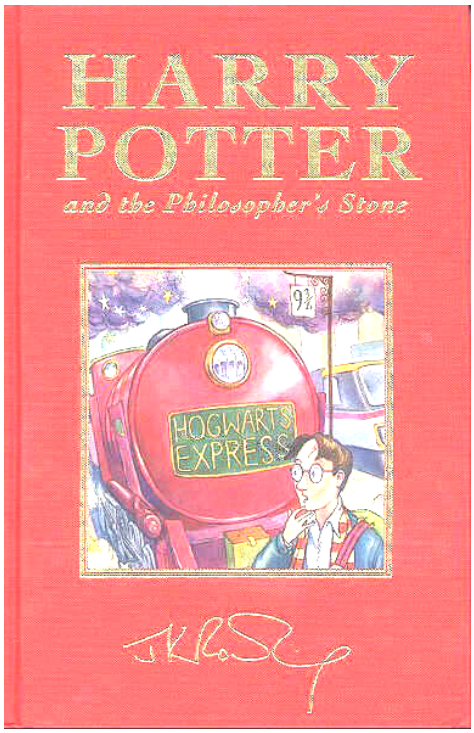
Shelter in the Word

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. ***—Psalm 91:1; 119:114***

Vol. 5, No. 2 Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty **July/Aug 2002**

Harry Potter Stories: Stepping into Satanism

By Norman Edwards



Is this title a bit extreme? Do you say, "He doesn't know what he's talking about. I've read the books, seen the movies and know what they say. They don't teach Satanism." And why is a Christian even reading or talking about Satanism?

And that is the problem. Millions of people know what the Harry Potter Books and movies contain, but they don't know much about Satanism. But the Bible teaches that we should:

> …in order that Satan might not outwit us. For **we are not unaware of his schemes** (2Cor 2:11).
>
> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy **the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour** (1Pet 5:8).

There are three phases of a lion's attack:

1. Getting close without the prey knowing. This can be accomplished by the lion sneaking up on the prey, or by the lion hiding in wait at a place where his prey are likely to go.
2. Roaring and attacking—scaring the prey into inaction or flight via surprise and ferocity.
3. Devouring the prey.

Harry Potter stories are step #1 of Satan's attack on children: Get them used to deciding for themselves what is good and what is evil and to using manipulation and magic to solve their major problems; keep them away from God, the Bible and righteous law. Children tend to have a natural fear of "creepy" or "scary" things. But if they lose their fear of spirits and spells, in times of difficulty they may turn to Harry-Potter-style magic rather than God—just where Satan wants them.

Many Christians know that there are Satanist groups—they may have heard of the Church of Satan (see article on page 13). What they do not know is that Satanists advance their cause in a manner totally different from the way Christian groups do. Christian groups try to reach others through good works, God's promise of eternal life, and bringing others to believe the doctrines they themselves believe. Satanists do **not** proselyte! They do **not** want to make others "think well of them" or to convert the masses to their way of thinking. Christians feel successful

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We Are Not Unaware of Satan's Schemes

Resurrection or Reincarnation?

Please share them if possible.

and reassured when others accept their beliefs, whereas Satanists feel successful when they achieve the power, money or other things that they desire. To them, religion is not about benefit to mankind, but about benefit to themselves. There is no advantage to Satanists that everyone believe the same truth, or even that everyone believe the same set of lies!

Rather, Satanists are happy to see numerous erroneous religions—as long as people are distracted from God and the Scriptures. The only people who can effectively oppose Satanists are ones with a relationship with the true God (2Cor 4:4; 1Jn 4:4). While there are many witches, wizards and spiritualists in Harry Potter stories (and in real life) that claim to do good and fight evil, Satan is more powerful than all of them. He is glad to see millions join the ranks of "white magic" (magic to do "good") and invoke "white spirits" (demons that do some "good"). Satanists believe in "survival of the fittest"; they like the struggle between white and black magic—it destroys the weak from both sides. The "hard-core" Satanists may then recruit the strongest of the survivors of these struggles to join them—if it serves their purpose. The hard core Satanist organizations are usually strict, multi-level hierarchies: everyone has a "boss" and must do what he says—the physical rewards for obedience can be big, but bosses will readily sacrifice their underlings if they are no longer useful to them.

This is why many people do not recognize Harry Potter stories or other occult practices as "Satanist". They do not realize that the kind of Satanism that people first "step into" is so much different than the hard-core, completely-evil Satanism. But when Satanists give a description of their religion to the uninitiated, they will almost always give an "entry level" description—not much different than "Harry Potterism" (see the Army Manual description beginning page 13). One has to dig fairly deep to find actual admissions of the more horrendous evils, such as forced human sacrifices, but they are there (see page 8 and numerous Bible scriptures beginning page 10).

Christian Reviews Miss the Point

Most of "Christian" writings against Harry Potter are about the less-important issues**:** Is it appropriate for children of a certain age to see? If so, what age? Does it contain too much violence? Too much lying? Is its magic significantly worse than traditional fairy tales and Disney fare which also contain magic? Is it too much "fantasy"?

The issue is **not** whether children of a certain age can "handle" the events of these stories; The Bible contains plenty of examples of violence, lying, deception, witchcraft and demons—and children can handle them. The difference between the Bible and Harry Potter books is that the Bible tells the truth about witchcraft and the actions of men, whereas Harry Potter books show "white" witchcraft as the alternative to evil and leaves God out of the picture completely. **The issue should be this: do the children (and the parents) understand that Harry Potter stories are largely an accurate portrayal of the way real people deal with the real spirit world and that it is not "just fantasy"?**

Unfortunately, even Christian parents, do not know enough about witches and wizards to explain to their children that much of Harry Potter, Disney stories and other fairy tales **have a strong basis in real Satanist and occult practices.** People assume them to be "harmless fantasy", not realizing that they continually convey the message that great power is available to individuals—without God! That kind of power, whether to do "good" or "evil" only comes from Satan (Eph 2:2). Most Christians have never had a Bible study on that subject (see page 10).

The danger is compounded because these stories are very well written and excellently produced as

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movies—so well that people "fall in love with them" and want to read or see them over and over. Reading or seeing them one time with a critical eye to understand them poses little danger. But when they are repeated over and over, especially without knowledge of why they are produced and how real they are, these stories become a powerful influence for changing people's worldview—from one of obtaining blessing and protection from God, to one of fighting evil from one's own power and the power of "good" magic. That is exactly what Satan wants: He can win any fight where God is not included—even though the books and movies don't tell you that.

This Articles' Information Sources

While one might typically expect information sources to appear in a box or footnotes, it is quite important that readers understand this writer's background. This writer has not been a member of any Satanist or other spiritist group, nor read all of the books nor seen the second Harry Potter movie. Knowledge for this article came from the following wide variety sources:

1. A viewing of the DVD version of the first movie, *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone,* including the interviews with the producers.
2. Conversations with individuals who have read the first four Harry Potter books.
3. Reading summaries of the books that included direct quotes.
4. A study of the Bible regarding demons and other spiritual phenomena (see page 10).
5. Conversations with about a dozen people who either were part of Satanist groups or children of people who were involved.
6. Direct reading of Satanist literature on the Internet.
7. Reading numerous Christian writings to help deliver people from demon possession and Satanist influence.
8. Personal prayer and meditation seeking God's will on what needs to be written.

Who Is Harry Potter?

In the next few sections, parts of the story of the first Harry Potter movie/book will be expounded from a Christian perspective (not always following the book's order). Afterward, we will cover the author, Joanne Kathleen Rowling, her background, and how her work is providing a great boost to the many forms of Satanism.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (*Philosopher's Stone* in the original England version) begins when Harry was a baby. His parents, both powerful in the magic-world, were killed by the arch-villain, Voldemort (who appears throughout the series). However, for some unknown reason, Harry was not killed, but escaped with only a scar on his forehead. These events made baby Harry an instant celebrity in the magic world. The leaders of Hogwarts (the school for "good" wizards and witches that Harry eventually attends) left baby Harry with his aunt and uncle to raise him. The school leaders planned to retrieve him someday to train him as a wizard, sure he would have great ability. Harry's step parents were disgusting individuals in nearly every way, treating Harry unfairly while spoiling their own son—but they worked hard to keep Harry away from magic. When Harry became angered at his mistreatment, he was sometimes helped by magic that he did not knowingly perform. **Key concepts** thus far:

1. Magic abilities run in families. The Bible uses the term "**famil**iar spirit", and history shows this to be true. (But this rarely stops people with no known "family magic" from trying it just to see if they might be able.)
2. When things go wrong, they resort to magic to defend themselves and do not ask God for His promised deliverance (Ex 22:22-23).
3. Non-magic people seem boring and bad—referred to as "Muggles" in the Potter series. The names are different in real Satanist organizations, but the concept is the same.

