, . 1976 Warner

When witch wars become Conflict between Gods

"We create our own future by our own beliefs, which control our actions. A strong enough belief system, a sufficiently powerful conviction, can make anything happen. This is how we create our consensus reality, including our Gods." - Reverend Mother Ramallo, Sayyadina of the Fremem

At some point, a powerful witch war can become a conflict between the Gods themselves. So it was that way in the summer of '96 in Chicago. Norse, Wiccan and Eclectic groups were quarrelling. The Kemetic group had a Wiccan High Priestess who denounced her roots and declared for the Kemetic deities she served, and served alone, and that she was no longer even Pagan. She even threatened her enemies with the curses of her scornful Gods, and promised a new revival of the Cosmic power in the community.

Then an accident happened, and someone was hurt badly in that car accident, and the Kemetic Curse was believed and accepted. Now the other groups were doing cleansing and even demanding that their priesthoods keep them safe. The Heralds picked up the thread and retold the fantastic tale they were hearing. They embellished the tale with stories about visions and frights people were suffering,. Bad luck tales circulated through the community. People became truly convinced that the power of these Egyptian Gods was loosed in Chicago.

Eventually the attacks were countered by the internal struggles of the Kemetic community. A core of that Pagan community stated they were equally pleased with the Egyptian Gods and gave blessing to them through local Fellowship of Isis. Oracles came forward and the energy of the Kemetic Gods was properly honored. It was reinforced by the silence of the Kemetic group as its own internal politics took its toll. But from that point on, the Kemetic group was completely isolated as they choose. They have since have become an international order through the Internet, but that is a topic for later discussion in this manual. The Kemetics successfully won their battle of withdrawal and engaged the Gods themselves to protect them.

So it was seen in that summer that Chicago felt the summoned force of foreign Gods and they became part of the city. Eventually their power was recognized and satisfied by the rules of the conflict. Those who experienced Egyptian Gods, even if they were not Kemetic, felt their respect and authority grow within the community. Even I, to this day, offer a blessing to the Gods within whenever I pass the Field Museum.

Now, while I was engaged in another conflict, this one with an African group who threatened to send over Balu, a shadow being that their group was involved with. They showed me this entity during my visit, and I danced to its incredible energy. It was truly a being who was Shadow as substance, and was as alive as me and you. I fell deeply in love with Balu, and took a statue of him home. The group lost its leader due to a legal matter, and the main part of the group was turned against the Interfaith Library group. They decided they needed to show me I do not want to mess in African affairs. So they sent Balu the Dancer as the Carrier of Nightmares. Well, it took a few days and restless night before I figured it was Balu, and, when I knew it was Balu., I pulled together a dance party and showed him off. He forgot he was the Frightening One and set out to be his true being--the Dancer. He loved American sounds and shared his joy to an audience who were thunderstruck and awed. I thanked my friend and asked him to carry peace and blessings to those who sent him to me. In less than a week, the group which attacked me, apologized and stepped back into the shadows. No explanation was ever offered, but I will always thank Balu.

When Gods become involved, all I know is to respect them. If you don't, they may show you ways to believe in them. Or you may be right and they are all a figment of our imaginations. In any case there are always strange dangers when Gods play in mortal witch wars.

Unleashing the Dragon

This is a ceremonial statement that resonates from the Dawn times of humanity. It means to unleash divine powers and its messenger to directly take action on Earth, generally in a avatar form. It can denote the willingness of an individual to declare war and use violence if necessary. The dragon is seen as a force unlike another, and before the nuclear weapon was seen as the worst possible weapon that the universe could throw at you.

In the deepest terms when calling forth the dragon, you are risking your own flesh and soul to allow an Astral Creature to use your energy to take action on the mental and physical plane.

This ritual has been done many times in history, and in the current age there never has been a greater desire for dragons to appear. Further, recently more dragons have been summoned to Earth than in all of the past summonings combined. More magicians are conjuring Astral Dragons that operate on the psychic, mental and, sometimes, physical level than in all of history. I know of at least two Dragon Magi Guilds with chapters in several cities each. Dragons, both psychological and summoned, are a part of our psychic reality.

Unleashing the Dragon also means accepting the power of a magus. You can become Dragon-Born or Dragon-like within your Astral spirit. You can use the powers as you learn to shape-shift and use cross-planar senses. Dragonborn ritual allows the Magi to tap into a number of abilities that are psychic in nature including clairvoyance, clairaudience, ESP, astral vision, aura sight and even precognition.

The disadvantage of most Dragonborn or summoned Magic is that it requires a great deal of fuel to maintain. One must constantly maintain their ego within their minds and their wills as an Iron Fortress. This means they seek thrills and excitement to feed the adrenalin to keep the dragon awake.

The downsides of Dragon Magic are the constant stories and astral realities that dragons, in all their forms, require large amounts of rest between performances. This is true of a psychological summoning as much as a psychic or even ceremonial summoning. The dragon awakens, takes actions, seeks substance, carries out final actions, and then returns to sleep. So to will this happen in a witch war with those who practice Dragon Magic, or even simply promise to Unleash the Dragon.

Psychic Wars

I am an amazing card reader. I seek truth in the cards and I speak for them. I do not seek to change their meanings but I say it can be the starting place for a devastating attack. Readers involved in a witch war, especially involved in a conspiracy or a spy network, can lie or tilt the reading to create anxiety and harm. The reading to create anxiety and harm. The more uninvolved the reader appears, the more devastating the attack can be. In exchange, the poor recipient is being led to reveal secrets to be used against them. What an abuse of ethical reading standards? Welcome to witch wars at Psychic Fair and Pschic Fair Circuits.

First note: The vast majority, more than 95% of all readers are honest and straight forward with their customers. It's important to be as these are their income, revenue, and future support. But there is a secondary set of readings, called Shared readings. Basically you give someone a reading and they give you a reading. It's a sort of round robin of readings, Pagans and Psychics Play and Practice with. I will state there is something darkly psychological to constantly dig into one's future and past. Dig to far and one cannot get out without help. It's a way to create anxiety, worry, and unfulfilled expectations and that is when it's very friendly and open.

On a Magickal Level, I believe that Psychic Fairs and intense tarot readings, creates a space where

possibilities and realities are challenged, recognized, and cast away as fast as we can flip a card, shuffle a deck, throw the runes. We are playing with the most abstract part of our current mind.

Combine this with the need for the Psychic to attract clients to buy readings from them, while competing with 10, 20 or more psychics, you have the elements of a witch war. Further, since it's a job, the fair holds together and you have opportunities for long-term conflicts, and even extra-curricular conspiracies. Each weekend the show opens anew, and the competition begins from the opening bell. A Psychic witch war is truly a sight to behold.

Psychic Attacks

The Unhealthy Projection

Asks you how you are feeling because you don't look so good? Is your health okay? Do you get enough sleep?

This attack seeks to get you thinking about personal illness and it is meant to weaken you a little.

An even more direct is "You look like you have a headache, or is your stomach acting up"? This can be a great follow-up to the general unhealthy projection attack. It specifies where the problem is, and where to focus your negative energy.

Taking this attack to an even deeper level, the attacker will describe a headache they themselves with lots of sense loaded words. Then smile and walk away. The idea is that the target will be susceptible to suggestion and come down with the headache. The attacker wins, even if it is simply a ego point and a hypnotic pathway into the target's psychic.

Performance Anxiety Projection

Start out as a statement like you are brave to talk/perform in front of all these people. They follow they couldn't do it with strong emotional words for reasons. Then it follows "aren't you afraid"? With that many people in the crowd, I would be aren't you?

The third and final statement is the hypnotic charm "you are brave, if I got up there and I would panic. When I panic I would not remember the words. Well you never have that problem, Good Luck"

A strong mind repels this attack, but a new mind just learning, this can be a devastating attack. It can truly cause long lasting problems.

When the target stutters even a little it lets the attacker know a chunk in the armor and where hypnotic charms work.

The Ego Builder Attack:

Rarely seen as an attack, because it is a position of pure support. The simple premise is that one or more people back everything the target wants to do or claims too. Together they work on it, letting everyone know who's ever project it is. Just when it's going to be successful or even as it is successful, the attackers walk abandoning the target with an event to big to handle alone and no help. It can destroy an ego faster than anything.

Failure to hold a group together combined with betrayal is acute pain and emotionally devastating

The True Global conflict

Earth, Gaia is ultimately a closed life support system. At this time all the resources we have are within the sly of our Beloved Mother. Further, we really have access to a few miles below the planet surface. All human life is contained in a definite finite amount of space. We can measure and identify all the livable resources we have and all the technology each nation has. So the current Global War So the current Global War is really about resources.

As we see resources diminishing in free form, and nations are beginning to make a deal to tie up even more free sources, possibly the last on earth. China, India are about to need more oil and then they United States ever dreamed of. This is a reality, no matter what we believe in. We see a time when even water will be

bottled and sold (oops, too late). Clean Air will become a premium and we are going to be seeking sterility as a safety measure. It's the challenge of the 21st Century, the Aquarian Age desperate start.

America is at war with drugs, with Cancer, Korea (Armistice), with Iraq, with Afghanistan, on Poverty, on Crime, on Discrimination, and on terrorism. Simply put America is at war. From deep inner city drug lords, pimps, and thugs, to their South American suppliers, who are Billion-dollar Barons, who lead armies and establish narco-states. We are at war with them and ignore them all in one incredible breath. It is a controllable problem. The war continues without a desire to end it.

Where America is most strongly addicted, the drug America is enslaved too is oil. Oil is our life blood and we will have it. We will do anything to keep it coming and cheap. We will kill anyone who denies us access to oil. That's okay because they are bad people, and we need our oil, that black sticky stuff. Forget heroin, coke, and pot, nothing is as addictive as oil. Ahhh oil, sweet oil, America's miracle elixir and most important need.

And oh My God! Sweet Jesus cries the Churches filled with SUV driving people. India and China is becoming economically addicted to our oil. They are beginning to make deals for oil that we need. We use 33% of the world's daily production and we can't compete with China or India on price. They are using our money they have earned from us to buy oil they need to use all the stuff we sold them. Of course, the world's oldest civilizations they take a little longer to catch up to us youngster, but when they learn they master. They are mastering our form of civilization and they want, need, demand energy, and we taught it too them. This will never go away, we can only evolve beyond it or war for every decreasing resources.

My question to you is what happens when addicts face a shortage. That what will be the beginning of the next global conflict. That is the war after the Middle Eastern Crusade of Democracy, also known as the opening of the Free Resource Acquisition Trade War. Oil and energy will drive the next phase of civilization. Energy and power to run our machines. Without power we are nothing, that will be the lesson we are taught, and energy is power. Energy will be wealth. And let us realize it maybe a different type of energy, but Pagans too know there is ways to tap into energy when you need it. Imagine when we apply it to real world problems. I think we will be amazed.

Energy and Resources. The two words that will define the 21st Century and all it's conflicts.

In Dealing With Real War

When a nation is involved in a real war, the types of people die in from wounds caused by an enemy combatant, it becomes a different type of organism. It becomes a naturalistic entity that seeks internal unity and unquestioned loyalty to the National leadership conducting the war. Every level of the society must cooperate or suffer the consequences. Cooperation, conformity, loyalty and faith is the motto of a nation at war.

Any behavior that is seen as not respecting the war leadership can be seen as treason, heresy, or other equally devastating label. Once the label taboo or forbidden behavior is established any practice of it becomes subject to punishment and imprisonment. It can even lead to execution.

Let me make it clear, anytime a nation is at War, it can and will see any opposition as disruptive. Under war powers they can name the oppositions position in support of the enemy and any further practice of it is treason. The opposition must now denounce their position or suffer the now legal harassment of the National Government.

Do not play with a country at war. Label your enemy in the community a traitor to the nation and watch them disappear. Wait until they arrest you for knowing a traitor, the very traitor you reported, and all of your friends and enemies are swooped up in one neat bundle. Then refugee camp to death camp, you take a chance and you never know how far a country will go. Calling another Pagan a traitor in a nation at war can lead to the arrest of all Pagans in that country.

In the United States Pagans are under suspicion due to two groups. The first is the Earth Liberation Front which has been blamed with Domestic acts of terrorism. They are believed to find assistance among environmentalists and Pagan groups. Under the Patriot Act, your group can be investigated if you show any support of an Elf position. They can make sure you are not planning to carry out acts of domestic

terrorism.

The second is the growing influence of Theocratic Christian movement which seeks to create a strawman for their acts. Basically they are setting Pagans up to be evil attackers of Christian rights to pray publicly. They are going to say we would deny them their rights all the while it is the Theocratic Christian movement who are working to keep us out.

They are creating us into an international conspiracy of demonic qualities in the service of the Anti-Christ. All are actions, they are directed at destroying them, no matter how innocent appearing. Every action is devil filled and spews Satan at the good Christian, and only through the complete eradication of the International conspiracy can the Christians be safe. At some level, Christian leadership is in a do or die conflict with Wicca and Paganism. In the future, it will grow more intense as they try to make us a fearsome dark force threatening humanity, one in which they will be given permission to use and imprisonment violence to stop us.

We are in phase two of the caring conflict, when Christian, attack, America at war.

I can even state how it is developing Satanic crime is on the rise (or at least articles), that Moslems are using occult language to send secret messages, and that demonic possession is on the rise. Demonic possessions are the trigger which the Christian fundamentalists can open up at anytime. Because it is a self-inflicted and internally fueled phenomena, that they can eventually be purged by blaming outside forces.

Once they can pressure enough at the laity to agree to this phenomena, it become hysteria, mob action and action to assert a destructive force in the name of God and Society,. Once the fear is purged, no matter the damage is severed and found dangerously irrational. The more their actions, look to God for forgiveness, and build on the wealth obtained over the dead and damaged lives they trampled with the hysteria in the first place.

The trick of course is to assure the laity accept that demonic possession is possible and a direct threat. This doesn't always work, and that comes out to be a messy public solutions disaster. "Sorry Just Some Crackpots" Christian authority will disclaim. It's a win-win situation of deception.

7 Dirty Lies according to Christianity

How can you trust a religion that claims it sets you free by having you pray on your knees?

Where did Cain, the only living child of Adam and Eve, find a wife to have children.? The answer is either he had incestuous relations with his sister or Adam and Eve were not the only human beings around.

That anyone is truly in Heaven today? No one can enter heaven until Judgment Day and that can't happen until Jesus returns and destroys the Earth in a cataclysmic war, called Armageddon. So this means every Christian is praying for the final war to release all souls to appear before Christ the King and serve him through Perfect Obedience for all eternity in a city called Heaven.

The snake did not lie. Adam lived to 900 years old and Eve managed to have a number of Children, after they ate the Fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

That Communion, the Eucharist is the Transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by consuming the transmuted flesh and nectar of an executed Man who was the Son of God, and his father was so cruel he demanded his son die as a sacrifice and resurrect himself to save humanity through this blood debt. His father has demanded that humanity to continue to consume Christ's body and blood until his sacrificed son returns and promises to destroy anyone who does not practice this ritual of Communion.

That Christianity has killed millions of people in his name, and Western Civilization is based on the bloody oppression created by Christianity in one form or another. That human beings have been taken apart, tortured and murdered in basically every possible way by Christians who stated that their returning conquering Lord Christ gave them the right to do it. That while no one branch will claim heritage to the bloody history, it is always another branch of Christianity, and will not accept all Christianity was born by power of the sword.

That Jesus Christ is not returning. That's right, Jesus Christ will not be returning. It's a big fat lie. It's the

biggest lie in the history of the world. It's the most deadly, insidious and unprovable lie that men perpetuate in hope and greed. All the same it's a lie. I say this in 2005, AD, I said it in 1985 AD, I said it in 1999 AD, and I will say it again in 3005 AD, Jesus Christ will not be coming back. Christ is simply not returning to Earth as a conquering supernatural force.

Okay, as a Pagan I can accept this now. Do you want to see the scars it took for me to be able to say this. The intensity of the pain shattered me into a thousand pieces, and slowly I battle daily with the pain and anguish of a Christian youth I came to realize that the priests knowingly lie to us, they know there isn't a returning day of Jesus or they would fear it more. It's a scam dating back over 1600 years.

So Jesus is not coming back and as a Pagan the only evidence I will accept is his return. All else is a lie used to trick and destroy free will by creating fear and threats of a supernatural war yet to come, and the daily war of these two endless forces.

So I tell you the biggest lie Christians say is Jesus will return. I just don't believe it. Understand my fellow witch warrior how dangerous a thought that is. First you have to accept it or you have to believe in the coming Armageddon and the fulfillment of prophecy. You must either believe Christ will or will not return. It's the dividing question.

So if you simply state that you do not believe in Jesus return, and you come to see that everything in Jesus return, and you come to see that everything attached to it is a lie created to imprison people. Once you cross the line you have committed heresy, sentencable to prison and even death in a few countries. It's actually a social taboo among all religions not to say you don't believe in Christ's Return. Even in Pagan circles it is a social taboo to say it.

Even the majority of those who are Pagans hold hard on to this belief. We all love the reassurance that knowing that a all-consuming Global Sacrifice to Yahweh will save our souls and award us eternal bliss and unknowable pleasure and equally horrible punishments to our enemies. My God, won't all of us be happy being in heaven together, never having to struggle for our basic needs again. Who would not want that dream, it gorgeous on the surface. Simply strangely beautiful but so is a green field of delicious grass before sheep and cows.

Wake Up, this is a fate that says everything we believe in as Pagans is to put us to a place called hell. Simply put, if Christianity is telling the truth, and you believe it, then you are accepting that you are hell-bound. To be a Pagan means we are doomed to hell and torment for our transgressions when Christ returns. Can't have it two ways, believe in Christ's return and obvious oblivion of all Paganism or you don't believe it and life itself becomes potentially eternal. Earth is not going to be killed by God, not now, not ever.

Christians will point to the bible to prove a point but it simply is not valid. A book will not bring back Christ. Only a Christian Miracle can have that happen, and it is a lie to believe it will happen simply because a book says so. So the bible is not acceptable proof. Only the return of Christ is proof.

The Christian will say 'Then it will be too late to accept Christ', and my answer is okay, I am willing to take that chance. My own practices show this is a practice which pushes Christians to the edge of hysterics. Their whole religion is counting on this war, and ours demands this war never occurs. You can't really believe in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust and want to see Armageddon. Sorry, I just can't see it except in the bizarre realms beyond human emotion. In this life and now, I believe that love requires me to try to survive and want the whole world to live.