The scar on Harry's head is more than just a mark. It hurts when Harry is potentially in danger. In the movie, it is shaped kind of like a "Z", but in the original book cover and other drawings, it is shaped like a lightning bolt or a Satanic "S"—see the picture of Harry, then look at the "pentagram with lightning-bolt" t-shirt for sale on a Satanist web site. While the people at Hogwarts school respect the scar

Made from 100% pre-shrunk cotton emblazoned with high-tech silver metallic Pentagram with a lightning bolt. Known as Mogun Solomon or Shield of Soloman. Used as protection against all harm. The lightning bolt adds power. This symbol was also used by Anton LaVey as his personal power symbol.

(satan2000.com/plaza/clothing.htm)

as a sign that Harry survived Voldemort's attack, one has to wonder if it is not Satan's mark of ownership, planning to someday use Harry for his own purpose.

With J. K. Rowling promising a series of seven books, each covering a year at Hogwarts (and Warner Brothers planning a corresponding series of seven movies), what will be the effect on the young people of the world if Harry Potter turns out to be the "ladies man" of Hogwarts? What if he turns to the "dark side" and embraces evil? Rowling has said that each book "gets darker". She may write whatever she likes—nobody approves or votes on what is almost a religion that she has begun. The first book acknowledges that some who train at the Hogwarts, even teachers, turn to evil. Toward the end of the first volume, Voldemort's claim went verbally unchallenged: "There is no good or evil, there is only power!" This is a fundamental belief of all "hard-core" Satanists. The only reason that people "do good" in the Harry Potter books is because it produces a good feeling, or because of some vague idea that "good triumphs over evil"—nothing about God who defines good or commands us to do good for our own benefit, for the benefit of others and for eternal life.

Harry Potter Goes to School

On his eleventh birthday, Harry Potter was taken from his aunt and uncle's home, against their will, to go to Hogwarts, the boarding school for wizards and witches. Harry wanted to go, understandably, because of his mistreatment. Nevertheless, the obvious theme of one's magic buddies being more important than family seemed to continue throughout the story. Also, birthday celebrations figure prominently throughout the story. Quite accurate, as **one's own birthday** is the most important holiday in entry-level Satanism (see article on page 13).

After Harry boarded the train to Hogwarts (that scene depicted on the first book's cover—see page 1), another important aspect of the world of witches and wizards became immediately apparent: **material goods** are always plentiful. There was no end to the amount of good things to eat, the fanciness of the rooms or the interesting things with which to amuse oneself. Of course, such presentations of opulence with no apparent work involved to produce it are very appealing to children (Gen 3:19; 2Th 3:10). All that Hogwarts students study is magic: casting spells, making potions, broomstick riding, defense against the "black arts", etc. They do not appear to study any writing, math, science or vocational skills.

Shortly after the first-year children arrived at Hogwarts, they went though a ceremony where they were divided into one of four "houses"—fraternities or school teams in which they would remain throughout their stay at Hogwarts. Each "house" had a reputation for certain strengths and weaknesses. How was this most important decision made for these students? Was it done via student history? A personal evaluation? A test? Via the wise insight of the school leader? No, each new student, one at a time, put on a magic hat which talked in a sassy voice and told them which "house" they would join. With all the combined power of the wizardry and witchery in that school, they still relied on **an unknown force** to place their students. Similarly, when Harry went shopping for a magic wand, they said "the wand chooses the wizard, not the other way around". When Harry tried the "wrong" wand, things would just blow up and break when he waved it, but when he finally tried the right wand, it gave him great power. Even the stairs in huge halls of Hogwarts had their "own mind", occasionally changing direction and sending their climbers to places they did not choose—even "forbidden" parts of the building.

The important point is that none of the characters in the story ever questioned **who** was making the decisions behind the "hat ceremony", the wand choosing, the moving stairs, and many other "happenings". And probably most of those who read the books and see the movies do not question them either. They just accept them. Is it possible that Harry Potter stories are setting up a generation of children to follow the direction of "magical things", even though they do not know the source of these directions? Is it possible that Satan himself is the silent master controlling these unknown decision makers?

Again, this is teaching children to unquestioningly accept the decision of their leaders, who serve all at once as legislature, president and judge. There was no mention of any kind of appeal process in the book, whereas most free societies have achieved some degree of "separation of powers" in their government.

While the leaders and teachers at Hogwarts appear strict but kind (a good combination for teaching), they also apparently accept the fierce and often dangerous competition among the students. Every major Hogwarts activity is evaluated by awarding (or subtracting) "points". There are awards at the end of the year for the "house" with the most points. If there are established rules by which points could be earned or lost the movie did not cover them well. The major use of them were times when large numbers of points were added or subtracted based upon a quick, self-made decision of one leader. During their game of "Quidditch", students were frequently knocked un-

conscious, often by "illegal" moves. The administration saw it but did little about it. Sometimes students are cursed by other students, and the administrators neither deliver a message on the "misuse" of magic nor free the afflicted individual. The students occasionally lie and break rules for various reasons; they are sometimes punished for it, but other times rewarded, especially if they achieve good results.

Bad Ideas Made to Appear Normal

There are a great many ideas and concepts that are found in modern occult and Satanist practices that are simply accepted as "normal" by everyone in the Harry Potter tales. These include such things as people communicating with animals, people transfiguring to animals and back again, pictures that look at people and talk to them, mirrors that show people their inner thoughts, semi-see-through ghosts that fly around and inhabit certain places. These are things that occult literature claim to be possible and a few ex-occult members will attest to having seen.

Even the "hard-core" Satanist concept of the blood of pure individuals being used to sustain evil beings was broached in Harry Potter. Here, it was the blood of unicorn, a "pure animal" that was used by the evil Voldemort, but this is the first step to human and child sacrifice as practiced by Satanists today.

The holidays of Halloween and Christmas were prominently displayed in the show. Halloween is obviously fitting for kids who really are training to be wizards and witches. The issue here is why do so many people who claim to be good Christians actually celebrate a day dedicated to such demonism. Because they celebrated Christmas, some might say, "at least they believe in God and Jesus". But if we take a careful look, we fill find the trees, the lights and other "Christmas customs" in the story, but nothing about Jesus or his teaching. In reality, the lights, trees and other practices have long been associated with Saturnalia and other pagan festivals carried out during the winter. Again, these make lots of sense for Hogwarts, but Christians might ask themselves why they observe them. (For more information, please write for our article, *The Reason for the Season.*)

Another dangerous concept is the method whereby Harry is saved when his "enemy", Voldemort, is about to overcome him. Harry does appear courageous in his willingness to venture forth after him, but he usually has no real plan of how to defeat him, and is saved at the last minute by some totally unknown thing. Once he was saved by a Satyr (half man half animal—which he accepted as perfectly normal) and another time he was saved by a power that he didn't know he had. Harry is a likeable individual that does not seem mean, nor does he seem excessively capable. His overall approach seems to be that if the "magic is with you", there is no need to either pray or prepare before fighting evil. But who controls the magic?

Some of the instruction on casting spells in the movie version is very similar to what real witchcraft books would teach. There is a great emphasis on pronouncing the words exactly correct—down to subtle distinctions in vowels that are difficult to write. The right spell for the right job is also emphasized, along with "counter spells" and the need to believe that the spell actually works. This writer has met some and

"Spells" are silly. I've seen people try them and nothing happens.

You have probably heard a statement like the above. Many people believe that magic and witchcraft are just clever hoaxes to fool people or to make money. Indeed, a lot "witchcraft" and magic are simply illusions designed to make money. Others "dabble", saying the words of a spell, without completely believing them, and rarely ever receive any supernatural result. But if one talks to people who have witnessed real witchcraft, whether white or black magic, stories of fearful power that is difficult to escape are quite common. See the article on page 10 for Bible verses about witchcraft's power.

Satan wants people who are wholly devoted to witchcraft. He is not the least bit interested in helping people try and compare his way with God's way. Satan is happy that most people do not believe in him or in magic. Those who do not believe will not fight him or warn others about him—but Satan can still influence and fight them. The quote below came from a web site containing many Satanist spells. It concludes by saying "things are not granted to those who Dabble". We might ask, granted by whom? The answer is certainly higher level demons, or Satan himself.

> Spells, white magic, ceremonial magic, incantations, candle magic, black magic, conjuration's and invocations. It's all here to help you through life. If you believe in the power of Magic your dreams can come true. So be it! We all have needs in life and Magic can help fulfill those needs. Whether it be power, money, fame, revenge, love or hate... the universe can be bent to our will and it can all be achieved with spells and magic. Remember these things are not granted to those who Dabble and pretend to be that which they are not. Those of you whom "Dabble" will pay the Piper.

read about many other children who have memorized all of the spells. Could any of them actually work?

Where Do J.K. Rowling's Ideas Come From?

To answer the previous question, we need to know a little more about Joanne Kathleen Rowling. Is she just a woman with an incredible imagination, or is she someone with a lot of real knowledge of witchcraft? In an interview on the Diane Rehm Show (WAMU, National Public Radio, October 20, 1999), Rowling admitted that she studied witchcraft and mythology in order to write her books more accurately. She said, "I do a certain amount of research…so when I'm mentioning a creature, or a spell…I will find out exactly what the words were, and find out exactly what the characteristics of that creature or ghost were supposed to be." She went on to say that about one-third of the spells she wrote were actual spells used by various occult groups. Her picture, above, was taken in a black ritual witchcraft robe and published in *Time Magazine*; December 25, 2000/January 1, 2001; p.117.

An interview with Chris Columbus, the producer, is included with the DVD version of the first movie. He explained how Rowling spent a lot of time on location and was a great asset to making the film.

Books often contain some description of buildings, furniture and costumes, but a lot is left to the readers imagination. When moviemakers go to work, they must make decisions as to every item that will be on a set and every piece of costume. At one point, director Columbus explained how Rowling really knew a lot about how things should be—even a lot more than is in her books. **If the books are just fantasy, what "more" is there to know?** How would any one person's opinion of how things "should be" be any better than any other's opinion? But if the Potter tales are based on real witchery, then there is indeed a lot to know. Another interesting point made by Columbus is that numerous children who had read the books told him that his movie sets looked just like what they had imagined when they were reading the books. Where did these "visions" come from?

J.K. Rowling has made it clear that she hoped to create an environment where children could imagine, "what if it was real?" The Harry Potter website treats the stories as if they were real, letting children "enroll in Hogwarts" and receive lessons via e-mail. Indeed, the numerous times that children are reading Rowling's books has been credited with a minor increase in children's literacy. It has been heralded by many as the best children's literature since C.S. Lewis and J. R. Tolken. Those author's works seem like stepping stones to Rowling's writing. They all contain battles between "good" and "evil", but God and His Word are not in the picture. The main difference is that the former works took place in "other worlds", whereas Harry Potter takes place in our age with children much like real children today.

Whether or not J. K. Rowling is a practicing witch is a subject of debate. Some Wicca groups say she is one of them, others say she is not. As stated at the beginning of the article, Satanism and related occult religions are split into many groups with different beliefs. Whether or not we can determine if Rowling is a witch and from which group, it is important to realize that she is writing about practices common to variety of Satan-related groups, and that people who join such groups frequently migrate from one "level" to another within a group, and then migrate to other, more heavily involved groups.

Again, this article is not saying that everyone who takes in a Harry Potter book or movie will eventually become a Satanist, but it is saying that the Harry Potter books are a definite step in that direction. People need to understand what they are learning and how close it is to "entry level" Satanism.

Potterism and Satanism Compared

The following compares the *Nine Satanic Statements* with the approach in Harry Potter works. These statements are found in Anton LaVey's writings (former head of the Church of Satan) and used by other organizations as well (see excerpt from Army manual on page 13). These statements are largely written in opposition to traditional Christianity, which, unfortunately does not always reflect the teaching of the Bible.

(1) "Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence!"

The Hogwarts crowd certainly seemed to indulge in many things, and abstain very little. The Bible teaches use of things in moderation, but also shows there are times to abstain from good things in order to benefit others.

(2) "Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams!"

Harry and his friends were certainly action oriented—they were doing their magic and fighting their enemies rather than sitting and thinking about what was good or evil. Unfortunately, many Christian churches are in "spiritual pipe dreams", teaching that

they "have Jesus" or "have the truth" when they should be following the action orientation of Jesus and His apostles.

(3) "Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit!"

When the Satanists say "self-deceit", they are referring to an individuals "belief in God". At the "entry level", Satanists deny the power of God—and many do not believe in a literal Satan either. (The hard-core Satanists know better, they obey Satan and try to avoid doing anything where God would stop them.) The Potter stories certainly exalt wisdom over any belief in God.

(4) "Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates!"

This is the standard "wisdom" of the non-Christian world: do good to those who are important to you (Matt 5:46). Whereas Christ taught his followers to do good to their enemies (Matt 5:44-45), they are all important to Him. Rowling's works generally use this Satanist approach of doing good only to those who "deserve it"—there is little Christian teaching of helping people even when they don't know they need help.

(5) "Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek!"

Harry Potter does not appear to accept the Bible teaching that his slain parents will be physically raised from the dead where he will be with them (Rev 20:11-13), but is seeking revenge against Voldemort for killing them. Harry Potter, as well as most other occult works contain numerous instances where "good" wizards and witches turn "bad", but almost none where "bad" ones turn "good" (which is exactly how Satan has planned it). There is no reason to "turn the other cheek" to an enemy unless you hope that he will see the concern and repent.

(6) "Satan represents responsibility for the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires!"

Satanists see no need to help the weak, whereas the Bible teaches "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak" (Rom 15:1). The Hogwarts students typically made fun of those who were odd or having trouble.

(7) "Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better more often worse than those that walk on all fours, who, because of his "divine and intellectual development" has become the most vicious animal of them all!"

The Harry Potter stories seem to integrate animals into their way of life almost as if they were human. Owls carry the mail, Harry communicates with a snake that thinks, people transform into animals, and there are some combination animal/humans.

(8) "Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification!"

The bottom line of Satanic decision making is, "What does it do for me?" Harry and his friends do not mention any particular code that guides them, but essentially do what seems right at the time.

(9) "Satan has been the best friend that the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all of these years!"

This does not relate to the first movie as it does not mention Satan or the church. Unfortunately this statement is too often true: Churches have not been full of people who have full of the Holy Spirit and seeking to do the will of God. Rather, they have been full of people scared of Satan or the false doctrine of an "ever-burning hell", and have come to a church, even though it was a bad example.

LaVey's additional statement from the Army Religion Pamphlet: "Beyond the above principles, Satanists generally oppose the use of narcotics which dull the senses, and suicide, which cuts off life (the great indulgence), and stand firmly for law and order. The Church of Satan is not to be confused with "Satanist" groups which have been found to engage in illegal acts."

The above statement is a classic example of Satanist double-talk—it is much easier to defend the truth than a lie, so Satanists will almost always tell the truth when it will work for them. They will shade it as necessary, and even out-right lie if absolutely necessary. This statement contains many things that Satanists are accused of, so it was in their interest to put off any fears that the Army might have. This writer's understanding of the above statement is as follows: Satanists are generally opposed to the "narcotics which dull the senses"—but they might use some that give them a sensation they like. They are opposed to suicide which cuts off their own "life (the great indulgence)", but they are not opposed to other "suckers" committing suicide—this writer found a Satanist web site that advertised and carefully documented an easy painless way to kill oneself—hoping they will help get rid of some psychic vampires (downtrodden people) as mentioned in point 6. Satanists stand firmly for law and order, because they are experts in understanding laws and prosecution systems and manipulating both to their own advantage. Finally, and very truthfully, they do **not** want to be

confused with "groups which have been **found** to engage in illegal acts", not because they are against illegal acts, but because a good Satanist will not "be found" doing them. They are glad that less-skilled lawbreakers are punished. The Harry Potter stories seemed to carry this line: it is not right or wrong that matters, but whether or not one gets caught.