So everytime I open my mouth and say Christ is not returning gets me called a liar. I understand the serpent all too well. Tell them the truth you believe in and they will reject it and call you a liar, and seek to silence you. Be careful, because this is a primal energy, so close to the core of Christians fear and it's dangerous to them as they challenge the world for supremacy.

Try it out and see how quickly you too become a liar.

The Future Christian Campaign against Wicca

The statement has been made increasingly over the last 50 years that American is threatened by Arcane Forces. Satanism began its new age in '66, and was said to be sweeping the nations of the world. The Soviets and the Americans were going to have a nuclear war, and the end of the world is coming. In this process, Jesus would come to save the world.

From the 50's until now, we have had witch hunts for communists, drug-dealers, mafia, UFO's, Satanists, Satanic murders, serial killers, liberals and now terrorists. In each campaign, each war, it was against the forces which threatened Christianity directly. They all sought to destroy good Christian folks and Satan was preparing for the final conflict. Communists and our enemies were going to destroy us.

In the 90's, it was the computerized Armageddon of Y2K, and it was going to t throw us into a new dark age of chaos and data-loss. America would fall and Jesus would arrive. But it did not happen and the world chuckled, relieved.

9/11 occurred and now we are at war with the Islamic nations of Earth, and they are the children of Satanic forces, and must be brought into the loving embrace of Western civilization. Guns, blood, armor, and death are now living forces in our world. It is, of course, Satan's fault.

What we see in the media-transformed evangelic movement has been able to tighten their message, learn to add many new tools, and are creating a consistent community around a church of fear and hate. The message is direct, simple, and brutal; Hate Satan and fear him. Be ready to fight him at every corner and in every place. This is the most important thing that the emerging third-wave Christianity has as its core, oppose Satan.

In the United States and countries around the world, evangelical Christians are using powerful economic resources to recruit people into a religion which at its core is fighting Satan. And anything not western Christian civilization, can be rendered Satan.

If this is the truth, then we can see a growing number of political and social actions which states the supremacy of Christianity in decision making and all opposition are forces of ...Chaos? At the same time, state and national laws supporting restricting communication. Control of education and public services would need to increasingly into their hands, so they can assure it is available to true believers, and denied to unsupportive individuals.

It will simply become easier to be Christian and safer too, than to being anything else. Anyone who does not recognize Christian rights and the natural superiority will be subject to legal, extra-legal, and media-based attacks on their credibility. They will be marked on Satanic, in code words, in psychological statements, and same time flat out and out. After that moment you carry millennium's worth of baggage that you neither packed nor owned. It's merely recognized as yours by your oppressive antagonists, and accuse you of evidence they created for you, just for this purpose. In other words, they have all the evidence to convict and accuse you at Satanic involvement before you do a single thing. Well, you don't have to do anything at all, if they simply desire a scapegoat. Innocent people have been accused, convicted and even executed on evidence created for that purpose in advance.

When fighting an enemy without body, without form, capable of altering minds, weather, the very earth itself, controls all diseases, all criminals, even the highest levels of Governments, and is engaged in the destruction of humanities very soul. When accusing someone with that type of power, you should be able to present evidence.

But remember Satan is in so much control of Earth, and the law enforcement agencies, that evidence will just disappear. To protect his people he can manipulate everything, and any one, except good,

God-fearing Christians.

So we now see a powerful Christian movement, equipped to take on any enemy spiritually, and when they appear they can be immediately discredited and destroyed. When reasonable people question the truth of these actions, they too are being influenced by Satan. In the end, this powerful resourceful Christian group is isolated, alone, and powerless that they need fear for their souls, the lifestyles, and their rights. And they are to be pre-eminent over all others in order to feel safe once more.

So as Wicca grows (Satanic recruitment of the unwilling) and gains legal status (Satan in our government), and then asks for legal rights honored (Satanists seeking to harm Christians), then they are enemies of good legal order (all Satanists are evil and breaks God's laws) and must be stopped. It is quite impossible for the Evangelical Christian movement to react different and remain credible. They will deny and distort human law to serve "God's Law" of their interpretation in order to prevent Satan from coming into our society. After all, America and all nations should serve Christ, no matter what they believe. American especially is God's chosen, and is depended on to fight evil. A law-abiding Wiccan is the greatest threat possible to this group.

The law-abiding Wiccan is no threat whatsoever, not in physical terms, nor in any level to be meaningful. The Wiccan is out-gunned, out-resourced, and out-numbered from the start. They can not threaten or harm in any way any one without immediate reaction from law agencies. Simply put, No Wiccan can honestly take on the Christian church and threaten it in any meaningful way, physically, financially, or through any illegal means. It simply won't happen under the current society.

Let me explain, when Wiccans talk about 43,000 members, Christians talk about 43,000 churches. When Wiccans say they have a thousand clergy, Christians talk about a thousand missions. When Wiccans hustle to rent space, Christians buy and build churches. When Wiccans say they are not evil, Christians say they are, and when they are in the majority they win. When talking about how Wiccans threaten Christians, it is really a battle of an ant to a man. It's really no battle at all, the Wiccan will assuredly lose.

Now we have this document called the constitution of the United States of American. Within this document which allows a religion to exist freely, and not to be interfered with by Government. Wiccans realized this and finally developed the resources to file all the necessary documents. They further are testing with the law and in court rooms. And they are winning, this Wiccans to practice freely.

So the government is being influenced by magic (Satan) and allowing Wiccans unfair advantages (equal rights). So it is they must inform everyone of the evil, and begin literature campaigns and bully pulpits. They take it to the politicians who try to write laws. Sometimes they fail, sometimes they succeed. They never give up.

When courts strike down discriminatory laws, the Christians called it a liberal court committing judicial activism. They call it unfair and signs of further encroachment of ungodliness and sin to our society. So they need to change the judges, and that means electing presidents and governors. So you hear to protect us from Godless heathens and witches, we must elect a Christian to the White House, and they did.

So now the law-abiding Wiccan who has fairly, properly and in good faith, followed the rules is still to be made criminal for their beliefs, and the law is wrong for not realizing it. It is a powerful position to be in; this minister who seeks to protect his flock, from the evil witch, and will go to any measure to do so. As he states "you are arguing about the word of God and that is more important than human law."

So the Wiccan is made the vile creature, who represents no physical, political, or resource threat, and barely capable of managing a living, is the greatest threat to them that ever existed. How could that be possible?

It's not and all of the threat from Wicca is made up by the Christians over hundreds of years to assure they stay in power and have a label to destroy their enemies with. To be labeled a witch was a death

sentence carried out by law and church, and no one ever questioned it. Today, it's the same thing except we outlawed burning and torturing witches. Now we simply run them out of town and persecute them. Let no witch find a home in my American, God-fearing Christian town.

So I say to you, Christians have nothing to fear from Wiccans and, in fact, want Wiccans to show up to give them support. Christians benefit internally whenever Wiccans challenge them externally. They benefit from having an opponent to which their framing allows them to attack.

So the next phase is to sell each other materials on the witch threat and how to evangelize/proselytize Wiccans and Pagans. By this, they write stories about Wicca and their evil to a receptive audience who are unconsciously willing to accept any story as fact and truth from their approved sources.

At phase 3 it will be to thoroughly challenge Wicca and Paganism. It is at this phase I believe we are currently in. Be careful and hear this if you can, Christian Evangelicals will begin to see Wicca everywhere and everyplace, and they will mention it over and over again. They want to have witches appear everywhere. Ministers are praying that a few pop-up in their congregation. They want to try out all the methods they are being taught. From them, this is a terribly exciting hunt.

For Wiccans it means more people reading and seeking training and more of them will be rebels against Christianity. In phase 3, the evangelical movement want their discontents to follow the script and becomes Witches, forsaking the church, and in the end, targets for the ministers wrath. They will go so far as the name books and websites to find the Wiccan Filth that they must never look is at. These ministers are shrewd and know teens and how discontented members will do, especially if it's subtly suggested. They flood us with a rebellious and angry group beyond our control and who do not want to embrace Perfect Love and Perfect Trust. This push is an attempt to foster their sick twisted fantasies on us by people they have psychologically conditioned and they will be made out to look like us, Wiccans and Pagans.

In this phase, Evangelicals they hope a certain portion actually indulges in witchcraft, especially among the unchurched members of society. They want it to grow enough to make them feel threatened. It's like a emotional roller-coaster ride, scary but reasonably safe. You may feel terrorized for a while but you know the outcome, you arrive safe where you started. In this case, Witches are real and we always warned you about them. Now look, they are taking over society just as we predicted.

The undercurrent will be Satanic Crime literature will rise, offerings of Seminars in Occult crime, special reporting services, and articles showing Wiccans in a bad light. It continues to link the Occultists to criminal activity, especially deeply mysterious criminal activity.

Phase 4 is the real pisser. They will find a way to make a Wiccan, a Pagan, a Witch a criminal class. Not unlike Hippies of the 60's, The Blacks in the 70's and continues, Gays in the 80's, and so on and so forth. We see them criminalize a portion of society only to finally give ground and grant the rights these people should have had in the first place. In most of these cases, the war against them continues.

But Wiccans will be a special case, it won't be enough to marginalize them and create ghettos for them. The authorities with the urging a growing evangelical movement and media war in progress, they will seek the high ground. Wiccans will become traitors, treason, terrorists, and worse. All of these will be executable offenses and long term imprisonment. After all, The evangelicals don't want us to survive, and we are the object lesson that they need renewed. Be a Witch and you will die.

When they do attack, it will be the equivalent of a Psychological NBC attack. It will gut us and devastate us. You know history and you know the truth of this. I will not work to convince you what you hear when history cry's out with the truth.

Here is the News Broadcast and Headlines for Operation: Eliminate Wicca

"We have discovered that several Wiccans have been involved with Drug Busts"

”Local gangs using occult symbols and methods in recruitment”.

”Witch marks are left on Church Doors all over the Untied States.”

Breaking news: “The Earth Liberation Front has burned down a Ten million dollar housing Complex. A Security guard was killed. Homeland security is involved. We will bring you live pictures of this site of domestic terrorists.”

”Who is the Earth Liberation Front?”

”Earth liberation front has been linked to the Anthrax mailing deaths through a 2003 report stating Pagan groups in the area of Central Indiana may have been involved with the labs carrying anthrax.”

”Pagan Festival busted. Several men arrested for nudity and indecent exposure in front of unrelated children as young as 2 years old. Over 50 cameras and hundreds of rolls were confiscated to search for pictures of nude children. One witness said, “This is a clothing optional festival, everyone is welcome to walk around skyclad. There is nothing wrong with this. Federal marshals believe otherwise.”

”Local Minister cry out on threat of our children being exposed to Wiccan pedophiles after the summer raid at Pagan festival. Wiccans are obviously recruiting our children for sexual rituals. Most Pagan groups deny the allegations and points out that no one was convicted of any crimes from the summer raid.”

”Evidence suggests Pagan/Wiccan groups such as Pagan Festivals, pagan Pride and Pagans United may be fund raising fronts for domestic terrorist groups such as the Earth Liberation Front.”

”Congress calls hearing to investigate possible links between Wiccan groups and Domestic terrorists.”

”Earth Liberation Front is shown to connections to Al-Qaeda and other groups through European Occult Groups as well as several Environmental movements.”

”A Railroad spill occurred today. People are killed and many more are being evacuated from this town. This is a unsafe and dangerous site. Early reports say the track has been sabotaged...Hold on; Our station has just received a phone call. A group calling itself ‘The Toxic Defenders of the Earth’ has called in to claim credit for this derailling. They are threatening to spill all toxic waste in populated areas if the government sends them by rail. This is horrible; we need better security and take aim at these terrorists. Dear God this is just horrible...it’s worse than a bomb.”

”Today, several members of the Toxic Defenders were arrested in the horrendous terrorist attack on the rail system, spilling toxic chemicals and killing lots of people horribly. According to inside sources they are linked to Earth Liberation Front and American Wiccan groups.”

”Congress orders Wiccans to be questioned in wake of allegations”

”The Homeland security has been named the following people to be arrested as People of interest; there is no evidence that these people named are involved. Homeland security announces this is precautionary and the public should not be alarmed.”

That’s it folks, It’s one path that Phase 4 will likely go. It can be similar fashion or path or some scenario I don’t even know or think of. Unless we can figure out how not to play, we must be careful to obey the laws and be ready to defend ourselves with the Law, constitution, and with love. It’s the best shot at survival we have.

In Closing,

Witch wars are a place of energy, power, authority, entertainment, and a testing ground. In a society which seeks credibility, a culture that wants to discover truth, and where honor has actual meaning, the witch wars are the form of conflict they we have accepted as a truth filter. Only the strong will survive and that has always been the Pagan message. Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, a lesson we are not yet ready to learn.

So it is that if we are going to fight, let us do it well. Let us understand the deep forces that move us to do these things. If we are going to pursue a psychological revolution, an evolution of our understanding of our cosmos, to build a new civilization based on the premises of Wicca and Magick, of Science and Math, of Learning and Teaching, of exploring and examining the world with powerful technological tools that will give us senses beyond anything that man has yet to imagine, then let's fight it until we are free.

The battle, the true witch war is against the unknown itself, and that is where we should truly focus our energy. I want to face the unknown and test what it is I do not know, and I want to build on what I know. I want that knowledge available for my children and yours, your grandchildren and mine, and in the next, will it matter, they will all be ours. No matter what battles I face, what wars I will fight in, and the face the testing of truth, I will work to preserve the knowledge we gained in pursuit of the ideal "In Perfect Love and Perfect Truth". That's the war I have fought for nearly two decades. The war to make Wiccan and Pagan free within and without. The battle continues.

Imagine if we could understand the forces of conflict were instead of focused on a witch war that we instead fought for a Witch Peace. It's beyond even imagining. We would be truly a people who would change, transform the world. We would be the people of the wealth, we would own land, we would own the green fields and rich deserts. We would be able to have a communities whom the Lord and Lady were honored, and our loving ideas of freedom, built on the truth of Perfect Love and Perfect trust, and those rights set out in the Constitution and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. I have no doubt about this, I have seen the evidence of a place where a Wiccan Peace lives, and it is beautiful and warm to all those who stand near it. I stand and see the need to guard this peace.

You don't think so. Let me offer a scenario that would change the world. If a Witch peace, a place where Pagan passions could find a perfect expression of what it means to Pagans everywhere. Let us declare that we make some common event is where we find a way to find peace. Everyone joins who agrees and no one can quit. If you quit, then you are obviously incapable of finding peace. That's right, no quitting. And Plan the event. You would be surprised what success would happen, but I know this. Apply this to Pagan Pride and where it succeeds where no groups does fights with each other publicly, then all groups will see a increase of interest in Paganism in the whole. Do it twice, you have an audience. Do it three times, and you will have a crowd, and I am still working on fourth, but I suspect it may be the world. It's how Christians seem to win. I know it's a lot to ask, probably too much....but someday.

For me, I move beyond this manual to prepare for the Witch School Education and Leadership Conference in Albany, head down to Saint Louis for the Pagan Picnic, flying to South Africa, Attend Starwood, Do some drumming in Virginia Beach, and live my life. Oh yes, I will also be building a place of learning online and in communities around the world, for to be a Witch is to want to free all knowledge from all restraints. It is time for people to make up their own minds. Everyday I will seek peace, and rejoice in it. And if we have to battle let us battle well for we know what we fighting for, the only thing worth fighting for.

To this end, I ask all good people to accept that Peace is as something as desired as our idea of Magick and Love, and if it is not, let us War.

And remember of no matter what you hear, remember my motto:

'All Rumors about me are true, regardless of the facts.'

Blessing!

Glossary:

Amplifier : 1. an individual who adds more information that can bring a new level to the conflict. The information is in support of the dividing question, and forces individuals of the audience to make another decision or choice. 2. a way to increase the intensity of the argument or to increase the audience of the argument. Both can change the tempo of the play, and make it more exciting.

Antagonist:

Director is an individual who understands all the key elements of a witch war, writes a script, and hand it the antagonist, and occasionally to the target. They begin the events and then through the intelligent use of heralds, amplifiers, bit players, and interactive parts of the audience keep the actors to their hidden script.

Dividing argument: A agreement in which only three responses are possible, to either ignore it, or make a yes or no decision. So either it is not important to you, or if it is then you can only say yes or no. It is a polarizing question or action.

Dog: A person who is always seeking sex and attention. They will do just about anything to get it. Generally male, rarely female, and they always will respond favorably to attention, but once receiving attention they will seek it out and presume that you will continue to give them attention.

Echo: When you send out a rumor and hear it repeated back to you. The depth of the echo is the number of times it is repeated back.

First Wave: Agriculture based society.

Gossip: Any information passed on about a third party outside official channels.

Herald: An individual who's duty/job/thrill is too collect and disseminate news and gossip in the community.

Hound: A more mature dog, and a hunter and worker. They love attention and will generally take advantage of any dog thrown in front of them. They have shorter attention span and do not crave attention. Inf act, after some point, they want to be left alone for a while. Hounds are the royalty of dogs many times, and are far more respected.

Playgan: A individual who is playing at being Pagan and does not actually believe in the practices.

Puppy: A hyperactive, attention seeking, young dog. They are even more playful and demanding then a dog, but accept lesser rewards as gratification. Generally a Virgin or undersexed, they are seeking a way to feel more adult like.

Satanist: A branch of Christianity that often claims mutual admiration with Pagans. This is often a source of contention in the Pagan community.

Scorched Earth: makes the community so toxic and having so many harsh feelings that no one can grow anything. Scorched Earth leaves people so resource and attention hungry that they cannibalize and suck dry anyone who attempts to replant and re-grow the scorched Earth.

Second Wave: The Civilization based on the Industrial revolution.

Spy: Someone who seeks secret information that is personal in nature and can or will be used for

a political purpose.

Target: The individual and group that an antagonist or others direct their attacks against.

Third Wave: The coming of the next civilization based on the changes on the electronic technology.

Truce Zone: A place where no one can attacks.

Turning Point: Then point a attack changes people's mind.

witch war exists as a form of combat in the Pagan community for the purpose to discredit, eliminate, and do harm to the images and public reputation of other members, so they may not carry out their tasks. By doing so, it allows the antagonist to maintain the community they desire or create new structures in the same community. Witch wars do this with the purpose of preventing others from succeeding and becoming part of the leadership of the community.