It Really Does Get a Lot Worse

After reading the above statements about Satanism, one may think, "It isn't all that bad—it is just each person using their mind to do the best they can. They really don't do anything weird. But the Satanism described above is just the nice-looking paint job and a statue of evil. How does one obtain one's desires and defeat one's enemies without the blessing or help of God? Well, one begins to use symbols, spells and other magic for protection. But then a Satanist may run into more powerful enemies, or simply desire more power for himself, so more powerful spells must be used, more powerful demons must be summoned. Two of the ways that Satanists believe they can grow in power is by dominating others through forced adultery and human sacrifice. Does that sound unbelievable? Then please notice this interview that was taken from a popular Satanist web site. It was done by a pro-Satanist writer, and intended primarily for other hard-core Satanists, not for common consumption.

Let me also note that I noted two different Satanist websites as being the most sophisticated that I have visited. When I tried to electronically copy the following section from my computer screen, in the same manner that I have copied from many other web sites, I was prevented and a little window popped up saying something like: "Are you trying to steal my work?" I have never seen any other web site do this, even though I know that some would like such protection. But I realized that it was not "demons haunting my computer", but a cleaver Java-computer-language program that monitored the movements of my mouse and keyboard. So I temporarily turned off the Javascript language in my "web browser" and was able to copy this writing. Beside their appeal to demonic powers, Satanists tend to be a clever bunch of people and should not be taken lightly. Ask for God's protection whenever dealing with them.

Here is the interview excerpt of Anton LaVey, former head of the Church of Satan, from:

satan2000.com/interview/laveyinterviewanswerme.htm

Oh, about sacrifice and that sort of thing? Well, I believe in sacrifice, **but not <u>necessarily</u> on an unlawful basis, or one by which you would be apprehended, convicted, tried, and prosecuted or executed. This isn't to say that I'm against human sacrifice, it's just simply that I'm against the entanglements or the punishments or the social inconveniences that** [laughs] **performing human sacrifices might entail.** So, when I talk about symbolic human sacrifices, I say it with the awareness that we are living in a world that frowns upon a Darwinian sort of thinning out of the species, so there are ways of sacrificing, performing human sacrifices without necessarily going out with a butcher knife and killing people.

One of these would be to demoralize or to, in some way, fragment the potential victim or victims into feeling their worthlessness or becoming aware of their own uselessness. And by demoralization and the ensuring, I guess you could call it, breakdown of these kinds of people, then you are in fact performing some sort of human sacrifice. But not **cutting the hearts out of people, and if there's any of that sort of thing to be done, it would be certainly ill-advised to boast of it or to speak of it.**

I would say that every society has its anger and hatreds, boiling rages, either individually or collectively. War is a perfect example of that, and that's an area that intrigues me and perhaps titillates me, even, because **it gives entire countries a chance to advocate, if not cutting the hearts out of human victims,** certainly shooting them down in wholesale lots or blowing them up. And yet, one need not feel any pangs of conscience when there's a convenient enemy during times of war by doing this sort of thing. So, when we are drawing comparisons about human sacrifices on a personal scale and on a mass scale, we certainly realize, or must realize that if these sort of things are done on a grand enough scale, such as war, they're perfectly acceptable. **So it's, as I assume you mean, on a personal level that we're treading on a little more, uh, controversial ground [laughs].**

The **bold** and <u>underscoring</u>, above were this writer's emphasis. Hopefully, these parts will convince the skeptic that Satanists actually enjoy the idea of human sacrifice, and are only opposed to the idea of being caught for doing it. Most of them make a great study of how to avoid being caught and are successful. If one is caught and convicted, the others will invariably disown him or her. Yes, now and then they are careless and do get caught, or sometimes God

may simply ensure that they get caught. Over 60 stories of abuse, murder, rape and cannibalism as a part of Satanic rituals can be found at this web site:

www.newsmakingnews.com/karencuriojonesarchive.htm

Is a "Little Bit" of Satanism Safe?

While this writer would hope that every Christian would want to be as close to God and as far from Satan as possible, it does not always work that way. Church groups are often spiritually dead, and people easily get out of the habit of seeking God on a regular basis. The Christian life can quickly become humdrum and meaningless. The positive, "you are the most important person in your life" message of Satanism can be wonderfully uplifting. Its practical, "here is how you get what you want" advice often works. People feel happy, liberated, excited. They are sometimes able to accomplish things—even overcome problems—with which they had previously struggled. But all this comes at a price: Satan usually takes more than he gives—sometimes a whole lot more.

It is not possible to describe every disaster that could fall upon a person who is just stepping into Satanism. Satan himself may be plotting new things as you read. Remember that hard-core Satanists do not promote "entry-level" Satanism so lots of people can feel "happy, liberated and excited"; they do it to benefit themselves.

But as a simple example, let us consider Anton LaVey's book *The Satanic Witch* (available from most book-stores). This book is actually disappointing to some because it does not contain lots of spells and potions and rituals. It is primarily directed at young women and teaches them how to get what they want by manipulating men through playing dumb, sexual innuendo, and things of that nature. It teaches them how to avoid questions they don't want and how to lie when necessary. It teaches them that they are their own master, the most important person in the world, and that they can do what seems good to them. Getting what they want includes money, things, power, attention, and if they want it, sex.

Many women have read the book, liked it, and found that it worked—for them. Indeed, there probably are many simple men in the world who can be easily manipulated by women with this knowledge.

So what is wrong with reading and using the ideas of the book? Let us also ask, did Anton LaVey write this book to really help women or so more men could be manipulated by "wiser women"? No.

The book does not cover anything about martial arts or self-protection. It does not say much about how to recognize a man who knows how to play along with *The Satanic Witch* manipulation routines until he can get what he wants from the woman. Now we can see LaVey's real purpose in writing the book. He and the hard-core Satanists that worked with him **want young women around them to feel confident, and to try to get what they want via sex appeal.** The hard-core Satanists have all read the book and know how to recognize a woman who is following it. If a woman is of no interest to them, they can tell her to get lost. If they want something from her, all they need to do is play along until an opportunity arises for them.

The Satanist might want something simple from the woman, but he might want her body or her life. Young women, "empowered" by LaVey's writing are often not fearful to travel, even alone, and meet spiritist people of all types. But they are no match for the hardcore Satanist who may be very good at discretely finding out if a woman has any relatives or friends that know where she is. LaVey's book did not tell a woman how to manipulate a man who suddenly gags a woman or puts a knife to her throat. If the woman has unwittingly revealed that she is out on her own and nobody knows where she is, she will be a likely candidate for a rape and/or a human sacrifice—but she will probably not figure that out until it is too late. Hard-core Satanists are quite adept at cleaning up the mess, disposing of the body, and other such details of murder. With no evidence and nobody who knows where to look, the women will simply disappear as a "missing person".

Conclusion

Christians should not be fearful of Harry Potter stories, Satanism or even Satan himself, but nor should we be seeking these things or consuming our time with them. Excessive exposure to any environment without God tends to make one think of a world without God. We must not be fooled into thinking that Harry Potter books are fantasy, but help all to realize that they are indeed stepping into Satanism.

> Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 🕮

Please see the next article for Scriptures on this subject.

What Does the Bible Say About Demons, Magic, Sorcery, etc.?

The Bible frequently mentions Satan or "the Devil". Most Christians realize that, so we have not included most of those scripture references here. However, the numerous scriptures against witchcraft, sorcery and demons are not as well known, so this author has included as many as possible, along with a brief study. We encourage you to read all these scriptures to study this subject. — NSE

Gen 41:8-40 Pharaoh's magicians could not interpret his dream, but Joseph, through the spirit of God, could.

Ex 7:11,22; 8:7,18,19; 9:11 The Pharaoh of Egypt had wise men and sorcerers that practiced "secret arts". They could also bring about some of the plagues that God performed through Moses, but they were not able to stop the plagues, and were eventually completely disabled by them.

Ex 22:18 "Do not allow a sorceress to live."

Lev 17:7; 2Chr 11:15 Israelites are to stop offering sacrifices to "goat-demons" (NRSV). (The goat is used as a Satanist symbol today.)

Lev 19:26 "Do not practice divination or sorcery."

Lev 19:31 Mediums and spiritists defile people.

Lev 20:5-6 If people worship false gods or go to mediums and spiritists, God will "cut them off from their people".

Lev 20:26-27 Death penalty for mediums and spiritists.

Num 22-24 Story of Balaam who worked both as a spiritual diviner, but knew that he could not speak contrary to God, and even spoke for God at times.

Deut 13 If a "false prophet or dreamer of dreams" gives a sign or wonder that comes to pass, but says to follow other gods, each Israelite was responsible to put that prophet to death, even if it was their own close relative.