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Part 3: Lectures of witch wars Situations

Awakening to the Pagan Faith
By Rev. Ed Hubbard

Forward

"We all have dreams, we all want to believe deep down in our souls that we have a special gift, that we can make a difference, that we can touch others in a special way, and we can make the world a better place. At one time in our lives we had a vision for the quality of life that we desire and deserve. Yet, for many of us, those dreams have become so shrouded in the frustrations and routines of daily life that we no longer even make an effort to accomplish them. For far too many, the dream has dissipated and with it, so has the will to shape our destinies. Many have lost the sense of certainty that creates the winner's edge. My life's quest has been to restore the dream and make it real, to get each of us to remember and use the unlimited power that lies sleeping within all." - Anthony Robbins Awaken the Giant Within

These powerful words forever changed my life. They powerfully stirred my soul and compelled me to answer. To, in turn, proclaim my life's quest. This story is my response to a long and remarkable experience. My life had become shrouded in the necessities of life, my spirit was bitter, my mind hungry. I wanted desperately for my life to reflect my dreams and hopes. This awakened my soul, trapped in the world of uncaring agnosticism. Yet, no matter how desperate I may have been, I did not understand what I wanted: I worked so hard to be a "good" person, a productive person. From High School to the Navy to a career in Law as a Paralegal, I was on the fast track to success. The price, for there is always a price, was the death of my heartsong and my belief in miracles was greatly diminished. By the time I went to my first Earth Day festival I believed humanity was doomed, no one cared, and that the true secret of life was money at all costs.

My good fortune in life was to be blessed with a supportive wife, two beautiful children, and a loyal best friend. They stood by me no matter how vicious, sarcastic, and even avarice my attitude had become. My son and daughter really reminded me what was important in life. It was their expectations, their belief in me that made me realize that there was more to my life than I knew. I began to search for meaning, to seek a new identity and a new life.

I will never forget the day it really hit me that I was Pagan. My family and I were attending the twentieth Earth Day Festival in Lincoln Park, enjoying the day. As we saw more and more projects we agreed with, the more pentagrams I saw. Then we heard the songs of the band Heartsong and discovered they were practicing Pagans. My spirit soared to their words, their melodies, and for the first time I knew I was a Pagan. Paganism, in turn chose me. At this crucial moment, I made a decision that gave my life meaning. This decision was to never again forget my mother, the living earth, and settle for nothing less than harmony and inner peace. I made it my life's quest to restore the dream and make it real, to get each of us to remember our inner divinity and use the unlimited power that lies sleeping within us all.

So taking action, I set aside my books and went out to explain my awakened beliefs with everyone I knew. I led ritual from books, I went to temples and bookstores. I read tarot cards and played with crystals. I did everything I could possibly do. With the eagerness of a curious and proud child, I chattered away.

Boy, did I get pounded! I was ostracized, I was attacked, I was questioned, I was ridiculed. I was told how wrong I was. I was even told I was possessed by the Devil. No one wanted to listen. Neither friends nor family was willing to hear me out. Even the Pagans I discovered were not willing to be open. Like I said "I got pounded"!

Yet conflict creates a change. There should be a science of discontent. People need hard times and oppression to develop psychic muscles. It tempers the wild spirit and teaches the soul patience and endurance to enjoy the journey. In the end it tests your convictions and gives you a sense of certainty.

Along this journey, I truly became Pagan. In my heart, in my soul, and even in my actions, I could feel the divine spirit I was long missing. I became Pagan and discovered myself on a path of strength. The essence of faith instilled within me a lover of all things, a new way of expressing divine love. And with this divine love all is possible.

As I learned more about Paganism, the more involved. I have given everything I have to this Path and the rewards have been great. I learned Pagan Politics and I knew in my heart the Pagan Path was a golden path to a better world

CHAPTER 1: What is Paganism?

Paganism is a dynamic faith that is very close to the soul of humanity. This faith sees us as we are, and as the world is, not according to some preconceived model, but form within our spirit. Paganism seeks the mystery of the divine world, to enjoy the richness of nature, and an understanding that we are both divine and natural beings.

Paganism is a joyous and reverent philosophy, which everyone can share in - for there is not a person alive in the world who is not descended from Pagan ancestors. We have a heritage so deeply ancient and so uniformly common we can all share in it.

While each form of Paganism has its own disciplines and guides towards understanding, Pagans do have common beliefs. Let us share them for a moment.

A Pagan refuses to accept the idea we are born innately sinful and realizes that the concept of "sin" is manipulative and harmful to human nature.

As a Pagan, we realize the powers of the universe, known as the Divine force, the creative will, exists within us, not as a separate part, but as part of our whole being.

We see our actions as a part of the whole, and we are involved with the movement of natural forces. These forces affect our lives in many ways.

The Pagan celebrates the movement of natural forces, in fact seeks unity with them, and opens us to them through ritual and study.

A Pagan joins with others, in form or in spirit, during festival times to share in these in rhythms of nature, and seek greater energy to act personally in the world.

By living in harmony with the rhythms, tides, seasons, and forces of the Universe, we will be more whole, enjoying the health of the body, strength of the mind, the greatness of the soul, and the gifts of the spirit.

We abide by the great rule of love and that we may do as we wish so long as it harms no other. For truly, love is immortal. It is love that animates, beautifies, benefits, refines, and creates.

We are nature and nature is us, and to harm the world around us is to cut out a vital organ from our body. We support the ecology of our Mother, the living earth, seeking to be balanced within.

We know that the basis of all life is the Divine Intelligence, reflected in all Gods and Goddesses, and reflected in humanity, and within all creation. The Pagan is aware that humanity has always known of the existence of the Divine Intelligence and has called it thousands of names for hundreds of thousands of years. That men and women of all eras have drawn strength and power, security and love from this source of life and have transcended our shared reality, into a knowing of Divine Will.

As Pagans, we seek communication with all aspects of life. We have a view of embracing cultural diversity and discovering truth in the beliefs of all people. We have discovered this unique unity from the midst of diversity, and far exceed the idea of tolerance for another's faith.

Pagans are inclusive, seeking the best and highest in all people. In this we seek the unquenchable spark of life, the divine presence of God and Goddess, common to all humanity.

The Pagan knows deeply that man is not greater than woman, nor woman superior to man. What one lacks, the other can give and each of us have qualities that are masculine and feminine. There is no greater magic than two people sharing their most intimate selves.

We know our spark of life, our soul, is immortal within us and does not die, and returns again to this world, and journeys to other worlds as well. We have life greater than the flesh and we have the flesh to enjoy in this life.

We accept no heaven except that which we ourselves make, and likewise no hell save that which we create.

A Pagan knows that what is called "Magic" does truly exist, and is worked by all who are in touch with their Inner Divinity and the creative force of the natural world. In this, Pagans are filled with 100% energy; positive, direct and clear. We feel the presence of life always and in this we are truly Divine and unquestionably human.

CHAPTER 2: The New Dawn

On August 28th 1993 an event happened that forever changed our world. Over 200 religions and denominations with over 6,000 pilgrims came to Chicago to attend the World Parliament of Religions. For eight days the entire structure of religion was tested, discussed, and in the end, developed deeper ties than anyone could have anticipated. It was a once in a century experience.

At the WPR, Pagan Faiths were active represented with over 300 members, about 5% of the participants. This is not including Hindus, Shaman/Native Americans, or similar paths. This was a remarkable accomplishment, shattering many misconceptions of just how many Pagans there are.

What has happened since then is startling. The Pagan community has emerged from the shell of isolation and secrecy to a new level of International and Interpersonal communication. While still fearful of our privacy and safety, we are establishing ourselves as a globally recognized religion. During the Parliament, Pagan workshops and lectures were among the best attended and this level of interest has continued across the planet, especially in Chicago. We live in an amazing time, in which our faith will grow and evolve.

For me, the Parliament was a crystallization of what I always believed. The oft-spoken "New Order of Society" allows, in fact demands, the organic living faith that is Paganism. With our Mother Goddess and Father God, we are a functional family religion with tribal ties and multi-cultural acceptance. We provide an essential belief 'that is intelligent, humanly compatible, divinely mysterious, and evolutionary.

We have discovered the Pagan culture is oriented towards change and growing diversity, continually integrating the new view of nature, of evolution and progress, the new richer concepts of, time and space, the fusion of Deity and Humanity, with a wholeness never before perceived.

Our holistic reality removes the wedges of distrust and isolation from social behavior, from scientific knowledge, from spiritual - enlightenment, from leisure and play. No longer separate parts of our life with highly conflicting messages, we can at our core being, see them as a unified whole. This offers us the strength to continue to believe in humanities continued survival.

The strongest realization at the Parliament is humanity faces a quantum leap forward. It faces the deepest social upheaval and creative restructuring of all time. At the Parliament and continuing today, without clearly recognizing it, we are engaged in building a remarkable new civilization from the ground up. The World Parliament of Religions offered us the views of religious and spiritual leaders who are actively creating the new civilization and assuring our place within it. To them, we offer our deepest thanks and unlimited energy to carry their tasks ever forward.

The success of Paganism, at the WPR and in our culture today was built by the dedicated actions of the Elders of the Path. Over the last 50 years, there have been an emergence of brave and dedicated individuals who worked against the odds to bring us Out of the shadows. At the parliament an environment of acceptance and recognition was ever present and everyday we see this open acceptance growing. Without

these early giants of the heart without whom Pagans would be very lost, we stand upon your shoulders and see the dawn of a new age. Thank you for the view.

If history gives us any direction, Paganism will evolve into thousands of covens, groves, circles, communes, congregations, and yet-unknown structures, each independent and responsible for their own joy and happiness, meeting their- own self-created goals. Between them will be a vast active communication network made up of multiple, possibly separate transnational organizations, each carrying out macro-goals for the Pagan culture, meeting needs for information and resources across the globe. Emerging from this we see an organic, living system of faith and life capable of growth, adaptation, and evolutionary change.

We are beginning to think of progress of the Pagan faith as the flowering of a tree with many branches, extending into the future, the roots deep within the past, the very variety and richness of human cultures as the source of our beliefs. From this remarkable diversity comes our unity, not from our conformity but from our uniqueness. We are a global, truly human, truly divine faith the world's people demand.

We are the final generation of the silent Pagans and the first generation of the Grand Pagan Culture.

CHAPTER 3: The Pagan Revival

People across the globe are seeking answers and are discovering wonders of the natural world, that are leading them to return to the Goddess. People of all faiths are seeking answers to our imminent crisis of the environment of the world and the condition of the human spirit. Seekers are discovering that there is something of the Goddess that touches the soul and stirs something within each of us that is literally lying dormant until it becomes awakened. That awakening is happening now.

We are in the midst of a Pagan Revival. We are in a time of exploding change - with personal lives being torn apart, the existing social order crumbling, and a fantastic new way of life emerging on the horizon - Pagans are being asked to provide guidance, to help us live sensible lives and to reach a deeper level of the Divine. And whether we know it or not, most of us are already engaged in either creating - or resisting - the new civilization.

For many reasons Paganism is growing at a rapid rate. We are undergoing rapid changes and constantly seeing new people affirming their love of life and nature. They are becoming Pagan. This is not an isolated few, but millions of people who are already attuning their lives to the rhythms of tomorrow, to the ideals of the Goddess, to the loving family of the Pagan faith.

We see that the Pagan Path is creating changes that are cumulative - that is adding up to a giant transformation in the way we live, work, play, think, and worship and realize that a sane desirable future is attainable.

Make no mistake; we are the children of the next transformation. We believe in a revolutionary premise, especially in this day of Armageddon worshipers, that even though the decades ahead are likely to be filled with upheavals, turbulence, and perhaps widespread violence, we will not destroy ourselves. Paganism is for those who think the human story, far from ending, has just begun.

What follows and is happening now is nothing less than a global revolution, a quantum jump in human history. We are participating in the emergence of a new civilization in a new age and Paganistic beliefs are at the core identity of this Global Society.

Why is Paganism undergoing a revival?

Paganism provides a degree of stability and a sense of self, even in the midst of extreme social change. We provide a shared image of a natural future, to give individuals a sense not merely of whom and what they are, but of what-they are likely to become.

The truth is that individual's desire life structure. A life lacking in comprehensible structure is an aimless wreck. The absence of structure breeds breakdown. Destructive forces rise in the absence of structure. The Pagan ideal gives us a coherent structure known as the natural rhythm of life. No priest needs

to tell us the turning of the seasons, or that we have a simple structure in which to live life. We feel intimately the natural cycle to which we have always been a part of and have always been a part of us.

To my amazement, Paganism is a faith for the passionate soul. The tradition of the faith emerged from centuries of tribalism, rugged self determination, and under fearful pressure of society. Our theology beyond secrecy is based on inclusion, identity, and positivism.

We face life as an adventure nothing is truly impossible. In this way, we differ with the majority of the world Religions. The majority of the world religions, especially Christianity and Islam, are pre-democracy. Thus they reflect an older system of monarchy and noble hierarchies. Their theology is based on rewards of paradise for the faithful, punishment of the unbeliever, exclusion of the heretics, and serfdom to god. Deep within the Christian, Moslem, and Hindu foundations is the essence of the divine dictator, and all the church reflects the trappings of a monarchy. Look to the Vatican to see this.

The second principle of many religions, ancient And modern is the proclamation of infallibility of the holy man, and the revealing of all mysteries, their messiahs, founders, prophets, gurus, swamis, and hero's discovered all men need to know. Obedience to the vision is all that is necessary, all that is required, all that is allowed. The whole concept is based on submission to the collective will of the church, directed by divine revelation, and acted out by the Clergy. No further divine revelations will be forthcoming. No longer do we mere mortals need to think again, for all has been done. Obey this book of law and there shall be peace on earth, prosperity to all men.

As horrified we must all be at this, this is a powerful offer. No more indecision, no more uncertainty, no more dread, And no more fear of the unknown. A limited, understandable, and secure truth offered as easy passage for the weary.

Of course, Paganism is for the creative individual who lives at an intensity of life filled with possibilities. Pagans live in a universe without absolutes, without walls, without end. We are timeless and immortal, with many lives to come.

There never was a fall of man, humanity has always fallen upward and when we have been kicked in our asses, it has always been toward the goal. We are growing as a child, towards maturity. This explains why Pagans love to play.

This is my interpretation of Paganism, for I believe all Pagans start at the same center and work towards different goals. This is an important distinction, and is different in focus than all paths lead to the center. In this Paganism is a reflective religion. It reflects the natural order of life. We have a Mother Goddess and a Father God and we in turn are their children. In this way, we reflect the order of life and form a functional family culture.

As a parent teaches, our deities teach us. As a parent anticipates growth of the child, our deity anticipates us. As a parent watches the child mature, our deity watches us. As a parent someday makes way for the child who in turn becomes a parent, our deity makes way for us. Such is the natural cycle of parents; such is the natural cycle of life.

This Revival is the awakening of the Natural Family, the security of the tribe, and unity on a global level. As Pagans we have the belief in all people, not on our terms alone, but on theirs as well. Out of this remarkable diversity comes our unity.

We have a remarkable future.

Returning Souls, Why Pagans are Reawakening?

by Ed Hubbard

Do you believe in Reincarnation? Reincarnation is the belief our souls are reborn into new physical lives on earth and possibly other realms of existence. That our spirits instead of disappearing at our death or being trapped in a nether realm forever lost to this world instead is given new form in another life to learn more about this wonderful existence we call the physical world. We carry in our souls, our spirit which holds the essence of many lives?

The fact we reincarnate allows us to learn and grow, experiment and be. We can test ideas and work out concepts, we can have war and create peace. We are able to view life as a continuous thing.

The secret Pagans have is that we accept reincarnation and we want to have a spirit which lives many lives. We have multiple existences. Pagans remember in every life that we are immortal and we can remember those past lives. We learn from our spirit how to improve. We can listen to ancient voices to give us answers to difficult questions.

Listen in the gatherings and festivals of the Pagan People, you will hear them say "I was born to it. I didn't have the words until I read it, but I have always been Pagan." Further, when they meet certain people they suddenly say "it's like returning home, this is my family." We ask ourselves how and why?. Then they learn of reincarnation and the fact they too all have immortal souls. After all, We know all humans have a immortal soul and new or old, we will all exist forevermore.

We learn and teach lessons to humanity. The lesson Christians are learning in this lifetime and the next is that when they kill or destroy something to keep it a secret they themselves must remember it at some level to assure it never rises again in the general society. That they must destroy every witness to the various crimes they commit and they themselves must not have a conscience in order to prevent the rise of forbidden thought. They must remember and they must forget, and this will not last forever.

Secret Orders are set up within the Church, only to remember the forbidden knowledge. They find acceptance by the other groups but must always be secretive. They will be susceptible to accusation, to charges of corruption and infidelity, and finally, heresy and treason. They dissolve and then another Secret Order forms among the victors faith for secrets have power. And hear me well, Pagan Secrets are among the most powerful hidden by the Church. For we have always been here and always will be. And the Church wants us to forget that as well.

Once you realize a secret exists you follow it or you run from it. A secret gains power by the number of people who believe it exists. You become aware of its existence, and if you live life only once you have but one choice, believe in the One True Way and have a eternal life and reject it and suffer hell. They do not want you to know that the secret covers a real truth, that we can choose to be immortal and we are evolving along a path to an unknown future. Once you are aware that a secret exists then the information can be retrieved if you remember to look. Those who remember to look can then open the actions of the Christian in light of their previous actions. We can obtain our birthright and be able to speak and have within the language our words of power. We can explain our mysteries and we can have humanity become aware of a future that does not end after this life, but continues every forward towards the future. We can remember the past, seek the future, but in the end we are always in the endless now.

At this time hundreds of thousands of people know the Pagan Secrets, the Mysteries that were hidden from us. The language itself taken prisoner has been released. They knew at a soul level to seek out the knowledge of the Goddess and all the Ancient Gods. Once found they are able to awaken ancient spiritual forces and utilize their minds to find greater divinity. These awakened souls know to look in many faiths and many places for the answers of life, for within faith is a Secret Order and they are hiding powerful Pagan Secrets, which they claim rightfully for themselves. They believe the original holders of the secret dead and do not believe they will return, and yet we awaken remembering what has happened to us.

And at this time, at this very moment, millions of souls are feeling their spirits calling forth. They cry

out seeking others like themselves, just like many of us did in our teens and early adulthood. They are seeking understanding communities, and we all know that we are a new people and we are an old people. All these restless spirits are individuals who feel the pull of their lives, not just of the last few centuries, but of all existence since the dawn of time. For we know our souls have always been here. We love our world and our universe and we want more of it. We are drawn to Earth, to the living spirit of the Goddess. We are drawn to life, physical life, spiritual life, and all its glory, and as we look up we are drawn to the stars where from whence we came, knowing we will once again return.