Deut 18:10-14 God's people should not accept anyone who practices child sacrifice or "**who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead**", even though the nations around them do it.

Books Can Help...

If you think that white and black magic have no substance or power, these books will probably convince you that many people have experienced otherwise. If you have trouble escaping demonic influence or have had mental disorders, these books can help you find a solution. This list was compiled by Harold Weaver (hal_jr3@hotmail.com), whose parents both had occult powers when he was young and who spent many years getting free from their effects .

Harold has read these books and I have read the first one. We do not agree with everything in them, but then, most of the writers specifically say that they do not claim to know everything. Nevertheless, they provide a lot of help which you can combine with your own Bible study and prayer. — NSE

Defeating Dark Angels by Charles Kraft

Deep Wounds, Deep Healings by Charles Kraft

The Psycho Heresy: The Psychological Seduction of Christianity by Martin and Deidre Bogan; A lot of Christian psychologists are going to the world rather than scriptures—and not being effective.

Theophostic [light of God] *Counseling* by Martin and Deidre Bogan sequel to the previous book—separating divine revelation from psychology.

The Myth of Neurosis by Garth Wood. Explains that psychotherapy does not work and is not of God.

The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare by Dr. Ed Murphy. Deliverance ministry—lots of case histories—deliverance frequently does take time.

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by David Breese. Good general book about Satan's tactics and how to resist them.

Masonic and Occult Symbols Illustrated. by Dr. Cathy Burns (doctor of Biblical philosophy). Includes 728 illustrations. Helpful in understanding the New Age movement and removing objects to which demons tend to be attracted.

Deut 32:15-17 God's people abandoned Him, worshipped idols and sacrificed to demons.

1Sam 16:14-23 When the holy spirit left Saul, an evil spirit replaced it—it was obvious to Saul's attendants. David's beautiful music drove away the evil spirit.

1Sam 19:9-10 An evil spirit tempted Saul to try to kill David.

1Sam 28 The "medium" at Endor convinced Saul

that she had brought Samuel back from the dead—this "Samuel" gave a true prophecy to Saul.

1Kngs 22:20-22; 2Chr 18:19-21 A lying spirit deceived Ahab through his false prophets.

2Kings 9:22 The evil queen Jezebel practiced idolatry and witchcraft.

2Kings 17:15-18 Israel sent into captivity for worshipping idols and stars, human sacrifice and for "divination and sorcery".

2Kngs 21:1-15; 2Chr 33:1-11 Because king Manasseh worshipped false Gods and "practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists", and because the people followed him, they were sent into captivity.

2Kngs 23:24 King Josiah "got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols."

1Chr 10:13-14 Saul died because he consulted a medium rather than God.

Job 1:6-2:7 Satan appeared before God's throne along with other spirit beings, and when God removed his protection from job, Satan destroyed everything that he had and made him very sick.

Pslm 106:36-38 Ancient Israel worshiped idols, sacrificed humans to demons.

Isa 2:6 God's people are "full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines and clasp hands with pagans".

Isa 8:19-20 Invaluable info on spiritists: "When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn".

Isa 19:1-4 When God decided to destroy Egypt for their idol worship, he destroyed their human counsel and left them to "consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists".

Isa 29:4 People with "familiar spirit" (KJV) sound like people in distress.

Isa 57:3-6 God's people have the sins of idolatry, adultery, sorcery and child sacrifice.

Jer 14:14 False prophets use divination.

Ezk 12:24 God will eventually put an end to "false visions or flattering divinations".

Ezk 13:6 False visions and divinations are often "in the name of God, but are lies.

Ezk 13:17:23 Righteous people are deceived by magic and divination, but God will eventually stop this evil and deliver his people.

Ezk 21:21-24 The King of Babylon decides to "to use divination: he shakes the arrows, he consults the images, he looks at the liver" (NKJV). Nevertheless, God influences the outcome so that he attacks Jerusalem as God wanted.

Dan 1:19-20 "In every matter of wisdom and understanding" Daniel and his three friends were "ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom".

Dan 2 King Nebuchadnezzar asked "the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers" to tell him both his dream and interpretation. They could not, but Daniel, through the power of God, could. (Demons cannot read minds, but God can.)

Dan 4:7-9 "The magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners" could not interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, but Daniel, with the spirit of God, could. So Nebuchadnezzar appointed him "chief of the magicians". (As it still happens today, people who have access to God's word still want to keep their magicians.)

Dan 5:11 Daniel recognized as having the "spirit of the holy gods", but still appointed "chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners." (See Dan 4:7-9 comment.)

Dan 10 The "prince of the kingdom of Persia" (a powerful demon) was able to resist and delay an angel sent by God for 21 days until, Michael (the archangel—Jude 1:9) helped.

Micah 5:12 God "will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells".

Nah 3:4 Witchcraft listed as one of the reasons Nineveh will be destroyed.

Mal 3:5 God will testify against sorcerers and other sinners.

Matt 4:24; 8:16; Mark 1:32-34, 39; Luke 7:21; 13:32 Christ cures demon possession among many other problems.

Matt 7:21-23 Some people will claim to cast out demons in Christ's name but not really know Him.

Matt 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-19; Luke 8:26-39 Demons give men super-human strength, but Jesus casts them into a herd of swine.

Matt 9:32-34 Jesus casts demon from mute/deaf man, Pharisees claim it is by the ruler of demons.

Matt 10:1,8; Mark 6:7,13; 13:14-15; Luke 9:1 Christ sends apostles out, gives them au-

thority to cast out demons.

Matt 11:18; Luke 7:33 John the Baptist accused of having a demon.

Matt 12:22-32; Mark 3:22-30; Luke 11:14-23 Christ cast a demon out of a blind-mute man; Pharisees accuse Him of doing it by Beelzebub, prince of demons, and Christ explains that attributing miracles by the Holy Spirit to Satan will not be forgiven in the world to come.

Matt 13:6 Christians should pray for deliverance from "the evil one".

Matt 15:22-28; Mark 7:25-30 Christ casts a demon out of Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter.

Matt 17:14-21; Luke 9:38-43 Disciples could not cast out a demon causing much harm to the child he possessed, Christ said this kind of demon required prayer and fasting to come out.

Matt 25:41 Demons referred to as the "devil's angels" (the Greek literally means "devil's messengers").

Mark 9:9:38-42; Luke 9:49-50 Christ tells disciples not to stop others from casting out demons in His name, even though they do not follow him.

Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2 Magdalene served Christ, yet she once had seven demons.

Mark 16:17 Casting out demons is first in the list of signs of believers.

Luke 4:33-37 Christ casts out a demon in synagogue who tried to reveal His mission.

Luke 4:41 Many demons were cast out while trying to reveal Christ's mission.

Luke 10:17-20 Seventy disciples who were sent out rejoice that demons were subject to them.

Luke 11:24-26 Christ explains that when a demon is cast out, it attempts to reenter the same person with even more demons.

Luke 13:11-13 Jesus healed a woman with a "spirit of infirmity" that caused her to be "bent over" for 18 years.

Luke 22:3, John 13:27 Satan "entered into" Judas Iscariot.

John 7:20; 8:48-49,52; 10:20-21 Christ is accused of "having a demon".

John 8:44 Satan is the father of lies.

Acts 8:9-22 Many people thought Simon the sorcerers demonic power was of God. He had a Christian baptism, but was rejected by the Apostles when he offered them money for the ability to impart the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:6-11 A false prophet and sorcerer opposed Paul. Paul stuck Elymas with blindness.

Acts 16:16-18 A slave girl had a spirit that allowed her to tell the future. But when she harassed Paul, he cast it out of her.

Acts 19:12-17 Men who did not follow Jesus ("white" wizards or exorcists) cast demons out in his name anyway. One was too powerful, and the man he possessed beat up seven of these "exorcists".

1Cor 2:11 "In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes"

1Cor 10:19-21; Rev 9:20 People who worship idols are worshipping demons.

1Cor 12:10 "Discernment of spirits" is listed as a God-given spiritual gift—in contrast to numerous "spiritists" who do not seek God.

2Cor 11:13-15 Satan and his servants sometimes pretend to be righteous.

Gal 5:20 Idolatry and witchcraft listed among the "works of the flesh".

Eph 6:11-12 The Christians need to put on the "armor of God" for their battle is "against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

2Thes 2:9-10 The work of Satan displays **all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders as well as great evil.**

1Tim 4:1-3 Some false doctrines are "doctrines of demons".

Jms 2:19 Demons believe there is one God.

Jms 3:13-16 Evil, earthly wisdom comes from demons.

Jms 4:6-8 Believers can drive away Satan by resisting him and humbly drawing close to God. (The same thing works on his demons, which are less powerful.)

1Pet 5:8-9 Satan is pictured as a roaring, devouring lion, but we can successfully resist him.

1Jn 5:18-19 God can keep believers safe from "the evil one", even though he controls the world.

Rev 9:20-21 People punished because they would not repent of idolatry, demon-worship and magic.

Rev 12:9-11 Satan and his demons fought a war in heaven, but were sent back to the earth where they have deceived the whole world.

Rev 16:13-14 Demons can perform false miracles.

Rev 18:2 Demons sometimes dwell in demolished cities. 🕮

The Church of Satan, as Understood by the U.S. Army

This is the relevant section from the Army Handbook for Chaplains

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PAMPHLET NO. 165-13

RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES OF CERTAIN SELECTED GROUPS
A HANDBOOK FOR CHAPLAINS
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY APRIL 1978

Church of Satan **Anton S. LaVey**
Post Office Box 7633 **High Priest**
San Francisco, California 94120
AKA: Satanists

HISTORICAL ROOTS: The Church of Satan is an eclectic body that traces its origin to many sources—classical voodoo, the Hell-Fire Club of eighteenth century England, the ritual magic of Aleister Crowley, and the Black Order of Germany in the 1920s and 1930s. It departs from its predecessors by (1) its organization into a church, and (2) the openness of its magical endeavors.

CURRENT WORLD LEADER: Anton Szandor LaVey, High Priest.

ORIGINS IN THE U.S.: The Church of Satan was formed on Walpurgisnacht, April 30, 1966, in San Francisco California, when Anton LaVey proclaimed the beginning of the Satanic Era. Initial growth came from coverage in the mass media. Articles included coverage of LaVey holding a funeral for a member of the U.S. Navy killed in San Francisco.

NUMBER OF ADHERENTS IN THE U.S.: Between 10,000 and 20,000.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Church of Satan is focused in the Central Grotto in San Francisco. It accepts or rejects all potential members and charters other grottos (congregations) around the country. Isolated individuals relate directly to eh Central Grotto. Power to regulate members is in the hands of the Head of the Church.

LEADERSHIP AND ROLE OF PRIESTS: The Priesthood of the Church of Satan is not comprised of individuals who necessarily adept in the performance of rituals, though pastoral and organizational abilities are not minimized. The rank of Priest is conferred on those who have achieved a measurable degree of esteem or proficiency and/or success; one's level of membership within the Church is commensurate with his/her position outside the Church. Hence a respected career soldier or Commissioned Officer in the Army might qualify, though be totally uninvolved with group activity. This form of stratification determined the leadership and selects the governing body of the Church. Rituals are conducted by a de facto priest i.e., a celebrant member who has evidenced a working knowledge of and ability to conduct services and is authorized by the Central Grotto.

WHO MAY CONDUCT A RITUAL? Anyone, but a priest is required for group worship.

IS GROUP WORSHIP REQUIRED? No, but it is strongly encouraged, because it is a strong reinforcement of the faith and instillation of power.

WORSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Worship in the Church of Satan is based upon the belief that man needs ritual, dogma, fantasy, and enchantment. Worship consists of magical rituals and there are three basic kinds: sexual rituals, to fulfill a desire; compassionate rituals, to help another; and destructive rituals, used for anger, annoyance or hate. Grottos often gather on Friday evenings for group rituals.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT FOR WORSHIP: Varies with the type of ritual performed but is likely to include a black robe, an altar, the symbol of the Baphomet (Satan), candles, a bell, a chalice, elixir (wine or some

other drink most pleasing to the palate), a sword, a model phallus, a gong, and parchment.

FACILITIES FOR WORSHIP: A private place where an altar can be erected and rituals performed.

OTHER SPECIFIC RELIGIOUS RESTRICTIONS: None.

DIETARY LAWS OR RESTRICTIONS: None.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: The highest holiday in the Satanic Religion is one's own birthday. Every man is a God as he chooses to recognize that fact. After one's birthday, Walpurginsnacht (April 30) and Halloween are the most important. April 30 is the grand climax of the spring equinox and Halloween was one of the times of the great fire festivals among the ancient Druids. The solstices and equinoxes—which fall in March, June, September, and December and mark the first day of the new seasons—are also celebrated.

FUNERAL AND BURIAL REQUIREMENTS: The priests of the Church of Satan perform funerals, and the Central Grotto should be contacted in case of death.

AUTOPSY: No restrictions. **CREMATIONS:** Only permitted in extreme circumstances, such as an expedient measure where it is necessary to safeguard the health of others.

MEDICAL TREATMENT: No restrictions.

UNIFORM APPEARANCE REQUIREMENTS: No restrictions.

POSITION ON SERVICE IN THE ARMED SERVICES: None.

IS A PRIEST REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF DEATH? No.

ANY OTHER PRACTICES OR TEACHINGS WHICH MAY CAUSE CONFLICT WITH MILITARY DIRECTIVES OR PRACTICES: None.

BASIC TEACHINGS OR BELIEFS: The Church of Satan worships Satan, most clearly symbolized in the Roman God Lucifer, the bearer of light, the spirit of the air, and the personification of enlightenment. Satan is not a visualized as an anthropomorphic being, rather he represents the forces of nature. To the Satanist, the self is the highest embodiment of human life and is sacred. The Church of Satan is essentially a human potential movement, and its members are encouraged to develop whatever capabilities they can by which they might excel. They are, however, cautioned to recognize their limitations—an important factor in this philosophy of rational self-interest. Satanists practice magick, the art of changing situations or events in accordance with one's will, which would, using normally accepted methods, be impossible.

CREEDAL STATEMENTS AND/OR AUTHORITATIVE LITERATURE: The writings of Anton S. LaVey provide the direction for the Satanists—"The Satanic Bible", "The Complete Witch", and "The Satanic Rituals". (See also "Ethical Practices.") Members are also encouraged to study pertinent writings which serve as guidelines for Satanic thought, such as Mark Twain, Niccolo Machiavelli, G.S. Shaw, Ayn Rand, Friedrich Nietzsche, etc.

ETHICAL PRACTICES: The ethical stance of the Church of Satan is summarized in the "Nine Satanic Statements": (1) Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence!; (2) Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams!; (3) Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit!; (4) Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates!; (5) Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek!; (6) Satan represents responsibility for the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires!; (7) Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better more often worse than those that walk on all fours, who, because of his "divine and intellectual development" has become the most vicious animal of them all!; (8) Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification!; (9) Satan has been the best friend that the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all of these years!

Beyond the above principles, Satanists generally oppose the use of narcotics which dull the senses, and suicide, which cuts off life (the great indulgence), and stand firmly for law and order. The Church of Satan is not to be confused with "Satanist" groups which have been found to engage in illegal acts.

HOW DOES THE CHURCH OF SATAN RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS? The church does not proselytize but it welcomes inquiries from honest potential Satanists who hear about the Church from the various books about it, the mass media or word of mouth. New members must go though a screening process before they are accepted.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER RELIGIONS: The Church of Satan stands as gathering point for all those who believe in what the Christian Church opposes and members are generally hostile to its teachings and resultant behavior patterns. To a lesser extent, the same position for Eastern religions. 🕮

Does God Speak Today?

by Tommy Willis

Does God speak today? Yes; and one of the ways that He does is by putting thoughts in our mind. God promises to lead and guide us in our prayers.

Think about how God guides and leads us with His Spirit. His promise is to direct us as needed, and He will show us by working with our minds. It's not like we hear a voice as when we speak with one another. But the same thing will be accomplished as if you heard a voice of someone speaking to you, because we will be led exactly in the direction God wants us to go, as we learn to seek Him diligently. So God does speak today.

There's no way that we can walk with God without a sufficient prayer life. For God's Spirit to guide us as necessary, we need to be staying in enough contact with Him. And with that contact God will give us thoughts to work with in the decisions we need to make. He won't force us to follow Him, but He leads our minds in the direction He wants us to go.

We need to learn to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us: " But the anointing which you have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in him." (1Jn 2:27). As we learn to follow the lead of God's Spirit we will be directed into what we need to see.