Imagine the tragedy, if we live but one physical life and after that we are made instantly perfect. That will be only here once to taste the fruit, to taste humanity, to sing, to dance, to share art. Can you imagine the pure emotional pain of having only one family, only one chance at having a family? Can you feel the cruelty of a moment of Earth and an eternity of heaven?

Neither can I, Goddess Save my Soul. After all, I believe in reincarnation and your awakening to your immortal soul. How about You?

PAGAN POWERSHIFT!

or Can You tell me when the Witch Hunt Begin?
by Ed Hubbard

August 24, 2000

Foreword: This article is dedicated to the two philosophers who helped me form the ideas set forth here. My special thanks to Dr. Alvin Toffler "Future Shock, Powershift"; and Brendan Tripp of Eschatonbooks.com

Growth, no matter how positive, faces conflict. The Pagan Faith has grown in numbers, presence, and in personal authority. Pagans have further expanded to utilize laws and legal rights to gain a space to practice their lifestyle. Growth continues as communication expands over the internet and between small local communities to become a global communication network. At every level of Society the Pagan Voice can be heard and this is creating phenomenal growth.

Alas, Pagans can expect their growth to be met by aggression from the fundamentalist mind-set of Dark Christians. Dark Christians are individuals who believe you are either a Christian or a Child of Satan. That the devil must be opposed at every place and at all times, with whatever force is allowed, or needed at any given moment. It is this Dogmatic Theology that has long suppressed and attacked the Pagan worldview. We are not alone but we hold a very special place with this Fundamentalist Crowd. This growth of the Pagan community strengthens the fundamentalist as we become an ancient and dreaded enemy. They fear our power and our liberation from the control of the Almighty Church. This gives this kind of Christian good sport, allows them to prepare tools and weapons of the Righteous, ask Christ's blessings on their work, and go out for an old fashioned witch hunt. After all, Does not the bible say "Suffer a Witch not to Live."

Why do they Do This? What kind of Special Madness is this?

It is beyond me to understand this in any rational way, except one. Power and Authority, control over laws and through the law obtain great ability to commit whatever acts of love or hate that the Fundamentalist Leader feels is needed. The Evil One is their main focus of Worship, and they see him as the most powerful enemy because they can defeat him at will. After all, An Enemy never seen is absolutely frightening but that fear can never be faced, only acted on. When your opponent is as you say he is, you will win almost every time! Fundamentalist's only fear is when people no longer believe in the Devil as an enemy and hell has lost all relevance in their lives. The ones who do not believe are their real enemy.

Pagans offer a very different message to the world. The Pagan is a liberator at this time in history. To awaken the Soul to freedom of action and questioning human authority in matters of faith is attractive to

intelligent, creative people. The Spiritual Democracy of the Pagan Faith is empowering and rejuvenating to world-weary spirit of people. If the Fundamentalist System of religion does not want to lose power they must respond to this challenge. Their response is always denial and conflict.

Make no mistake, the Pagan Faith is revolutionary. Just as the first founders of the United States sought political freedom from ancient monarchies, so to does Paganism seek spiritual freedom from religious monarchies. This will result in a conflict we must expect and, I believe, must win. This is a essential battle that will be a catalyst for Spiritual Evolution. Failure to face this conflict will give rise to a dark time once more. Unless Pagans establish their political and social rights, the Fundamentalist will bury the Pagan as a forgotten relic of the past and a criminal in the future.

Fortunately, We are in a rare moment in history when all the rules of the power game change at once, and the very nature of power is revolutionized. This is happening today. This is happening right now.

Power to a large extent defines us as individuals and as a faith. Power extends into personal lives, to our public lives, and even our consciousness as a nation. This power of definition and identity is itself being redefined. We are facing a Powershift. A powershift is not a transferring of power but a transformation of it. This shift in power creates new definitions of identity and society.

What has not yet been appreciated is the degree to which raw, elemental power - at the level of private life as well as at the level of empire- will be transforming in the decades ahead as a result of the new role of "mind" and "spirit".

The changes we have seen in business, economies, politics, and even the structure of countries at the local and global level are the only the first skirmishes of a far bigger struggle to come. We stand at the edge of the deepest powershift in the human history.

Pagan Culture and Identity is at the core of the powershift. Remember, Paganism offers the idea of Deity as a fully functional family, deep and abiding reverence for life and nature, equality between sexes, race, and culture, and has a distinct gift of expression and creativity. Beyond this pagans are scientific, constantly amazed at the discoveries of how nature and deity works, and ethical in our approach to applying scientific knowledge. We question the consequences of advancement and seek a sound environment. This is the ultimate desire of American Society today. Pagans already are living in this common identity.

American Society faces a decision-nexus. We face a point in life were one or more individuals in each community, must make a decision that creates reality and narrows the perimeters of possible future choices. These choices effect the personal life of the decision-maker and like a web effects a multitude of people. We are being asked to make such choices here and now. We must accept that we believe in our worldview more than ever before. We must come out of the Broom Closet.

To truly establish a future of Paganism, we must depend not so much on the bravery of individuals, as upon the bravery of all Pagans everywhere. In this process Americans are realizing that old religious forms no longer work for them. They see the Church as a Spiritual Dictator, unfeeling and uncaring, and when any large populace is held in check by a small but powerful force such as the Christian Right, certain conditions must never arise to challenge the Status Quo. When these major conditions arise in the larger populace, society will turn upon its keeper.

One when the people find a leader. This is the most volatile threat to the powerful. They must remain in control of leaders. Two, When the populace recognizes it's chains. The populace must be kept blind and unquestioning. Three, when the populace perceives a hope of escape from bondage. They must never even believe that escape is possible.

When any of these conditions challenge a dictatorship then conflict and change occurs. Paganism meets all three conditions challenging the Almighty Church and it's control of the Divine Truth. We have numerous leaders, autonomous and quite independent. each offers one vision and one aspect of a

multifaceted faith with vigor and vitality. Pagans show and rattle the chains of servitude to a Divine Clergy and cast them off to seek a personal relationship with deity. We openly teach and express a way to lead a life filled with joy and freedom from sin. Pagans offer a way to escape the tight confines of Church Orthodoxy to a more natural world.

Further we question the leadership of the Clergy, that of the militant Christian Church as well as our own. We do not allow ourselves to have a all-powerful clergy dictating our life choices but instead they guide us to discover answers for our selves. Pagans accept a level of responsibility at the lowest levels that the Fundamentalists cannot accept or tolerate. In a future where the Dark Christian Rules is a place of conflict, of war, and the death of billions of people to satisfy a vengeful God and His only Son. In a world where Pagans have freed the populace to think, the Fundamentalist has no power and becomes a relic of the first two millennium.

In all this we form the foundation to a lasting Spiritual Democracy and in the end Spiritual Freedom and Political Freedom go hand in hand. This is the powershift happening today and Pagans have a chance for a new life, and your choices are meaningful and important. Your freedom depends on it.

A Little History Of The Pagan/Wiccan Teen Movement

by Ed Hubbard
September 28, 2000

As we enter the 21st Century of this age, we see growth in the Pagan, Wiccan, and Earth-based religions at every level. This movement is growing and adding it's voice to the Global Religious Community. Not just in the number of people involved but in the quality of the entire faith, in writing, in practice, in service, and in developing a strong moral character.

The fastest growing section of the Pagan/Wiccan community is the current Teen Generation, those coming of age in 00's. They are looking beyond the religious concepts of Christianity and equally so, secularism and agnosticism, to seek out express their desires for a better world. They are looking for ways to be part of a more natural world, one they can be part of it and be proud of.

Today, rapid growth is beginning to take hold with as many as 2.2 million teens in the United States alone, identifying themselves as Wiccans and Pagans. They believe themselves to be part of a faith that accepts the Living Earth as a conscious force in their lives and looking to the principles of magic and psychic development as being relevant in their lives. These teens are looking toward a community they can find acceptance and seeking out ways to become part of something larger than life.

In fact this "Pagan/Wiccan Teen Movement" has had successive waves since the 50's which has matured and grown over the last half of the 20th century. In the 2001, we see the movement has many layers that are distinctive and important. We see our Elders who came to the faith in the 1950's and 60's. They were practicing various forms of Paganism and Wicca, drawn from hidden family trads, reconstructed from ancient sources, or created from whole cloth. In many cases it was a mixture of all three. This generation was filled with mimeographs, small magazines, few publishers, and a move to semi-secret but legalized level. They shifted the Western Religious Paradigm and moved society to understand we exist. Today this generation has begun to pass away or enter their most elder status and know what they have accomplished. Many of us are here because of this crucial early work.

The Generation of the 70's and 80's began to read and pass on books. They were college educated and self-educated, studying the works of the earlier generation. They analyzed and began laying down principles and creating events to practice their faiths. They built festivals, events, and ways of meeting and sharing the information.

Both groups began to establish covens, groups, and networks and represent most of the educational and legal resources, merchants, investors, and organizing force that exists today. At every level, they have laid a foundation to discover more fair thinkers, workers, and most importantly, family to share their lives.

The generation of the 90's brought us computers and the internet. This created a network of communication that energized the whole movement. let me repeat, This created a network of communication that energized the whole movement. These newcomers as well as 2nd and 3rd generations of the Modern Western Pagan Community have emerged. This offered the opportunity for Solitaires and individuals to join in ever increasing number of networks, groups, and increased the basic awareness of the community. Through these newly developed and developing resources we have greater contact then any people have ever had. Never before has any group had such a powerful source at it's reawakening, and this was the gift of the 90's Generation to the whole of the Pagan/Wiccan Community.

Today, these earlier Teens, now adults and elders are about to see the next generation of Pagans/Wiccans come into play. They have more cultural acceptance among peers, a way to challenge authority with legal backing, a vast amount of reading materials, resources of literally hundreds of thousands of pages on the web, and discovery of others who feel this way. They have come into a community uniquely prepared to accept them and important enough to need them.

The greatest difficulty the next generation will have is credibility. They will be dealing with a ever expanding media utilizing Witches, Paranormals, and images of glorified psychic ability as television shows and movies. The newspapers and nightly news are reporting more frequently and deeper about the religion and faith. This will make it cool and this will call their individual credibility in to question and then reflect on the movement as a whole.

Why is Hollywood Studios creating these television shows as well other media. Because teens and young adults are watching them. This will awaken their desire to learn more. Hence, Hollywood creates a crisis that is a danger and opportunity combined. We will see more people then ever, literally millions will join but this will create individuals who care more about being Pagan/Wiccan then about the faith. This will overrun our foundations to deal with it, while as we incorporate those who seriously want to be part of it. But the credibility issue will become a major issue in the future. Success increases credibility, failure can lead to ridicule.

Each generation who discovers the Pagan/Wiccan Faith brings us deep gifts, and I wait with anticipation at what this generation of 00's will bring. I can't wait to find out.

Global Paganism at the Dawning of the 21st Century!

Or How we are changing our World?

by Ed Hubbard

September 14, 2000

As an activist for Pagan/Wiccan Rights I have been asked many questions. The common ones are known to most people, the who, what, why of Paganism and how I became involved. The answer has always been in essence I was called to this life in ways that are best described as mysteries. These questions we answer as a public courtesy. But the question that was the one that made me think was "Are Pagans truly Global, after all, you claim to share the Earth as a central focus?"

I was stunned, and I had no real answer. This was 1992, midnight on Psychic Chicago Radio. I had no real answer, and I remember my heart beating strong, blood rushing to my ears, and a warmth filled me. From my throat fell an oracle, "By 2001 we will be, and we will have legal rights with a tenfold growth in registered groups, and we will communicate in ways that are not yet visible. Their are people across the world who are awakening to a Global Awareness that will surely open a way to the future".

What can I say? I didn't really see this as possible as the Chicago community was fractured and hidden, and I was just discovering open communities that were forming. But after that particular broadcast, I became absolutely sure that this was a true event, that it would happen. This became the basis of my ministry as a Pagan Interfaith Worker in Chicago and constant seeker of the elusive idea of Global Paganism.

Now deep in 2000 and looking back at that particular broadcast, I see that this Oracle of the Goddess

was absolutely true. The Goddess and Her Consort are now truly communicating globally and personally through many wonderful individuals and groups. No one person but a glorious network of Seekers, Artists, Students, Teachers, Leaders, and from all walks of life, sharing their inner lives across a unique time in history.

Welcome to the Arrival of Global Paganism!

The International Leadership of Paganism is just forming in a serious way. Surprisingly to many outside the faith is that Paganism, in its various forms, denominations, and diverse cultural differences, do share common words and tools to talk. Our inheritance is a wide angle view of the world, of history, and we are able to understand each other over long and short distances. From this has emerged Pagans deeply involved into Interfaith Work and all forms of Communication Technology. We see in 2000 that this was a crucial awakening and from this we have a Global Community taking it's first real steps into public view today.

What are the forces of Global Paganism? Instead of speaking in the abstract, I will give you a tour of the Pagan Community through the very tool that expanded the community to Global levels, the Internet and World Wide Web. These are the signs of the coming of the Goddess, and those who work to find Her Peace.

The Fellowship of Isis is the largest Goddess based organization in the world. Formed in 1976 by the Beloved Rev. Lawrence Durdin Robertson and the Rt. Rev. Olivia Robertson out of the Clonegal Castle in Ireland. It began simply, with a simple Isian manifesto and if you shared the beliefs, you became a member. These flyers, and later writings and newsletters, spread this very powerful message of divinity as a feminine force as well as masculine and awakening of older rituals and concepts sprang up around the world from these words, from the Isian Manifesto. Everyday, someone found these words and joined.

In 1993, Lady Olivia Robertson represented the Goddess Religion within the opening Ceremony of the 2nd Parliament of the World's Religions, and was one of eight spiritual leaders who gave the opening blessing to this Interfaith body. She was chosen because the Fellowship of Isis was truly Global. Today the Fellowship of Isis is in 93 Countries and has some 17,455 members, with legal recognition in at least 5 countries.

Starting in 1999, the Fellowship of Isis, recognizing the truly larger scale of their community, formed the Archpriest Union with thirty-two members to better deal with the future and become more adaptive to the future. With a minimum of structure and a lot of local autonomy they continue to grow in record numbers. This has promoted FOI members to become involved with projects over large areas. Currently Isians in Los Angeles, Chicago and South Africa are cooperating to bring aid to the Indigenous faith population. Directly, these Isian members are supporting an Interfaith Library in Johannesburg and have recently expanded to assist in a Orphanage. Each of these three communities are acting in an independent way toward a unified event. With Conventions and workers across the Globe, they are doing things locally that is making a difference and working Globally as well.

A network of independent multinational Pagan and Goddess based Religious Bodies have emerged. All have received some federal recognition in at least three countries and often several more. They have some protection by governmental bodies, at the very least access to the courts to address grievances. They continue to symbolize a model of local groups with a great deal of autonomy and a central organizing body that trusts the local groups to carry out a Global Vision. We include in this group The Covenant of the Goddess, Aquarian Tabernacle Church, Circle Network, Church of All Worlds and The Pagan Federation. Together they fill in many places with different seeds and concepts of the Pagan Philosophy in this first phase of globalization process and provide exceptional work.

Special note, at the 1999 Parliament of World's Religions the highest closing body of 56 world spiritual leaders who gave thanks to all participants was the Covenant of the Goddess' Debra Ann Light, while Rev. Donald Frue and Circle Networks, Rev. Selena Fox joined Rev. Light in the Central Assembly. All together 30 pagans representing 22 groups and covering 4 continents attended this Global event. This becomes part

of the communication on a truly expansive level.

Together the scores of national, regional, local and solitary members form the tapestry of our community, and shows us the quality and value of our beliefs. They have and are creating the legal right to exist on a Global level, even to the level of the United Nations. This is a delicate moment as the birthing of recognition that Pagans exist, and not just in third world countries alone, but in all the G-7 countries with intelligence, education and resources, with contacts around the world.

What other Forces worked toward a Global Awakening of the Earth religions?

Environmentalism, the Civil Rights Movement, and surprisingly, Llewellyn Publications. Environmentalism brought awareness of Earth as a living force. Once this concept is opened and explored, now idealized by Earth Day on April 22nd, brings people to have very powerful divine and mysterious experience that shows a loving force known as the Goddess. Pagans have been part of this and in my own case, onramp into the Pagan lifestyle.

The Civil Rights Movement has been the most singular important event in my life. This struggle which has so many important questions have brought us to the brink of a new understanding of what it means to be human. This movement has great and powerful leaders and role models who have begun the process. In many ways all minority religions, as well as all manner of anti-discrimination movements, benefited from these early struggles. The fight for Civil Rights continues and every year deepens the questions bringing us closer to a better understanding of the idea of Human Freedom.

Llewellyn Publications, a privately held corporation, has kept a steady flow of books on many subjects on Paganism, Wicca, and Metaphysics to keep fueled the exploration of these subjects. More so than any other single publisher, Llewellyn has formed an impact that began in the United States but in the year 2000 has markets in more than 30 countries. Their books are read, passed on, have filled used book and discount store bins, and they are always supplying new products for ever expanding shelf space given to these subjects.

Llewellyn's marketing power is advanced by the publication of the quarterly New World Catalog as well as the monthly Fate magazine. So prevalent is the communities identity with this company, a catchphrase has emerged. This catchphrase is "Llewellyn Pagans" and represent the self taught Pagans who read one or more Llewellyn books and emerge as local priests and priestesses. They are considered to have a mish-mash of cultural and theological identities and are absolutely fanatical about their faith. This phenomena of the "Llewellyn Pagan" will continue to grow and bring more individuals into the Pagan community than any other single force over the next five years, regardless of the desires of any part of the community.

The most important aspect that Llewellyn provided was a core of early Pagan, Wiccan, and religious writers to a market which grew under them with payments and royalties to provide some income and encouragement. Further, this provided a way to connect by providing a common language that many new members could study. This encouragement helped mature a writing tradition within the community.

Then Came the Internet.....

The Internet and World Wide Web emerged in the 90's as a powerful medium that the Pagan Community took to like a fish to water. The internet has brought true globalization to the community, with intimate, low cost, person to person communication as well as mass communication. All very personalized and focused at the individuals basic questions and needs. Never before has the world ever had such a tool that so empowers individuals and groups to become a global force on a concentrated way. Paganism and the Earth religions have blossomed in this environment.