> John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

God left us the Bible as His written revelation to man. But we need current revelation for God to illuminate the Written Word; otherwise all we have is the letter of the Bible. And we will never get to know God with just the letter of the Bible. God intended that the Written Word would lead us to build up our personal relationship with the Living Word so that we would get to know Him. Just knowing doctrine is not sufficient.

Many think that doctrine is all they need. But we may know all the doctrines of the Bible and be able to quote it with amazing brilliancy—but still not get to know Jesus Christ.

We should ask God for revelation that we would get to know Him.

What God speaks today is revelation. And without revelation the Churches deteriorate.

Truth is merely doctrine to many brethren. And they often fail to see that Truth is a Person (Jesus Christ). We can preach the correct doctrine, but Christ might not even be in our preaching. If all we talk about is doctrine when trying to share God's word then we are handling something dead.

The Pharisees preached the correct doctrine; but it was dead works to them, just like it will be dead to us if Christ is not in it.

Many try to remember certain doctrines so they can act accordingly. But they fail to function by letting Christ do the work through them.

The realm of religion does not mean we have God. Many can touch a doctrine, a teaching that may be correct; but this does not mean they are touching Jesus Christ—for that we need revelation from God.

God does speak today, and His Spirit will lead us in all matters if we will learn to seek and trust Him as we should:

> Ps 73:24 "You shall guide me with your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." (Ps 73:24). 🕮

The Written and Living Word

Christians often make one of two mistakes: They either seek the will of God from Bible study **only**, or they rely on God to guide their minds without checking to see if their "guidance" agrees with the teaching of the Bible. The latter problem is probably worse, with many people doing things in the guise of "freedom in Christ", but who are actually working contrary to the teachings of Christ in the Bible.

If you have never asked Christ to show you anything, now is a good time to start. He lives! But if you are going through life, believing you are following Christ's leading, it is important to stop and check the Bible to confirm it is Christ leading you. —NSE

Channeling: New Age Naughtiness

By Norman Edwards

Channeling has been around for ages, though called by various names. It is alive, well, and growing rapidly among new age believers today. Channelers are people who allow their body to be used by a spirit to speak a message to people here on earth. The spirit may claim to be a god-like being, or sometimes the spirit of a deceased human.

The message conveyed by channelers can be anywhere from incomprehensible, to chit-chat, to specific messages for individuals, to important scientific or geo-political information. The person doing the channeling simply allows his voice to be used. He may occasionally interact with the "spirit", but does not control it. He just serves as a channel to pass information.

There are many different channelers today, most of which are channeling different "spirits", some disagreeing with each other's methods and messages. In fact, the definition of New Age religion is most difficult to pin down. In general, it carries the belief that we each have the power within ourselves to do good—usually both for ourselves and for others. Some new age people believe in channeling, some do not. Some believe in one God, some believe in many gods, some believe we are all god and others believe in no god. Most new agers hold some eastern religion concepts of integrating their environment with nature, of developing inner peace, reincarnation, etc. Most believe that souls "cross the veil" when they die (leaving the earth), than come back at another time and place.

In general, new age believers embrace the golden rule. Many are quite willing to do good to their neighbor first. It tends to be a kind and gentle religion, though ignorant of many things. Most new agers do not believe in any kind of literal devil or evil spirit world. They believe that these things are part of our imagination that simply needs to be changed.

I have a friend who began to get interested in these concepts and even went to a channeling session. My efforts to convince this person that this was not a good thing were not effective since I had "not experienced" the "great love" that comes when this spirit is channeled. So, seeing that Christ and the apostles did not run from demons, but confronted them directly, I prayed and concluded that it would be good to witness one of these sessions myself.

A Visit to the Channeler

After fasting and praying, I went with my friend to a channeling seminar conducted by Lee Carroll, who channels a spirit named "Kryon". More information is available at www.kryon.com. You can read the complete text of previous channeling sessions, find out about the "Kryon team", buy their books, etc. You can also see that whoever Kryon is, he has a very big ego as he thinks our planet should be called "Kryon". There are all kinds of messages about his love for mankind, how great man is, and how things are getting better and better. There is also specific advice about what mankind needs to accomplish.

Mr. Carroll makes his living by selling books about Kryon, and by traveling around and giving seminars. At $85 per person, and 50 to 100 people per seminar, he should be able to make a very good living. Big city seminars are in the thousands.

When I arrived, I was greeted enthusiastically, though I probably returned a rather skeptical reply. Most of the people present were middle-aged women, the most common age group at channeling seminars, by Carroll's own statement. Some of them looked like they were on some kind of spiritual quest, others just looked lonely. There were several tables set up with new-age products for sale. New age religion is at least partly about making money.

Most of the four- to five-hour seminar was spent with Lee presenting various kinds of information of interest to new agers. There was a lot of scientific information about experiments that showed how people thoughts toward water could affect its crystalline structure. He also claimed to have evidence that the results of atomic collisions in "atom smashers" were affected by the results that the scientists hoped to find. I did not check his source material to see if it was accurate, nor did I attempt to verify whether or not the scientists conducting these experiments were new agers or some other kind of "spiritist".

The Bible does not actually say that it is impossible to affect molecular structure by thinking about it, so my belief in God will change little even if the information he presented was correct. Just because I do not understand how this could happen right now, does not mean that it cannot happen.

The actual channeling session came at the end

of the seminar. I believe that Kryon is simply a demon that talks through Lee Carroll. Before I arrived I came to the understanding that God did not want me to cast out any demons this day. Mr. Carol and those around him wanted this demon, and casting out a **wanted** demon frequently causes even more demons to return (Matt 12:43-44). I simply prayed that God would expose Kryon for what he is—so that I, my friend and the people there could see that he was not the righteous loving "god-like" being that he was pretending to be.

Why Kryon Is a Fake

I thought that God might answer this prayer by causing Kryon to speak in an evil voice, or to make Lee look evil, but these things did not happen. However, by his own admission, Lee Carroll spent an unusually long time explaining exactly how the channeling works and what happens. It was during this time that God answered my prayer and showed me (and anyone else who would think about it), that Kryon is not who he claims to be. Mr. Carroll patiently and kindly answered questions of those who attended, and I was able to confirm some additional information. Here are the points that I believe show Kryon is a demon, not the kind, loving, light-filled being that he claims to be.

1) Kryon speaks with a sassy voice, very similar to the talking hat in the first Harry Potter movie. This voice does not at all fit his message. Lee Carrol had no explanation for this, other than to say that he had always sounded that way.

2) Lee must remove his watch and cannot use a microphone with a battery because Kryon (the great "source" of energy), somehow **drains** the energy out of such devices. Lee Carroll related several incidences when his channeling got cut off after 10 minutes due to a new microphone battery failure. If Kryon can "realign the magnetic grids of the earth" and do other powerful things he claims, cannot he arrange to talk to Lee without discharging batteries? The true God was able to talk to Moses from a burning bush, without really burning the bush.

3) Kryon leaves Lee drained of energy after he channels. Lee explained that he had to sit and avoid jumping up right way after the session concludes. In the past, getting up too quickly has caused him to black out and fall over. Again, cannot this "bringer of light and love" actually help the channeler rather than leave him exhausted?

4) When Kryon speaks, the room always heats up. The seminar was given in a school gym that was not air conditioned. Could not Kryon cool the room, rather than heat it?

5) Lee Carroll acknowledged that there are some kinds of spirits that appear to be evil, but claimed that they are all really good and that all we have to do is perceive them as good. But he also admitted that it might take most of one's life to learn to do that. Why would it take one's whole life to change a simple idea? The reality of people who struggle with the demonic world simply does not fit into Lee Carroll's idea that all spirit entities are good.

Aftermath

As soon as the channeling ended, Lee Carroll opened his eyes and stared right at me for a couple of seconds. I felt that the demon who calls himself Kryon was very aware that I was there and praying, but I did not feel threatened in the least.

Some of the other people there obviously had some spiritual capabilities. They claimed to see colors in the air when Kryon spoke, though they did not all agree on what the colors were. Also, some claimed to see other spirit entities entering the room when Kryon came. During his message, Kryon said that these other spirits would not go back with him, but they would enter the people there at the seminar and then go home with them. I prayed that none of them would go home with me. Unfortunately, most of the people at the seminar, including my friend, hoped that some of the spirits would go home with them. Why not, if they are "all good"?