One Website above all has most lived this dream. That is Witchvox.com, The Witches Voice by Wren Walker and Fritz Jung. With over 2,000 meticulously crafted pages and indexes and directories of people, places, groups, events, websites, and the news of the day, Witchvox.com is a binding force in the

community. This is a structuring tool that allows individuals to be able to reach out and discover others who share common beliefs on a one-on-one basis. This vast and well-organized Global Directory breaks down national barriers, regional barriers, and barriers within cities, states, and provinces and gives us an awareness of our faith across the world. The service Wren and Fritz provide through Witchvox.com is nothing short of life changing.

But the internet can be a tool of vision and expression that can expand ideas at lightning speed. The Goddess 2000 Project, led by Abby Willowroot, showed us just how much of an awakening of the Goddess there has been on a Global Level. In December of 1998 Abby had a vision and shared it with her friends, and emerged from this was the motto "A Goddess on Every Block" and the idea of personal and community art to be fashioned in a collective way. This was placed on the internet, with ideas and various possible art projects. The key element is that art was to be presented on a local level and mutual projects would emerge. Described was the duty of an Area coordinator would have control in any local area and encourage people. All volunteer with with nothing more then a strong vision and guidance by Abby Willowroot.

Today, in September of 2000, The Goddess 2000 Project has over 600 coordinators in 63 Countries and all 50 states of the United States. Thousands upon thousands of art pieces and hundreds of showings have emerged so far, and have brought a whole community together at a deep emotional level. One can directly see the Goddess move in Abby's life from a powerful and moving vision to the second largest Goddess based organization in the world in only 20 months.

Other Services provided in a series of independent networks help expand the Pagan Presence, including www.draknet.com which provides free and low cost web services, www.pagansunite.com which provides a number of free promotion services and advise, www.aren.org which provides important news on our rights, www.avatarsearch.com and www.ariadnespider.com which are powerful search engines, and www.telepathicmedia.com as an emerging independent news and public relations company. The internet has over 6,000 Pagan sites that are opening millions of eyes across the globe.

Another site which has done very well is the About.com Pagan/Wiccan Site and About.com Alternative Religion Pages and represents a commercially funded, human friendly Internet Guide to our community. They have an ever updating series of articles on the latest issues, basic lore, links, chatrooms, and a ton of unique content. As part of the 9th largest website in the world, this is of great value to our community.

The singularly most important religiously neutral service on the internet that has promoted the arrival of Global Paganism is www.eGroups.com. eGroups is one of the most democratic tools to use and share. They host literally thousands of lists dealing with Goddess, Pagan, and Wiccan subjects. These lists have at tens of thousands of unique subscribers who ask for this information and receive it on a daily level. By just going to the directory and typing in your favorite subjects or groups you will be presented with such a wide variety of lists, including Global Paganism, Daily Goddess News, Goddess 2000, AREN, WARD, Fellowship of Isis, Moon Spells Network, Pagan Wiccan Media, Whispered Prayers, and great regional lists, which include Illinois Pagans, Chicago Pagans, and South African Wiccans are but a examples. Overall eGroups.com has provided the communication and documentation sharing service on a global level that has become intrinsic to the Pagan movement worldwide.

The last two internet tools which I believe will come into their own as part of the Global Pagan Movement is www.Askme.com and www.Themestream.com. Askme.com is a question board with "experts" who will answer your questions and you even get to rate their answers to you and others. On the Pagan and Wiccan boards they have over 200 experts. This has been useful as they can be used to research facts, verify stories, ask business help, and a lot more. This will develop as more people become aware of this particular service.

Themestream.com represents an answer for many Pagans and Wiccans who are seeking to publish their stories, ideas and theology in a uncensored and open way. This service can be one of the most important to authors by providing feedback and income as they develop as writers. By 2001 Themestream.com will be a major factor of ePublishing and will be yet another tool in the Global Awareness of our faith.

In Closing.....

The oracle that was presented to me has opened before me and I am left awestruck before it. As we enter the 21st Century, we see a bold time filled with wondrous opportunities as civilization once more evolves and awakens to the simple truths of the God and the Goddess. A place where no matter where I go in the World, I know I will find Brothers and Sisters who share the desire for a better life and it is there for you as well.

Go ahead, Touch the World.

The Lessons I learned From The Pagan Leadership Conferences

Today, Jan 9th, is the seventh anniversary of the first conference I ever hosted, under then brand new Pagan Interfaith Embassy, which was naively called "The Chicago Pagan Leadership Conference". Since then I have been involved with many conferences and events of all types, as speaker, host, organizer, and guest but I will never forget what lessons emerged from my first conference. If you will indulge me I will share them with you.

Lesson 1: You are only as good as your network.

Lesson 2: Credibility is more important than your reputation or standing in the community.

Lesson 3: No matter how much education or experience you have, you must still earn respect and trust on a daily basis.

Lesson 4: Gossip can be devastating but is meaningless to true leadership.

Lesson 5: A "witch war" is nothing more than a way to generate publicity and position without really working for it.

Lesson 6: You have the right to make choices and protest what you don't like by not spending money and not participating in events, regardless of what others do.

Lesson 7: No event is too small to be worth doing, no event is too large as to be impossible, if the need really exists.

Lesson 8: "All rumors about me are true regardless of the facts."

Lesson 1: You are only as good as your network.

Pagans are not really highly public, and when I began I know that only a few temples. I invited everyone I knew and welcomed them to ask others. To this first event I invited forty and we had fifty-five Pagans interested in their community attend. Since then each time I find a new group, individual, or source of info, I sought to incorporate them in to a communications network. Through these individuals and groups gave networked me to suppliers of Pagan goods to buyers of the same, to those who write to Pagans, and even those who remotely know we exist. This network has allowed Pagan Interfaith Embassy to continue to host events that are well attended. Without it, I would not be writing here today.

This attitude of making connections has led me to meet hundreds of leaders from all walks of life. In my network I have contacts into the highest levels of religious hierarchy of many faiths to the poorest people you ever want to meet. From this network I can offer help and ask for it as well.

For any form of leadership depends on the ability to network because no person ever truly stands alone.

Lesson 2: Credibility is more important than your reputation or standing in the community.

Credibility means "Do people believe you when you say something?" Regardless if it is a promise, boast, or threat, people will consider if you can do it. And only when they believe you will be able to do whatever you claim, can you really accomplish anything you need to. Credibility is how you get people to agree to help you.

Your reputation is built in part on your credibility, and this is only a small part of what makes up your reputation. You can control your credibility by trying your hardest to keep your promises, apologize when you fail, and never make claims beyond what you believe you can do.

Status in the community will never give you more than surface credibility. It is this credibility of your organization and what you do with your status that really lets you know your place in the world. A leader, regardless of status must always be credible.

Lesson 3: No matter how much education or experience you have, you must still earn respect and trust on a daily basis.

This is a continuation of lesson 2. I have seen High Priestess and Priestesses demand certain levels of respect and obedience, and when they don't get it, they go ballistic. They feel they have "earned" respect by becoming who they are. Yet by words and deeds, it becomes obvious they do not respect others, and further you get a feel that they are not there for you.

Respect is gained by accomplishment and by respecting others. When you realize that others have done good things too then you can share with them experiences and insights. Then they respect what you say even if they don't agree with you.

Trust is a product of respect. When you are respected, individuals and groups believe that you are holding there

best interests in your mind. If you can respect others, hold their interests foremost, you gain their trust. Once trusted you can accomplish anything you can imagine

Lesson 4: Gossip can be devastating but is meaningless to true leadership

Gossip represents a form of personal communication that is at once entertaining and be utterly devastating. This form of networking is incredibly efficient and spreads like a disease. Alas, the only inoculation you have is simply to ignore it when it is marginal or confront it directly when it is essential. Ultimately you as a leader must rise above this and never indulge it, even asking the gossiper to stop talking in your presence. Remember, if others are gossiping about you then you are probably doing something right.

Lesson 5: A "witch war" is nothing more than a way to generate publicity and position without really working for it.

In other words, it is a theft of the most vital of resources, energy, goodwill, and trust.

I have discovered witch wars are really most often a popularity contest and a way to stop progress of others. A witch war generally deals with personalities, members changing teachers, lovers breaking up, or any host of other reasons.

It is not a witch war if it deals with criminal activities, including theft, sexual molestation, or physical assaults. This becomes a community issue of utmost importance. If you can bring in legal authorities to deal with issues, do so. Do not allow criminals to survive amongst you or the consequences can be devastating. Do not be afraid to press charges, or get a lawyer to sue, in the end your credibility will improve and you can avoid witch wars.

But more often a witch war is a soap opera, fueled by rumors and gossip, and generally has a purpose. Shutting down an event, denying a teacher students, or laying down sexual innuendoes are all signs of a witch war. Unless it deals with real issues, it becomes a theft in time, energy and respect within the community. A leader will not indulge this whenever it can be avoided.

Lesson 6: You have the right to make choices and protest what you don't like by not spending money and not participating in events, regardless of what others do.

This was and still is my hardest lesson. If you do not agree with a particular teachers teachings, how a minister is functioning, or the policies of a store or organization simply do not support them in any way. Do not spend money with them or attend their events. Do not speak of them. If needed form your own events. Understand you must feel strongly about your disapproval because very likely a witch war will ensue. Simply vote no with your wallet, your resources, and your feet.

It is hard to realize sometimes but You are the source of energy to anything you do, and to any group you belong to. Money, time, and labor are the forms some of the energy becomes. You have a right to manage these personal forces as you see fit. Just like magic, just like ritual.

Lesson 7: No event is too small to be worth doing, no event is too large as to be impossible, if the need really exists.

This represents a very important distinction. Small events can be significant, large events can be dramatic, or they can be easily forgotten. It really depends on the energy and mental planning of the hosts.

Unless they really mean it and want it to happen, then no one will want to attend or remember it. If the hosts want to do well, have fun, and create an exciting environment, then the event will be a joy and all who attend will anxiously await its return.

For people it is important to realize they love to go to EVENTS, and sometimes they just want to go to an event with a few friends. In both cases, they expect something different than everyday life to occur. Facilitate that and you will be amazed at how it helps people grow.

Lesson 8: "All rumors about me are true regardless of the facts"

My trademark line when I am confronted with accusations, very personal questions or other forms of nastiness. I despise hatemongering gossip and I really try to avoid it. It's dirty and it reeks of desperation. For those who indulge it, it gives them a sense of watching a their very own personal soap opera. Those events around their lives are there for personal entertainment. Realize some people get off on you being miserable, and they will do anything to see it happen.

So unless it is definitely a legal issue, I generally do not answer gossip questions. I will answer real questions of how and why I did something with individuals who have an interest and a purpose for what I am discussing. I will listen to the same. This is called dialogue or a conversation.

When people ask me or demand to know personal info or simply have made up their minds about me, I smile and say "All rumors about me are true regardless of the facts." and then I get back to work.

These personal lessons emerged from the Chicago Pagan Leadership Conferences of 1994. For the first year of Pagan Interfaith Embassy, we had the best teachers, from Chicago and beyond, and it is to them I owe much of my understanding of the Pagan Community.

The Election is Over: What Pagans should be Doing Now?

By Rev. Ed Hubbard

At the time of this article, the Presidency of the United States has not been yet completed but we have a Republican Congress for at least two more years. It is a time when America is deeply divided over the future of our nation. Pagans and Wiccans have made a impact that can be felt and noticed in this election and the Republican Party will find itself dealing with Church and State issues in the upcoming Congress. We cannot expect them to be favorable to us, and we will need to become masters of the language of the law in the coming years. The Pagan Community has passed the Rubicon, and we are involved.

We face interesting times in the United States, when America is divided and a third way will be sought between the two quarrelling political machines known as the Republicans and the Democrats. The arguments of legitimacy and rights tied to legitimate exercise of powers will move to the Courts and the Congress. Gridlock and overburdening caseloads will be our next president's and the nations opening legacy. Simply put, lawyers are moving deeper into our society bringing with them chaos and questions.

Looking at this environment, regardless if it is a Gore presidency or Bush presidency, we need to understand how we are legitimate under the law. This is crucial as we have a Republican Congress and the laws may shift in the coming two years. Groups and individuals who are serious about their rights to take some steps right now to protect them. Otherwise the lawyers will decide how we will proceed.

Step 1: Are you Public Citizen or Private Citizen?

This is a very important distinction. The answer basically lays out what legally can be said and revealed about you without your permission. We are not talking about slander or libel, but revealing details and personal information about you for "the good of the story". Your image is yours unless you become a Public Citizen, then it is up for grabs.

This is a basic test to see if you are a private citizen or a public one:

Part 1: Any answer of yes in this first part means you are a public citizen at some level.

1. Are you a elected official or have run for public office in the United States?

2. Have you starred in a Hit Movie, Television Show, News Shows, Author, Radio or any other Media outlet, in which is for general public release?

3. Have you ever been interviewed or testified in a court as an Expert, and have answered questions about your background as part of your expertise?

Part 2: Answering yes to any three makes you potentially a public person.

4. Have you ever been interviewed in the public media (newspaper, radio, television, magazines)?

5. Have you had more than one story in the public press that mentions you in the past year?

6. Have you been mentioned in the public press in consecutive years (i.e. a story in 1999 and another in 2000)?

7. Have you endorsed a candidate, party, or law in an election?

8. Have you ever done a commercial using your real name?

9. Have you ever spoken before a crowd of people where the press was invited?

10. Have you spoken before crowds of people more than 4 times a year?

Being a Public Person means they are allowed legally to mention your religion, marital status, legal positions, some investments, past associates, your attendance to public meetings, having yourself photographed, as part of "The Story". Basically, you can to a greater or lesser degree a celebrity, and find yourself in the worst case scenario in the tabloids.

There is a lot of legality and hair splitting of how far media and press can come into our lives. The above will test will be the preliminary questions the lawyers the press keeps handy will ask when you object to seeing your life in the news. Once your life has become public only lawsuits and courts can provide financial remedies, but your life will never be the same.

If not public and you want to be private, then you must actively object to any usage of your name and image when used by any public forum. This is the only way to secure your intent for privacy. Once you become Public, it will become extraordinarily difficult to return to a private citizen status.

NEVER FORGET! America is a celebrity driven nation and moving into the Public Spotlight is all too easy to do. Once it begins you can never go back.

Step 2: Are you a legal minister?

What is your legal pedigree? Is it by community approval?

Does it meet the standards of local law?

How do you see your legal safety net to claim ministry rights in the United States?

If you have this sort of paperwork, regardless of how you come by it should be checked and updated. If you don't have it, get it. If you don't know if you are legal, then you are probably not. Don't take a chance, this is too important. Get your ministry paperwork in hand.

If you need to earn this, check out the course at www.witchschool.com

Step 3: File for your groups Not-for-Profit Corporations, Church Status, and 501c3 Status.

Become legal in your area, under your state and national laws. This is crucial as this gives you a legal defense in the coming years. Even if the law does change, you and your groups will be grandfathered.

If you are unsure of the process then you should consider affiliating with any of the federally recognized religious and religious educational organizations. This includes the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, Covenant of the Goddess, Church of all Worlds, etc. Each group has their own system and you must contact them directly. To find out more, you can check out "Global Paganism at the Dawn of the 21st Century" which provides many links to the Global movement.

Most importantly, Remember ACT, don't REACT. This is very important, we have the ability to secure the rights we have earned back, but we must act now.

Pagans are American Too, Regardless of what Christians Think!

by Ed Hubbard
January 26, 2001

Pagans are American Too, Regardless of what Christians Think!
originally published in 1995 as a tract by Holy City Temple

"A leaderless but powerful Network is working to bring about radical change in the United States...Broader than reform, deeper than revolution, this benign conspiracy for a new human agenda has triggered the most rapid cultural realignment in history" - Marilyn Ferguson, The Aquarian Conspiracy

In America, the largest spiritual revolution in its history is about to occur. The Christian Fundamentalist Movement is at war with the freedom of the constitution. Once again the Church prepares the Inquisition to destroy those who can not accept the Church's harsh commands. They cannot face the idea they are failing to meet the needs of the American people and are willing to strip away all opposition.

In America, The Land of Freedom and of Faith is nurturing a faith, ancient and modern. A faith that accepts the freedom of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A faith that accepts the equality of men and women, the love of family, and the fellowship of the God and Goddess. A faith so uniquely human and preserving that Christianity has burned, hung, and destroyed women and men out of fear. The faith is Pagan and Paganism and it's emerging into mainstream society.

We are Americans with Freedom to speak, write, worship, and seek opportunities for prosperity. We are the freest people in all the world. We have the best minds and powerful opinions because we have protected freedoms. Yet, the Christian Fundamentalist Movement seeks to close the mind which God gave you.

The cry "You have no right to your opinion if it denies Christ" is anti-American but is the Central Ideal behind the Christian Revolution. They seek to overthrow the Constitution and replace it with Holy Bible.

The Islam Countries have suffered under the same form of Revolution. Saddam Hussein and the Alloydallah Khomani imposed the Koran, banishing Democracy. Is Pat Robertson any less a threat to our Democracy because he uses the Holy Bible? I think not.

Paganism accepts that we are absolutely free, with full freedom to choose our Destiny, and to worship in forms of expression of our own choosing. We seek new liberties that originate from our personal relationship with God and Goddess. We do as we will long as it harms none. Life is a celebration and we celebrate life. This is America; Let us keep it that way.

Why Pagans disagree with On Relations with Christians?

by Ed Hubbard
January 16, 2001

Why Pagans disagree with On Relations with Christians?
By Rev. Ed Hubbard

As we begin the New Age, and the millennium rolls out in earnest, a conflict is emerging within the Pagan community on dealing with Christians. The arguments is on how to approach and deal with Christians as a whole: The disagreement is between two viewpoints. The first, Christianity as a whole is hostile to Pagans and therefore must be opposed at all costs and the second, Christians are people too and we must not lump them under one stereotype, with various positions between the two.

The first point of view is strongly militant, and takes into account all the criminal (by modern accounts) and violent things the Christian Faith has done. It has been a bloody religion which has given support to

murderers, tyrants, and destroyers of all colors and creeds. The faith has given permission and even encouraged slavery, to cultural destruction, to fomenting ignorance, and torture/imprisonment and death to all who oppose them. In fact, this point of view points out that some Christians faiths are involved in this behavior today within Africa, Asia, and even the United States at some levels. It is in the militant viewpoint, this is a innate part of their faith and the killing and horrendous behavior taints them. In fact, this behavior of aggression by the Christian Faith is alive and well waiting to be unleashed against the modern society.

The second point of view is that Christians and Christian Faiths are different from each other, and only a few branches have conducted violent behavior. It is believed most Christians are good and loving people who only want the best for their communities, families, and themselves. These individuals conduct themselves in a way to establish freedom and justice across the land, and condemn violence of all types. That modern Christians should not and cannot be held accountable for the actions of men in the past, and that in each generation more of this blood tainted history is left behind in the good works.

Almost every disagreement within the Pagan Community on how to deal with Christians is between these two points of view. This has created problems in how to deal with problems of discrimination we face worldwide.

Let's face it, neither side is totally correct. The extreme militant view leads to conflict, paranoia, and really dark behavior. This behavior can create a Pagan which is withdrawn and potentially quite frightening. It can, in fact, create the very situation of discrimination and malicious attack that it believes will occur from Christians. This breeds individuals who are angry and in your face, which no one truly likes, regardless of their faith.

The "Let's get along" point of view leave it's adherents in a position that is highly vulnerable when discrimination occurs, emotionally and physically. The process of being Pagan can lead to the closest to you being able to hurt and confuse you when they are not accepting. worse, it opens one to potential public ridicule without a real defense. This turns the Pagan into little more the apologist for their faith.

The path between the two is most difficult, as it leaves uncertainty in the position. The only thing Pagans must accept is that Christianity is an exclusive religion, regardless of the particular faith. No matter is what else is said, they believe that the only true path is through christ, and through him, to have a relationship with God. It is how the individual Christian and members of their particular faith group interpret this position in relation to other groups that really make up their behavior. Knowing this we have a way to judge behavior and how they will relate to Pagans and other religious groups.

This is why Pagans disagree on Christians and how to deal with them. It is because Christians have many different faces, how many different interpretations, and all levels of behavior from violent aggressive racists to the most beautiful and giving people you ever want to meet. Treating Christians as a monolithic organization is wrong. Equally so, treating them as individuals can be also be difficult and dangerous.

The best way to deal with any particular Christian individual or group is to ask these three simple questions, and seeing the answers as a way to understand them. The three questions to ask:

1. Do you believe that other faiths may enter into eternal life and under what circumstances?
2. Do you believe that other faiths have a right to practice their religions, share them openly, and be allowed to give prayers and benedictions in places where Christians Prayers are currently being used in Public Places?
3. Do you believe that the Government should protect the Christian Faith as the main faith or that the Government should allow access to public venues to all religions?

These are pertinent questions and will allow judging the quality of the individual and their faith practices, on a basic level. It creates a space to begin Interfaith dialogue, and gives an opportunity to understand

where to other person is coming from. Of course these questions can be asked of any faith for the same reasons.

Only by engaging in very direct talk can we hope to make headway against discrimination. Who knows you may find out that you have an ally or an enemy! But you will know what you are dealing with and that is a powerful place to be.

What Pagans and Christians Share!

by Ed Hubbard
August 22, 2000

At first look, Pagans and Christians appear to be opposing forces in a cosmic conflict, that if Pagans emerge, then Christians will be destroyed and in turn, Christians will take every opportunity to destroy Pagans. This is the current level of common wisdom and yet it is very much wrong. There are many places that Christians and Pagans share a common philosophy. It is at these points we will examine.

The first axiom is belief in a Divine Force is involved in our lives. That Deity is seen as having both a personal and impersonal aspects. In fact there is a shared belief it may not be possible for any of us to truly understand Deity in all the aspects that it may contain. But we accept on faith that Deity be it Jesus, Yahweh, The Lord and Lady, or any number of other names can be involved directly in our lives to lead us to a greater understanding of ourselves, of the divine, and the universe around us.

Christians have miracles, events in their lives they can not explain except as divine intervention, and accept that these events may occur at anytime. Pagans believe that divinity in the form of miracles and magic are commonplace and that divinity can and does share our lives and intervene as well. This is so a common thread so deep that neither faith would be truly sacred without them. This is a point so overlooked that it in fact disappears in so many arguments, Pagans and Christians believe in a miraculous world where divinity is directly involved in their lives.

Pagans believe in spiritual healing for the body, spirit, and mind. That we have processes, in the form of healing circles, offerings of the heart, and focusing goodwill upon an individual will bring healing or at the very least relief of pain. Christians believe strongly that prayers can bring healing, that religious services dedicated to healing, and strong commitment to the good thoughts will bring good health or at least peace of mind. Christians and Pagans both accept that deity is the final solution at the very least, and even the first solution to healing of the body, the soul, and the mind. That even before all else fails we turn to the divine force to help those who are sick among us, and we want healing for all people.

Christians have commandments to "That thou shall not kill" and "Thou shall not steal", and these represent important laws for the community. Pagans have a code "Harm None", and this equally represents important laws for the community. A pagan never find murder as acceptable, nor is rape, theft, or any crime that forces pain and anguish on another human being under any circumstances. Christians believe that all men and women should be safe from crime including murder, rape, theft, and all manner of physical acts against another. In this neither group believes that violence is the solution to our problems and theft is not a way to share wealth.

Pagans see they have a history of evolving thought, that are predecessors may have done deplorable things in the name of their deities and their nations, and have sought political and spiritual power over their fellow men. Christians have a constant stream of philosophers who seek deeper understanding of God, that they have members of their faith who have acted as murderers and torturers in the name of Jesus, in order to promote their religion as dominant over all others and all nations. Yet neither Pagans nor Christians feel that is representative of the whole of their faith and does not represent the faiths of today. Yet both sides will equally bring these ancient practices as accusations against each other. In this Christians and Pagans

believe themselves to have shed the crimes of our ancestors and predecessors and that we are good people who seek to not harm others, and that the other side will not change.

Christians believe that family is crucial to the future. A goal of the Christian faith is to be rejoined with departed family members in heaven. That they have a commitment to educate their children and protect them against those who would bring them harm. Pagans believe that family is paramount to our survival and that our relationships to our ancestors represent our strongest bonds, as we share them with our descendants. Pagans have a commitment to raise their children in a safe environment that allows them to learn about the world. Neither side wishes harm to children and both wish the memories of their family to remain strong in their lives. We all want those bonds which strengthen us, and family can be the strongest bonds of them all.

Lastly, Pagans and Christians believe that if we one understood the other's beliefs that we would have less friction. This is probably truer than either side is willing to admit. Because to truly understand where another is coming from requires empathy and respect. That we may end up questioning where our own beliefs emerge, and that we may come to agree on how to live side by side. It is this hope which drives the truly good hearts to speak out when prejudice and power plays emerge, where intolerance reigns it's ugly head, and violence seems inevitable. We can only hope that deity will find a way to allow us to find the common ground we share, and let us see in the end to realize there is only one human family.

What Pagans Fear from the Christian Church?

Pagans have a courage that is growing within their community. As a belief, as a religion, Pagans are gathering strength as their society blooms into awakening. But Pagans are ultimately betrayed by their fear of Christians and the Church. More importantly, as Pagans we fear their behavior and what they will do. What will be the true reaction to our presence? What can Pagans expect?

Pagans are always asked why are they afraid of Christianity? Why do Pagans and other Religionists do not want the Ten Commandments posted or Bible study in Schools? They question what it is we fear from them expressing their religion openly? In truth they do not see their own behavior or pay attention to the history that has preceded us. Christians see only their good intentions.

History shows us in all places where Christianity gains dominance in a region the local society is pressured to conform toward a common consensus around a particular interpretation of the Bible. Further we see the force of Government falls in to line with the interpretation of the Bible, utilizing the concept of God and State. Christian leadership then works on creating laws to enforce moral principles and make illegal all behaviors that do not conform to their particular interpretation of Biblical law and the desires of the Church. In exchange the Lawmakers receive the benefit of God being on your side, as well as that of the Church leaders. Then the Church, with sanction and covert cooperation of the state, can use force at will.

Pagans have learned to fear arbitrary enforcement of the law, and they fear the complexity of the laws that can be manipulated in many different ways. That prejudice and intolerance will be used to create a series of legal harassments on minor points of law. This will follow with non-enforcement of the very same laws when perpetrated against the Pagan. At some point awareness that Biblical law is seen as the higher law to be enforced while governmental law is merely the tool of enforcement.

Thus Pagans fear harassment from the Church and its moral influence over governmental agencies to further extend religious harassment against non-believers. The Pagan comes to realize that the law is not for the people at all but, in fact, Christian law that glorifies the Church. From this realization comes the moment of the greatest fear, when any form of Church tolerance is removed and the death of the Pagan and the confiscation of their property is within the law of the church, acceptable to government authorities, and finally carried out by the community. When this force is unleashed, blood and flame pour over the land, and pain is the real weapon of conversion, enforcement, and obedience.

Fear of this union of terror, state and church in one, prompted the founding fathers to create the first amendment, and is reflected in the Bill of Rights. That freedom of the individual to form communities that reflect, not church or government, but emerge from their own inner being. It was a moment that gave the oppressed spirit a way to liberation. New thought emerged, and the Church was weakened. It was because of this recognition of the dangers of Church and State that religious pluralism can survive at all in the United States. Our founding fathers have given us the greatest gift of all, recognition of freedom.

Pagans have come to expect that their rights exist in an abstract way but they are forced to battle with Christians to be allowed to practice and use their rights. As a non-Christian they discover a double standard, Christian rights come first, and non-Christians must learn to live with us, not us with you.

The inherent protection of American Constitutional Law is based on the quality and innate beliefs of the enforcers of the law. The desire to protect the community can extend in to the dangerous desire for conformity and to remove differences between people. This is the emotion that is reinforced by the Christian Church. If the enforcers of the law interpret through a innate belief in the rightness of Constitutional Law then Pagans have an opportunity to see governmental law reflect acceptance and extend its protection. But if the enforcers of the law interpret through acceptance of Biblical Law having superior authority over governmental law then we have much to fear, for violence and injustice becomes acceptable for the common good.

Christians believe in a vision that separates them from all other people and places them at the feet of the throne of God, to give and grant blessings to the rest of unenlightened humanity. From this mighty pedestal they judge all other faiths and cultures to be inferior. They send forth missionaries and warriors into heathen lands, to bring the true faith to the pagan people. And Christians are very proud to do this as well. In the end, the Church knows in order for humanity to be saved they all must be under a Christian Government, following the Law of Jesus Christ. As the Church is the Bride of Christ, then all who partake in the Church shall share power with Christ in the final days of judgment, and all who are not saved will be destroyed and lost in everlasting death.

But alas, only one thing keeps Jesus the Almighty, Son of God, and God Incarnate from perfecting humanity. As all good Christians know that their omniscient and omnipresent God allows the entity know as Satan, the Devil, to create crisis and danger to Christianity. This is a fundamental basis for obedience to all Christian law, obey or the devil will take your soul. That as an individual, if you move beyond the protection of the Church, you will be assaulted and possessed by demonic forces. At all sides you will be led to dangerous decisions and horrid temptations and finally you will fall into immorality and sin. If you die beyond the protection of the Church, the devil will take your soul to a place of everlasting pain, and forevermore you will be lost to your family and all the good things in your life.

This belief in such an adversary as the Devil, and the Leap of Faith that believes this entity is behind every negative action, creates a state of paranoia within the Christian Culture. What non-Christians fear is that this demand for security emerging out of paranoia will lead to irrational decisions and sudden destructive behavior. Once the people of a Christian community believe harm, through agents of the devil, has entered their community then they will demand of you the declaration of belief. At this moment, you see the true doctrine of paranoia that leads to massacres and burnings, lynchings and Murder. It comes from the pulpit and it is a fearsome sound. And it sounds like this:

"If you do not believe in Christ then you are in the control of Satan. If you have not asked Jesus into your heart then the devil has possessed your wicked heart. All men are born with original sin, and only through the word of God, as spoken by me can cleanse you of your sin. By partaking in this ritual of cleansing, a baptism in water, you are born anew into our community, free of the devil. But alas the battle between Good and Evil, God and Satan occurs all around us, at all times. Our faith keeps us strong, and only by saving all souls within the community can we ever be truly secure. God has given us permission to preach and convert them as the Disciples of Christ did. And use whatever force needed to protect your lives and you will be martyred if you die in this holy quest. If needed, kill them all and let Gods will sort them out."

This statement is harsh but has been given time and time again from the pulpit and altars of the Church. At its core is the belief that you must believe what I believe or you are potentially my enemy and you are harboring a supernatural being that is seeking to destroy me and my family. With such a horrifying enemy, then any measure of violence can become acceptable to the Christian right up to and including Armageddon and the destruction of the physical world. Pagans fear this arbitrary violence and the effects of deep paranoia led by manipulative men under the guise of a loving church.

The historical accounts of violence combined with the daily occurrences of violence reported from around the globe, including inside the United States, done in the name of Jesus Christ assure us that this is not an unfounded fear. We know when the Christian calls you the Devil they are preparing to attack you, and when they call your people "pagans and ignorant savages" they are about to commit genocide. When it begins "your primitive and devil filled culture" is put to the torch in order to save all these newfound souls for Christ.

Ultimately the Christian message becomes convert or be ostracized, join or suffer, love Christ or be of the devil, and accept the Church or be destroyed. Not all Christians do this and not at all times. But some Christians do commit acts of destruction and this fearful violence is occurring everyday and has occurred for most of the last two millennium somewhere on our world.

Some Christians truly do love their neighbors but the mighty religion of Christ does do these violent things, in the past, in the present, and here is the fear of all Pagans and non-Christians alike, they will do it again in the future. Christianity will not truly end violence. It won't give up its power to allow violence to be used against sinners, heretics, and enemies of the Church. The Church won't end its right to a Just and Holy War and all the atrocities that emanate from it.

Pagans do not fear all Christians, nor believe all of them will resort to violence on a whim. We accept that most will convey a live and let live attitude, but will ignore the fact that you have equal rights. These Christians will parade all their good works and charitable projects, and demand recognition for their holiness and devout actions for the good of the Church. But they deny violence by explaining those atrocities and murders of the past were the works of men and we have been reborn in Christ. That we Christians eschew violence and would never use it against our fellow men. But Pagans are disgusted by the very same Christians who wrap themselves in freshly washed sheepskin of the Lord and demand we ignore the stains of their bloody history that we see upon their fleece. Lest we forget completely why we must not mention these stains, the Christian reminds us they still have very sharp fangs as well. If we look to close and identify the stains, the Christian fears we will know them as guilty to being a beneficiary to murder and massacre. This guilt is so shameful that Christians repress it ever existed until it bubbles anew to claim new victims.

Fear is a reasonable answer to what Pagans have already seen. History allows us to understand and the future allows us to build in a new way. It allows Pagans to speak up and speak out about our beliefs, and we have hope for a better future. We test our own fears and our courage allows us to challenge those who would use force and violence before the perpetrators can ever strike out. It is my hope and prayer that Christianity will never again use its power against Pagans and other Religions ever again, and that we will live in a truly peaceful world someday. But until it does, I will keep my eyes open and keep working for a better tomorrow.

So what is the thing that makes us Christianities Mortal Enemy?

Uncertainty.

Witches do strange things and change things without us knowing.

Uncertainty is the enemy of prophecy. Christianity has a very clear path through Prophecy to world

domination or planetary destruction, whatever destiny their god decides for them in the end. If successful it is peace on the world for a thousand years, and then destruction and transport to a more perfected heaven. It is this certainty of an event that has yet to happen that Christians must consistently secure.

Christianity has cultivated this prophetic science to an art form. It has become a self-referring, self-referenceing, self-motivating, and equally passive system of rules and laws known as Revelation. Revelation must occur for the bible to be one hundred percent factual.

Just so we understand this, the Bible is the Word of God and is perfect. Everything God said would happen has except of course, Revelation. Once Revelation happens you will know the truth, and then it will be too late. So the Bible is only perfect when revelations has been fully carried out, otherwise it's only God's Word it will happen up to now. But no one dares question the word of God.

Uncertainty is the word a Witch knows.

We also practice prophetic sciences and we can avoid silly things like Armageddon. We know how the prophets read the signs and we know so much more. We understand the secret language of time. The fact is we simply know things that the Christian leadership does not want you to know about. We indulge in forbidden knowledge that is as ancient as humanity and as sharp as tomorrow's technology. Witches know uncertainty and they know how to generate it as well.

The Christian church wants us to stop using our senses, our minds, and that which produces change. Change is a constant threat to any prophecy, and enough change can render prophecy meaningless. It also takes away the idea that this may be the last generation before Christ's mighty return.

See a Witch who sees the future, can tell you of your children, your grandchildren, and even your grandchildren's grandchildren. The Witch can see a future and the future extends past this life. Then you immediately have committed heresy and sinful intervention with God's plan, because it is religious law that you acknowledge that Jesus can return at any moment and at anytime.

Why heresy for seeing the future? It's simple, why worry about piety and salvation right now, if you will die and have descendants for years, decades, even centuries to come. The Church needs to fulfill it's immediate needs and that requires they maintain a immediate threat. Revelations and imminent destruction of all earthly life is quite the threat you need to keep people in the moment. A Witches fortune telling says life endures as far as she can see, and this thing called revelation I do not know. Uncertainty.

In order to survive a Witch or Oracle or Seer, will throw in a few revelation phrases. It's good cover and they would even lie and say that Jesus is coming soon. Shackles, Red Hot Irons, and burlap sacks can change a lot of minds pretty quickly. What harm when they demand it. Give them back their certainty and live.

Certainty. By torturing and forcing us to confess to their reality, their prophecy and their god wins. Every attack just reinforces revelation and the heavenly war at the end of time.

So to stop Witches from Prophesying, you kill them after destroying their dignity. You showed the worthlessness of being a witch and the punishment for believing in her. In the inner lesson is God destroys his enemies and the priesthood is the Hands of God who can destroy you. It is also a lesson that needs to be re-taught, every few generations. It helps assures that no one is ever uncertain.

So Christians fear that Wiccans see the future and can save the world from Armageddon. It is a core of fear and starkly honest in it's purpose, only God can know the future and no one else is allowed to.

Witches bring uncertainty.

Witches have strange powers, and they can do things that are unexplainable. This breeds uncertainty, and this time is the miracles of Saints and Jesus himself. All Healing comes from God and no Witch should be

allowed to heal lest they are deceived to God's infinite power.

When Witches do heal, it has to be a trick of Satan, because the alternative is that Witches are divine healers as well. Since that can not be allowed to cause uncertainty, the witches healing must be destroyed, at all costs. After all, only God and his church controls your health and all other things are satanic and ultimately deadly to your soul. Again burn her and end her magic. Restore certainty to our flock.

Witches know things that threaten orderly society by knowing that they world is more strange then you know and has secret powers to those educated in natures way. Witches remember what everyone else forgot. Witches know the past as well as any historian, and maybe a touch better. So Witches see the future, heal the sick, ask questions, say the world is an uncertain place, and ultimately survive and adapt to the culture they live-in. It's simply the Witches Way.

Witches can make you uncertain.

So what is the one thing Witches have that Christians do not want public. The answer is simply uncertainty. Uncertainty is their Achilles heal and uncertainty bring questions, change, and potentially chaos to their idealized world of perfect prophetically realized world of God.

Why Pagans are the Christian's Bogeyman?

by Ed Hubbard
August 17, 2000

Paganism, a word that draws to itself strong feelings. Within this single word is a tension between a fierce determination to destroy that which it labels and equally determined position to preserve the word at all costs.

Pagans are frightening to mainstream Christians. We don't exist, we are a fantasy come to life. We represent something that was burned, destroyed, oppressed, and should be utterly forgotten. We can not exist, we shouldn't exist, we must not exist.

Then we emerged, in various ways over the second half of the 20th century. Pagans came to life in different places, and out of the shadows we emerged. Pagans became public and it was at this moment we threatened fundamentalism and orthodoxy. Our stories challenged the accepted history, we question and test the beliefs. We reveal the side of history that dwells in the shadow places of their faith. We do exist, and we are alive.

Yet a paradox emerged, the very thing the average Christian believes does not exist, does exist. Further, It is protected under the very law they themselves demanded for their church. Even as Christians accept themselves as loving and giving and fair, Pagans emerge to challenge them at every level, and we do it in the courts and places they themselves created to test fairness and protect the rights of all citizens. Either we must be given the right to exist and prosper or the very basis of the law will be shattered.

The paradox deepens for the Christian who loves the American Ideal. Those who love the basic truths entrusted to us by the Constitution also believe only a Christian Society can maintain it. The Christian who loves his church and country has been told and believes Pagans threaten the Constitution. That we who are protected by this powerful document would destroy the very same document. That we would commit this idea of madness and end our freedoms and theirs. It is a concept born of twin blinders of obedience and fear.

Now as Pagans emerge into the mainstream, and appear in places of attention, of respect, of legal protection and finding acceptance, we become harbingers of their prophecies. Our return from the shadows, our rebirth like a phoenix from the ashes of the burning times, means that Armageddon is upon them. Christians have been led to believe we will use supernatural forces to destroy them, to cast them into a war, and even bring a living hell on Earth. Only when they have this war will we be completely and utterly destroyed, and even the Earth will no longer exist. Only they will remain. The reemergence of Pagans can

only mean that their days are numbered and only fear remains.

If Pagans do emerge as a strong, healthy, and loving faith which reveres the living world, who do not fear death, study the mysteries of life and do not bring an Apocalyptic Lord to power as some great Pretender to the Global Throne, then Christianity have a false book of prophecy. The core of their belief, based on this war, and their only chance of controlling the very essence of free will and self determination will be put to the test. Our very public existence and protection under the law may be accepted by the average American Citizen as just and correct, they are equally divided in their minds because their church and faith may be challenged. After all, if this one truth is discovered to be false what other truths will be discovered to be false. And if any of it is false, then salvation, judgment day, and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ may also be false. Without this then no one will ever enter heaven, for the Prophecy and Faith directly state only after Judgment Day will the City of Heaven will be opened to those who maintained their faith.

My own awakenings from the Christian Fundamental Cult I belonged to as a child taught me to fear the Witch and the dark powers, of outsiders who practice foreign religions, and those who profess anything but Christ as Lord. I was afraid of the world and believed the end of the world was coming. Truly I prepared for it, and at one point I believe I would have killed for Christ.

Then I discovered real Pagans, and the open life they were living. My amazement and shock was deep and profound, I was disillusioned. No powerful spellcasters, no horned demons, no world shattering powers. What I found was a way to express the inner self, that they cared about love and life, and not sin and death. That they respected animals, people, and the natural rhythm of an ecosystem. They had a different life and a whole new way to live. With their help, I came to be freed of fear, of the belief of sin, removed from the threat of eternal damnation, and given a way to heal my spirit. I awakened to a truth so completely different, it was as if as I was reborn into the world anew. From Faith Manipulation to Spiritual Freedom.

Imagine if other Young Christians discovered this truth, that they were lied to. What would happen if other Young Christians were to discover a faith that would truly free them from sin and guilt? Where would they put their trust when they discover to love who they are and allowed to flourish as an independent individual?

Of Course!

It would terrorize the Christian Authorities. Because a few words, all being truths spoken with great emotion, would profoundly change all that truly hear them. It would set this Young mind on a path of personal discovery that would bring a remove their blinders. And when they open their eyes anew they would see a whole living family on the path of healing waiting with open arms to accept them, not for what they say, but for what they are.

Imagine as mainstream Christians discover Pagans are a people dedicated to principals of openness, which support the rights of the individual and the tribe. Who support the Constitution and are obedient to national laws. A people who are in love with life and life is in love with them, and a world free from guilt caused by contrived sin while a strong moral code remains within the hearts of the Pagan People.

That the fact that they, the Young Christian was lied to, would change their outlook forever. They would learn to question, challenge, and seek out new experiences. They would allow themselves a freedom that is truly protected by the Constitution of our fine country and denied by the church itself.

And how would the Church react? I know and so do you!

As I said, we can not exist. We do not exist. We must not exist. And yet we do. Think About it.

Why Paganism is "God's Test of Faith" for Christianity?

by Ed Hubbard

November 21, 2000

Paganism is the belief in a natural world, filled with divinity, and has a number of different concepts of deity and divine. In America Paganism is a religion which expresses the divinity of nature and working with rituals and spiritual practices, ancient and modern. This religion has gone beyond even this in the latter half of the 20th century to become a legal religion under the laws of the United States and have begun construction of sacred space with full legal protection. Further, it has social services, magazines, publications, festivals, and a whole lifestyle that is emerging to become part of mainstream society.

Within 25 years, Paganism will be a permanent part of the American landscape and the ministers, priests, and priestesses will be moving deeper in modern life becoming everything from celebrities to politicians. Paganism as a faith will be able to exert an influence over the entire population through the first amendment and other protections of the Constitution. Within 50 years, Paganism can become a majority religion in the United States with every protection accorded by the United States Government. At that point laws will reflect a religious pluralism that will move Christianity to a more equal position with the various religions of the world including Paganism.

For Christianity, Paganism can only be "A Test of Faith from God" and be seen as a direct challenge to their community and equally so the individual. God of the old and new testaments of the Holy Bible is known for these challenges and duties required to test faith. Disobedience will have terrible consequences and following the rules of God leads to a higher form of perfection. The stories include Adam and Eve and the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Construction of the Ark by Noah, Abraham's near sacrifice of his first born, Lott and his families escape from the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, Jonah and the Whale, the challenge of Job, and not the least the death of Christ himself. In each story obedience is required and punishments are inflicted, either to test them or to force them to do the right thing, and when they accomplish their test the human race is rescued from evil damnation and destruction. God pours blessings upon those who pass his tests and blesses the people for generations.

Combined with the tests required by God is the Prophecies of God who warn of death, danger, and punishment to be inflicted upon the population which becomes disobedient, and promises a most fatal conclusion to this imperfect world. The concept is that God is all-knowing and omniscient but gives us freewill to choose between heaven and hell. But God knows that in the end the world will fall into ruins, Christians will be threatened, and this world can only be saved by suffering it's destruction to destroy all sin. Remember Sin is disobedience to God's Law, and man is born inherently sinful. Without an active conversion to Christianity, a child is sinful and will become a sinful adult condemned to hell. Prophecy is God's warning to events that will lead to the destruction of the Christian faith and how God will protect the souls of the saved.

Paganism challenges Christianity at every step, accepting that Christianity has a right to believe what they want, but Pagans are equally correct in their beliefs. Of course, This is a difficult position for the Christian Faith and worse, not even considerable under the law of God. Either you believe in the God of the Bible which then requires obedience to his law or you don't. For all too many, compromise of one's faith to accommodate Paganism within Christian thought and the reverse giving value to Christian practices within Paganism will be the solution to this challenge. Compromise and syncretism will become the order of the day, and far fewer churches will remain true to only Christian practices. Churches and pastors will give Pagans deeper consideration, or be threatened with losing whole neighborhoods and congregations to this growing community.

Why is this a "Test of God" for Christians? Pagan thought is the oldest religion on the earth, being born from the ground itself, and has been practiced by the majority of humanity for all of known existence. Pagans accept God as a female, The Goddess, and believe that we are all part of one cosmic whole. They also accept God as many different forms and in all manner of different names. They recognize that in their hearts the God and Goddess dwell as a whole being, a whole life, and they can see the evidence around

them. The Pagan faith believes deeply in the innate goodness of the human spirit, and the soul, and that it is an immortal part of us that has been born before and will be born again on this earth and other realms as well.

The above mentioned worldview is very different from Christianity in that God is either masculine or at best beyond having a sex, that we exist only once on this earth as part of our growth, and that humanity is not part of nature, but in a unique position above it. Above all, Christians accept that all men are sinful and evil, and no man or woman or child is free from the taint of sin and is sentenced to everlasting death in a place best known as hell. Only through obedience to God and his Church, in the name of Jesus can man save himself from this eternal loss.

When we compare the two faiths we see very strong and irreconcilable differences! Either Christianity is right and we are all to be judged by God, and the vast majority of humanity will be condemned to hell and only Christians and just men will be given a reward for their obedient lives or Pagans are right and there is a certain power in life that is immortal, indestructible, and will continue long after this life ends. If you accept Christianity then your soul has a destination, if you accept Paganism then your soul is on a journey.

A crucial challenge of Paganism comes from the Resurrection of Christ and his belief as the Son of God. Uniquely, Pagans do not question this, and in fact, accept the possibility of its occurrence. But the significance of this event is not important and they believe no one man can die for our sins and forgive us of our actions. The Pagan philosophy

accepts the idea we are responsible for our actions and should be held accountable for them. That our future lives are affected by our actions and we pay a price for every wrong, and can become better people through our actions. This is important because they accept and revere the concept we are immortal and have spirits that are part of a universe without end. This leads to a very basic concept, "Thou art God, I am God, We are God".

Let's take it further, Pagans don't discount any aspect of the Christian Faith as possible or impossible but they say interpretation has been made to venerate the priests and ministers of the faith. They simply do not see the Bible as the only word of God, and that there are many possible expressions of God's will. Further, they strongly reject Armageddon and the coming of the Antichrist as a fantasy or worse a threat to sovereignty of the innate will of humanity. They do not accept this prophecy as ministers scream it across the TV and in the books. Simply put, after two millennium they do not believe it will happen. Infact, Pagans believe Christians use it as a excuse to get what they want and degrade nature to its destruction.

This makes Paganism a "Test of God" because they are challenging us among your teens and young adults, protected by the laws of the United States, and allowed access to all forms of media. In fact, Paganism is equal legally to Christianity in all legal ways, and in fact, is a European and American movement growing at an incredible rate. Eighty percent of Pagans are former Christians who took the final step to reject the Church. One must believe that God is challenging the Christian, and at some point he will send a messenger to warn you. At that point, you will be threatened with punishment and loss if you fail, and heavenly glory to succeed. It may even be that you will need to confront, preach, and possible military action against Pagans, who may be your family, friends, and neighbors.

What is the attraction of Paganism that would put so many souls to risk according Christians? A faith that is oriented to family and tribe, free from sin, open to each other and to the divine. A Deity who is nurturing in the form of the Lord or Lady who would fill our lives with love and laughter, mystery and science, and a love of humanity which is expressed beyond human capacity to understand. Further, they want to save Nature, which they are part of. In every way, they believe in the American way of life, pursuing freedom, liberty, and happiness. They are a gracious people filled with wonders and tells us all the things the Bible says is bad. They challenge authority and respect leadership in all its forms. It is the ultimate form of American belief in the Constitution and our pursuit of an open democracy.

So when it came my time to answer "God's Test", I studied it all. I let God lead me. He took from me family, church, and friends and placed me on the road. The actions of the divine took me to the heart of

truth and In the end I became a Pagan. How could I not? After all, I could no longer worship the pain that Christians inflict on Christ, crucifying everyday for selfish reasons, unwilling to take responsibility for their actions, blaming the devil for all evils, and being constantly threatened with severe punishment. After all, if he were a human father he would be arrested for child abuse for what he has done to his "creations".

In the end, I accept the Pagan faith, and reject the basic premise on which the stones of pain and punishment that is inflicted by the Christian God. God, in all forms, has lead me to take this position and even if the Christian despises me, threaten me, stone me or kill me in order to get me to recant I never will. For in the end, Christians have forgotten true love, and we are eternal. This was God's promise, God's covenant with me, and I have been here ten short years.

When the Test comes for you, I hope you may remember this and choose to end the pain. After all do you really want to be a Christian or are you simply afraid of the consequences if your not? After all the Church promises you Hell and Pain eternal if you say no. That will be the destination of your soul if you accept their beliefs and not their salvation. Or become Pagan and find yourself on a journey that will last until the end of time.

Me, I walk the Journey and can't wait to find the future.

May the Goddess bless You and put your feet upon the road.

Comparative Futures, Pagan Philosophy vs. Christian Theology

by Ed Hubbard

August 20, 2000

WARNING: This article deals with distinct differences in Christian Theology based on their primary acceptance of Armageddon and Revelations as the future of Humanity versus Pagans Concept of a never ending future. This is not an article for those who feel that we are not allowed to be critical of Christian or Pagan thought

The future is unexplored territory in which all humanity shares. We move continually forward into it with a steady march, and no way to truly return to the past. At least not yet. Since this process is common to all humanity it is one of the most dramatic aspects in the formation of thought. We all think about it at sometime in our lives, even if it is just to decide what we will do next week, next month, next year. How we believe in the future is crucial to how we make decisions, how we react to the now. We consider the future in all our decisions and our actions spring from these thoughts.

As all things of the future, one does not know what will happen with any surety. But we can accept the future continually arrives in our lives, sometimes when we least expect it. When we understand there is a future and we can participate in the birth of the events taking place, we become parents to all that comes from that event.

As Pagans emerge from the shadows, in many forms, they begin to take action and speak out about their beliefs. Their thought awakens in the world and becomes part of the overall discussion, and by speaking out may find acceptance but more often opposition from those who profess an acceptance of Christianity. The differences in how they see the future is crucial to understanding the debate.

The crucial difference in Pagan Philosophy from Christian Theology is that Pagans believe in an open future that continues well beyond ourselves. A future where evolution, change and uncertainty emerges. The Christian accepts as a primary belief that the world will and must come to an end as a conclusion of their faith journey on Judgment Day. This represents the most difficult bridge we have to cross, Pagans

accepting a future that may never come to an end and Christians who believe that eternity begins only when the physical world is destroyed.

The difference between the philosophy of an open future and the theology of a closed future is deeper than it first appears. It affects us and society in every sphere of human thought. In education, an open future creates constant opportunities to learn new things and discovery is always possible. New ideas are to be expected and explored. In law, an open future will seek solutions and help protect the rights of the individual, the tribe, and even more importantly, future generations. It allows freedom to do as you will as long as it harms none. In science, an open future accepts discoveries and technologies that advance the human race, even if the very same discoveries may change even the basic truths that we have come to accept. By understanding that technologies may bring changes we study the implications and prepare for them. In religion, an open future means that one can accept a living religion that can and will change over years, decades and even centuries and that we will be part of a constant unfolding of divinity within us and within the world. Ultimately an open future means we live with responsibility, commitment, and constant uncertainty.

A belief in a closed future brings a different set of responses and expectations. A closed future occurs when belief that this or some near time will be the end of days and physical destruction and even extinction of the human race will occur. In education, training and preparation to join society becomes paramount. The classroom becomes a place of orientation and behavior management concerned less with the mind but more on the thoughts within. In law, a closed future seeks to enforce morals and ethics that protect the soul for the afterlife, even if the body and spirit are destroyed in the process. In science, discoveries are seen as ways to support the idea of a closed future, the fact impending doom is upon us or these new facts become dangerous enemies to be suppressed. The greatest threat to any particular scientist's work comes when they are accused of "Playing God". In religion, a closed future provides ways to demand obedience and to give authority to enforce a certain accepted philosophy, at times with strongest force, and regardless of the facts or beliefs of others. Ultimately a closed future means we live with unquestionable authority, enforcement, and with an assured conviction that only the grave provides.

This difference between an open future and a closed one brings us in real conflict in terms of attitudes, decisions, and focus. By accepting an open future change can be embraced and these changes allowed to flow through society. Discoveries in evolution, astronomy, physics, and so many other sciences all tell us of a past that fills us with awe and wonder and acceptance of a future we can embrace. In accepting a closed future, these very same concepts bring us answers that must be molded into an older dogma, to be explained away, and even suppressed. They threaten the concept of the future as a certainty, where the world may not end but become a place of continuous life.

One example of this conflict is the arrival of Archeology. It was a most dangerous tool to answer the differences between these two concepts. On one hand, it proves that certain events did occur, that we have a historical document that does in fact reflect events of a people in the past. This allows those who enforce the doctrine of a closed future to say if these past events are true then what we say about the future is also true. They use these facts as enforcement of our belief of our ultimate destruction at the hands of outside forces.

But archeology brings disturbing facts as well. It reveals a history in which religions, societies, and civilizations pass into dust. That even the most strongly held beliefs can be left behind and forgotten. That ultimately, we too will see our own civilization pass into history and our descendants will look back at our quaint notions of how the world and the universe works. They may respect us for our accomplishments and laugh at our ignorance, but we can conceive they will exist. Yet even in this archeology gives us hope that the future will survive beyond us, even as it proves a philosophy that our own civilization may end.

In every field of endeavor we can make comparisons between these two differing philosophies, these twin images of life everlasting and life continuous. They really begin to show a difficult bridge to cross because it is difficult to show how they can both happen. It becomes an either/or situation. Conflict becomes inevitable.

By recognizing the Pagan Concept of an open future, they can accept plans that will take generations to be

completed because of a certain belief that these future children will exist. That they turn our thoughts from inevitable destruction to seek out solutions to avert disaster in the short term and seek peace in the long term. Pagans, living in this acceptance of continuous life can choose to become part of the ecosystem, of events that surround them. They believe themselves as part of the human family, descended from mothers and fathers from the dawn of history and are the ancestors of thousands of generations to come.

By accepting the Christian theology of a closed future, they are always preparing for an ending with a sense of doubt of any survival on a personal or society level. Wars and conflicts become stepping stones to ending history by creating circumstances in which Armageddon may finally come, offering release from life and perfect validation of their beliefs. They build a society in which environment, ecology, and concern for the future is secondary to saving the soul and preparing for the next life. In essence they prepare for a future that is perfect and predictable, without change, without challenge.

Society today is caught between these two concepts of the future. The idea of an open future, while Pagan is not exclusive to them, and the acceptance of a closed future that is not entirely unique to Christians, creates a place of debate. In each individual these twin concepts dwell within, as a reaction to fear, chaos, hope and desire. It is the choices of the individual that creates the future, and we can only wonder what the future brings. By our own acceptance of a future that continues long after we are gone or one that will end any day now will profoundly affect how we make our decisions. We will act from our views and that is all we can ever do.

Which Future do you believe in?

Facing the Jesus Taboo!

by Ed Hubbard
January 27, 2001

Facing the Jesus Taboo!

Do you believe Jesus Christ will return? Do you accept that he is King of the World? Do you actively believe that Satan is alive and acts against humanity? That to say "Jesus is not returning" is a terrible heresy, and dangerous to openly to state? Are you a Christian, then this article is not really for you, and please stop reading because you will not like what I have to say.

If you answered yes to the above, and you are also a Pagan or a Wiccan then you are caught in the Jesus Taboo. The possibility that Christians will be offended if you do not accept their point of view keeps many Pagans very quiet. Yet, ultimately it is the lack of acceptance of a destructive heavenly force waiting to eliminate the planet and the human species is a core of accepting a greater beauty of life, and this is crucial to being a Pagan, Wiccan, and any number of earth based religions. It is this belief that sustains us that we have life everlasting on earth.

The core belief of Christianity is that Jesus will return to provide all believers a place in a new Heaven and a new Earth. That this reward will be eternal, and that paradise will occur after a war that will destroy this planet. Only the saved in Christ will survive and all others will be plunged into at the lake of Hellfire.

Even if one is not actively Christian, they will become fanatical about the Return of Jesus. To openly and with dignity state that Jesus returning is a cultural myth, is to lay waste to the central core belief of Christianity. It would rock the foundation of Western Civilization, and yet this is a true statement for many. Christ will not return any time soon, not now not ever in the forms we have come to believe.

The phrase "Jesus will not return" crosses into a zone in which Christians will become hysterical, attacking with words and scripture. If you are not immediately intimidated, they will go on a Preach-a-thon. Real physical violence is possible if you are fearless and unrepented. They will not and can not accept the truth that you really believe that Christ Return is a myth and unnecessary to your life.

Why such severe reactions to the idea Christ may not be the end of all existence?

The deep belief in Christ's resurrection is the belief in Spiritual restoration. It represents the return of loved ones long forgotten, and a life filled with love. When Jesus returns, we will be given a life without dangerous choices. A loving father will care us for. We dearly adore this belief and blindly accept it.

How could we do otherwise? To accept this we remove the sting of death and take the bitterness out of atrocity. With this pure belief, we can justify the most horrible actions. And if as Christians kill, then we will be forgiven in heaven. No crime will be considered to vile to forgive and the Christ gives us the power to do all these things, in his name.

Only a single crime is among the unforgivable. It is heresy of the highest order, and be considered nearly treason in this country. To openly state "Jesus will not return, and Revelation is a Dangerous Myth" will have you excommunicated from all Christians. They will claim you a demon of the worst order, and you must be opposed at every step. They will fear your strength and your truth. They fear it may take seed.

So it is time to ask "Do you believe in the Return of Christ?" If no, then this is the first step from freeing you from the Jesus Taboo.

The acceptance of ten thousand years of civilization, and two billion years of life creates doubt on the Christian Promise. Life has continued for two thousand years beyond the death of the man called Christ, and from his death a religion that is evolving into a global empire of fatalism. If we accept Christ is returning, then the Creation, Evolution, and Survival of this world is meaningless. We accept that we are pawns and are but flawed and unfit spirits awaiting God's forgiveness.

By freeing oneself from the Jesus Taboo, one awakens their hidden Humanity. We feel that our lives have meaning and we can accept a future is possible. We see ourselves in the perspective as human, whole and complete. It opens our eyes to evil actions of men, who use the Jesus Taboo as their primary weapon and their covering of justice.

Let us face it, Jesus has not returned. Not once in two thousand has he come. I do not believe he will return and especially by December 31st, 2001. This, when accepted, will allow a freedom of spirit and democracy in this country. Challenging the Jesus Taboo is a singularly powerful action of free speech that will liberate us all. In the end, I have the right to say these things, and so do you and no one has the right to tell you otherwise.

You see, In America and the World beyond, you are free to say no to any belief, and discover your own. In the end, That is a great place to be.

The Plight of Indigenous People of South Africa (Part 1)

Investigative Report by Rev. Ed Hubbard

Originally Published in Daily Goddess News, Dec 1999

From the Parliament of the World's Religions, Cape Town, S.A. '99

The Battle for the Soul of South Africa has begun. The poverty here is horrifying to American Sensibilities. We have seen the beauty and the newly growing wealth of Cape Town, along with the openness that has come from the fall of apartheid. Hope and wonder abound as this city of many faiths has begun to rise. Cape Town, the Mother City of South Africa has begun a evolution towards greater freedom, and for this we should be grateful.

My newfound friends have explained that the average Cape Town worker who is black earns between and 300 Rand per week (50-70 American dollars). With the lower cost of living, it has helped and has begun to turn this city around. Wealth has begun to develop in interesting ways, yet poverty is everywhere, and I know because of the Parliament.

In the townships, the indigenous people who practice primal religions, have benefited little so far. This

creates hardship which has been the reason we hear about the problems. Poverty is not their only problem but it is one of immediate importance. They have become dependent on Western assistance because they have been forced from their lands and unable to pursue their natural practices. This dependency is part of the consequences of Apartheid, and part because of a lack of knowledge. It is also assisted by these Factors:

HIV is out of control, and has killed many. A generation of young men and women, parents and workers are dying. 40% of all men and 15% of women between 20-29 are infected, and it is growing among women. Worse, the children of these people are abandoned when their parents die of this disease. The people see the disease as a evil force. The children are abandoned as unclean, leaving them absolutely in poverty, and they face death through starvation, exploitation, or murder. If they survive this child labor, sexual exploitation, or mercenary/criminal recruitment in inevitable.

Poverty and Crime, continues to rampage and there is little fresh water. Much of the land has been over-planted and is dying, and worse, the legacy of apartheid continues to leave these people broken and open to promises. Food, water, and housing continue to be a problem. Without access to land or natural assets, these people are left in a cycle that is economically devastating.

In to this, women are being accused of Witchcraft and burned. They become a scapegoat because they are impotent to change the lives around them. So the necklace them. A necklace is where they tie the hands and feet of the individual, and place a tire on their neck. In the tire is petrol, and then set fire. The individual dies as their Souls burns off. This is how they kill Witches.

But these women are not just killed, their souls are banished from the ancestral spirits. They are not given a burial but left to rot as an example and as weapon against the spirit. These burnings are as not as accidental as one believes or simply the mob mentality. In fact, many Witch burnings are orchestrated attacks by outside religious forces which wants to put a end to all indigenous religious practices.

(See part 2)

This creates the opportunity that has plagued the spiritual community of the indigenous people, as Opportunistic Religious Organizations prey upon this fear, and convert the masses to their faith, cutting them off from the Spirit of the Land. Exploitive Christian groups, telling them that superstitions and practices are evil, Islam stating that no faith but Allah is correct, and even Scientology has begun a campaign to convert the masses. Wherever this has happened, we see the land and the natural spirit is lost, and yet, the lives of the people do not improve.

Now, The Parliament has made a new beginning here, and we must work in a Interfaith Context, with All Faiths to protect the Freedom of Religion that has come to South Africa. If we are to protect the rights and avoid the discrimination of the Primal Religion that has been seen in America and so much of Europe. We have the opportunity to help where we have a chance.

Right Now, we need to provide assistance in the form of books, and educational materials. We need to help with programs that provide food, water, housing, and create permanent solutions. We need to support our Pagan Friends here if we are to be able to stop the wipe out of the faith of indigenous people.

The Forces Behind Witch Burning in South Africa (Part 2)

Investigative Report by Rev. Ed Hubbard

Originally Published in Daily Goddess News, Dec 1999

From the Parliament of the World's Religions, Cape Town, S.A. '99

The easy answer to Why do they Burn Witches in South Africa is that they are a lot of superstitious people who are seeking out scapegoats to problems beyond their control. This line is the exact same one used to describe why the American and European Witch burnings occurred, and is in fact, the most common answer whenever death is blamed on mystical beliefs. But this statement is a cover story for the real reasons and causes. After all, we "civilized people" would never believe in witches and cannot possibly understand how these "primitive people" behave.

Garth, a porter at the hotel, took me up to the Township of his Birth. In the process he showed me the shanty houses, the muddy streets from waste water, smells of cooking outdoors and in, and the masses of humanity. The people of West Cape were not unhappy, in fact, they were very content as they have improved in almost all aspects of their lives. Jobs are just beginning to appear, and the total abject poverty has been relieved a bit. The oppression of Apartheid being lifted and the ability to move more freely across the country or even use a phone has given them a sense of hope. Being able to speak freely is also a great joy to the people.

The Townspeople took me to The Free Clinic and Aid Distribution, an aid center backed by Operation Blessing, World Vision, and a half dozen other American Christian Aid groups. It was run down but in much better shape than the neighborhood around it. Here many South Africans depend on food and other aid in order to keep hunger and starvation at bay. All the minister who operates the facility asks is to make a declaration to Christ daily, through a prayer, wearing a cross, or other forms of religious abasement. Otherwise, Aid would not be available, either by suddenly running out, or by out and out refusal. Constantly, the people of the Township must make a conversion to Evangelical Christianity or be left hungry, even if the aid came from non-denominational or even government sources (i.e., Red Cross or American Food Aid). After all, The duty of the Missionary is to save souls, not lives.

The Story goes That those who cross the Minister, (and anyone who told me about him, looked both ways and were very worried), discover themselves named in a sermon filled with hellfire and sin. This was to create a situation of pressure to convert them to his point of view. If this did not happen, Then local clergy would begin a program of "visitations" to the unconverted on a daily basis. This harassment would create an internal exile, and repercussions to the family. Yet many stay strong, treating the Minister as they did Apartheid and ignored the demand, which would lead to a tragic event. They would be accused of being a "Witch."

Let me interrupt this story, to discuss the words, of Mary Enderman, A Presbyterian Elder and 12 year Missionary in Kenya, about the encounters with Africa and Baptist Missionaries. In Kenya, religious Christian groups composed mostly of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, World Church of God, and local Churches began wider scale projects to alleviate poverty by agreeing to create a Christian Council and agree to at least be unified in showing the best of Christianity by accepting each others faiths as equal, but different. This had worked well, and windmills, water, medicine (both western and local), and overall misery was lifted after a decade of hard work. Then in 95, A Christian Missionary sponsored by Baptists came into the area and were offered an opportunity to join. Not only did Rev. Jonathan turn them down, He refused to allow association of any of his family or congregation even to speak with other Christian denominations.

The Reverend Jonathan began a campaign called First Evangelizing, and stated that no one was a Christian that had not been dunked as part of Baptism, and that all these other churches had lied. That only through a full water-dipping, praise singing Baptism would make you saved. Further, this Baptism would heal the sick and give great blessings to all who received it. Further, He called for South Africans to abandon their churches as places of Satan. Of course, The local Church Council was flabbergasted, and worse had to deal with many confused people. They were led to believe they were saved (from their natural religion) and now was told they were not, and in fact, had

been deceived by false Christians. This situation caused a huge rift, and is still being spread, leaving a community in conflict, all in the name of God. This type of intentional culture breaking occurs when aggressive American Evangelicals move in, regardless of the Religious Makeup of the area.

Now back to the Township, The Minister would invite (hire) a Witch-sniffer to come to town, and offer the Witch-sniffers services to the Township. Remember, The township is dependent on the Aid Center to alleviate misery or watch their people suffer, so they accept the services of the Witch-sniffer who hunts out evil forces. Professor Joseph Graaf of University of Cape Town described the next step. The Witch-sniffer would bring in young men, the local militia of sorts, and sit them down. Then the Witch-sniffer puts up a White Sheet over a window, and tells the young men to watch and they will see images of every member of the town. As the townspeople's images cross the screen, the young men can ask if they are Witches, and if

they see the image shake in agreement, they know who the Witch or Witches are, and are given permission to fix the problem by our friend the Witch-sniffer.

Night Falls, and it is pitch black and the night is broken by screaming. A house has been broken into and young men are dragging an old lady out or her daughter out of their home. Screaming "Witch, Witch, Witch," they bound the victims feet together with wire, then the hands are bound with biting wire. A tire is placed over their shoulders as they are forced into the kneeling position, as petrol slops out of the tire onto their body. The tire is set aflame, and their head catches fire. Unlike being burned at the stake, This does not take life quickly, as oxygen can get in and the low actual temperature leaves a victim screaming as long as ten minutes. The night is broken by another burning body begging for mercy. And if you are a South African, You believe and so do I, that the soul is burned as well, and the victim will no longer be spoken of or accepted in to the halls of the Ancestors, leaving them in the lost realm of the dead.

Morning comes, The police investigates and no one see anything. The investigation is called open, and places "Death by Necklacing" on the records. The family doesn't even come to claim the body, and it is buried on the edge of town, possibly devoured by animals, otherwise forgotten. The Minister speaks out on the Evils of Witchcraft or possibly about Obedience to Christ. The Witch-sniffer leaves with the police, offering small gifts, and the Young Militia are seen near the aid society all wearing new shirts or being a bit better off with a few Rand in their pocket. All that remains is the fear.

This has happened 50 times reported this year over South Africa, in one form or another, over 200 times in Tanzania, equally in Kenya, Congo, Ethiopia, and many other African Nations. We do not even have a guess how many times this happens without a report, but estimates reach into the thousands. After all, The term Witch has been used by the destroyers of Pagan Faiths for a long time and here we see it used in all its horrendous glory.

"Never Again the Burning Times, is a lie, because They have never Ended"

How Governments Enforce Western Values (Part3)

Investigative Report by Rev. Ed Hubbard

Originally Published in Daily Goddess News, Dec 1999

From the Parliament of the World's Religions, Cape Town, S.A. '99

Governments are the most powerful organization to enforce social change in existence today, even surpassing the role of the Church. Basically, Governments, regardless of it's nature, exists to maintain order and enforce structure on behalf of it's members. In a democracy such as the United States, the government works towards fulfilling the needs of the people, and more importantly, the special interests that involve themselves in governmental policy. In more totalitarian societies, the government works for the rulers in some way, towards goals that the ruling class sees as ideal. But in the end, the government is an organic machine structure dedicated to enforcing the will of it's leaders on the basic population, whom may or may not have a say.

In third world countries of Africa, the governments range from the newly Democratic South Africa, to rebel led anarchy of Kenya. These governments have a basic need that is common to them all, they are in desperate need of economic growth. They need a way to create jobs and cash flows through their societies, because a busy people do not rebel and a well fed population has time to look at their future. Neither of these things are in abundance in Africa, and it creates powerful forces in society, as they are in constant turmoil looking for solutions. Scarcity is the true enemy of the people.

The American Government and more importantly American Corporations move into theses countries with such power and force that they cannot long be denied. The vast financial difference in scale, not to mention technology, and education. With this potential Americans begin to create opportunities for themselves and others. Most of the time, it is to the benefit of the country and always to benefit the Company itself.

But control and ideology are very important to the company, and that is when they turn to Aid organizations, generally American Christian organizations that go out and report to the Governments how bad off their people are, while creating the sort of cultural conflict between natural Religions and their own. Two tools are readily utilized, Medicine and Television. These twin tools create an effective way for governments to address people in a new way.

Medicine is the most insidious of the two. In Tanzania, they have begun outlawing natural medicines because people die from them on occasion. The Minister of Health would love to approve natural medicines but they say it is uncontrolled and unregulated, with no money to the research to make it worthwhile. Further, with the help of the AMA (American Medical Association), they have begun to enforce western rules of medicine, and even go as far as arresting Natural Practitioners for Medicine without a Licensee. This is against the rules of it's society and attacks the eternally old methods of the Indigenous people. Of course, The various charitable groups claim that they help, but they make the people dependent on very expensive American Medicines, which cannot be supported. Yet, the Governments, receiving a flow of cash in the forms of fees, taxes, and assistance (and yes, even bribes) from the Drug Companies as well as aid groups are willing to do whatever is necessary to maintain the level of economic growth.

Television is the stronger tool. Simply put, Governments receive Television equipment from the US and European Interests, and much of it good used equipment. This becomes part of the social structure as a form of mass communications, and if you watch rebellions or conflicts, the radio and television stations are always early targets. This tool, we in the West take for granted, is a powerful influence everywhere it is established.

Through television, Televangelists are able to use the huge scale of difference, and buy huge blocks of time in a method called Road blocking. In other words, They buy all the time on all the stations at any given point, and run the same program so that if you turn on your television, you will get the 700 Club, or some other major American Evangelical, which promises a better world in exchange for your Salvation. In these reports, they go after the Indigenous People and explain in great pseudo-science and some legitimate on how these religious beliefs are causing disease. They go further by claiming all god and practices not explicitly Christian are part of the devil's work to keep the African down. This creates an environment of hostility towards indigenous people which leads in time to Witch Hunts and out and out illegalizing their faith practices.

Through these twin tools, of Medicine and Television, combined with huge economic differences in scale, Western Christian thought gets promoted with the backing of the Governments, and against the Indigenous people and their beliefs.

Ed Note: Thank you for taking the time to read this report, and please send all your comment to DailyGoddessNews@aol.com, and I hope you will support a Pagan Mission to South Africa.

Blessed Be, Ed

Let me Thank Professor Joseph Graaf for his insights on the Witch Culture of South Africa, Melissa Grant of Earthspirit for her assistance, Carol Nowlan, Mary Enderman, Garth, and the members of the Township who talked with me.