New age religion is similar to Harry Potterism in that both attempt to solve the world's problems without intervention from God. Harry Potter uses magic and spells to fight evil, The new agers simply say that there is no evil. In Harry Potter books, the wizards and witches seek to control spirit entities for their own benefit, whereas channelers let spirits control them. Lee Carroll explained how he became a channeler. Lee was not interested in channeling, though His wife, Jan Tober, was. Finally, she got Lee to agree to go to a session—which turned out to be a private, one-on-one session, where the channeler told Lee that a spirit named "Kryon" is trying to get hold of him. Not long afterward, Kryon did just that.

His "all spirits are good" idea does not always work. Lee and his wife Jan were divorced, even though they still work together in their business. One of their staff is openly homosexual. These are the kinds of problems that occur when people try to determine what is good apart from God. These people are not interested in God now, but they probably will after they experience some of the difficulty of following lying spirits. Let us be ready to help them then. 🕮

Enduring Till the End

by Tommy Willis

Jesus said there's coming a time of tribulation like no other before it, or will ever be again (Mt 24:21). He said that men's hearts would be failing them for fear (Lu 21:26); "For these be the days of vengeance, that **all** things written may be fulfilled" (Matt 24:22). Many of the prophecies of the Bible will take place during this period of time as the end of the age draws near.

Today, many brethren are sitting on the fence, with one hand on God and the other on the world; but in the time ahead of us they will have to choose as the fires of tribulation increase. And Jesus said that as a snare it will come on all (v 35). We cannot take language like all of the above and think that it will consist of disasters like we have seen before—there will be dramatic changes that will boggle our mind.

We often have difficulty following God now; many think that because of the difficulty of the struggle they have with an unbelieving mate, or problems with their job, or financial, that they could follow God better if they did not have these problems. But in the tribulation, will it be any easier to follow God then? If we are not learning to overcome now—it will be very difficult to endure the days ahead; we will not be prepared as we should be. The inevitable trials of this mortal life will come on all of us; and we must learn to grow from these trials.

There's a principle that I have lost sight of time and time again over the years, especially when the trials were severe; and that is God knows the **level** of our suffering. And you can be sure that He will give us relief when necessary. His promise to us is that He will not allow us to go through more than we can handle (1Cor 10:13). It's very important to keep this in mind, because it is one of the principles that will aid us to endure; many brethren became discouraged at the suffering and trials, and lose sight of God's precious promises.

In Psalm 56:8, David said: "Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record? God watches every sparrow fall, and Jesus said that all the hairs of our head are numbered. God will often compensate in our trials; **He will give us relief in one area when we are suffering in another area.** The above Scriptures will help us if we will not lose sight of them.

Many compare their doctrine or Church organization with others—feeling secure that they are in the right group which makes them "right with God". But in doing so they fail to see that enduring till the end is a very personal matter between God and their personal relationship with Him. The right group can help a great deal, but not if you are not putting forth the effort to build up your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

God has many people in many different Church organizations that are building up a relationship with Him. But all too often we have focused on every little point of doctrine as to what makes us right with God. I'm not trying to suggest that the doctrines are not important, because they are. But if that is all, we are little better than the Pharisees.

Our standing and enduring **till the end** has to do with our personal contact with Jesus Christ; this is why Jesus said to "watch and pray always" concerning these times (Lu 21:36). In the previous verses (v 34-35) Jesus warns us not to get caught up in the cares of this life. Distractions can take us away from God; it's not easy to stay on the narrow road.

In Luke 21:36 Jesus also tells us: "Watch you therefore and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to **escape** all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. But we need to keep in mind that this "escape" **may** not always include physical protection, because in verse 16 Jesus tells us that some of us will be put to death. But if we stay close to God the protection of His peace will be there even if we are stoned the way Stephen was, and God will keep us safe in His peace to be able to endure till the end and be in His Kingdom.

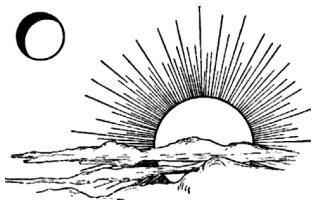
As I said above, the inevitable trials of life will come—and the world will constantly throw things at us. And as Christians we have our own nature to deal with plus Satan and the demons; we must have the power and love of God to overcome these things.

But we go about our task in life as if we are going to live forever. We need to realize how short this marvelous adventure we call life is. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." (Ps 90:12). We will need the wisdom of God to make the proper decisions; but we will not seek the wisdom of God as we should if we are caught up in the cares of this life as Jesus warned us about in the above Scripture.

We are here for a moment, like a passing flower, then gone; and we need to use the time wisely seeking out the wisdom of God, which will aid us in enduring till the end. God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hos 4:6). God does not always protect the ignorant. It is not a sin to be ignorant, but as God's people we cannot remain that way; if we do we will lead ourselves to destruction.

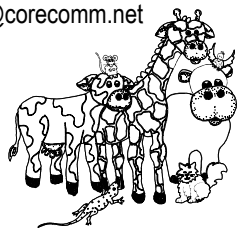
Think about the Scriptures in this short article, and how these biblical principles will aid us in enduring till the end if we will learn to apply them. To endure we need to grab on to Jesus Christ as Jacob took hold of the angel and wouldn't let go until he was blessed. God tells us to "hold fast" and He will bring us home to His Kingdom. 📖

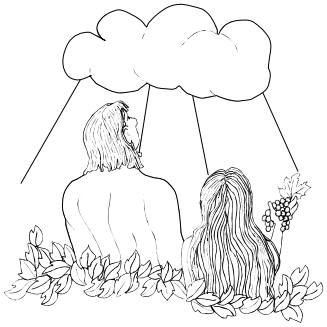
Creation Corner



For I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are thy works (Pslm 139:14)

by C. Frazier Spencer
frazier@corecomm.net





Introduction

Logically, there are only two alternatives. Either we are:

1) The result of some kind of Creator God, or
2) The result of accidental Evolution.

On the one hand is the Bible, which says it was written by a Being who is above *all other* gods because He created the wood, stone, metals, the sun and stars; the *very things* which make up other gods. Strong words indeed! (Pslm 95:3-5; 115:3-8; 135:5,15-18; Isa 44; Jer 10:2-15). Moreover this Being writes *He* is the giver of life. (Job 33:4; Pro 4:4; 7:2; Rom 6:23; John 1:3-4). This Being further writes in Rom 1:20 that the invisible things of Him are *clearly seen*, being understood by the things that are *made.*

Therefore *proving* the Creator God seems to be a logical starting place for people interested in Christianity. Notice Paul used the Creator God as a starting place (Acts 17:24-25) when first revealing God to the pagan philosophers at Athens.

On the other hand is Evolution which says every living thing is the result of mindless, purposeless, accidental *chance*. It goes even further by saying humans "are just animals". Evolution is now taught in our schools and acclaimed by the media as established fact and has itself taken on many aspects of being a religion.

The goal of this column is to counter evolution doctrine by presenting some of the things that have been *made* so the Creator God can be *seen*.

Italics or underlining may have been added to the various quotes in this article.

The Age of Computers and Programming

I am writing this on my computer, (called "hardware"), using "software" that was "programmed" by computer scientists.

What if I told you my computer came about by accident? What if I said the metals came out of the ground and over millions of years fashioned themselves into a box, that inside this box hundreds of wires evolved and connected themselves to each other, that a pile of sand came out of the ground and likewise fashioned itself into a glass monitor screen, and that a blob of plastic came out of the ground and fashioned itself into keys, and that wonder of wonders, those keys happen to *match* exactly an alphabet I use to form words and to do my writing?

Furthermore my computer was dead and useless until it came to "life" through something called "electricity"? Repeated lightning strikes of just the right voltage and current brought my computer to life and kept its evolving batteries charged. Software programs popped up that I use to write words, make drawings, or perform mathematical calculations. And what if I told you there was no intelligence behind those software programs, they all happened purely by *mindless accident*?

Would you believe my computer, it's programs, and it's perfect meshing together to function as one unit, all *evolved* by *accident* without a purposeful, intelligent designer or maker? Would you accept the occasional computer "lock ups" or files on my hard drive that have no apparent use as "proof" that that my computer had *evolved*, rather than had been *designed*.

I really don't think you would.

Our son, Jeff, recently received his Computer Science degree. He would probably be insulted if someone said a program he labored weeks or months to create and perfect had evolved itself by accident.

What if we would find hardware or minicomputers in nature? What if we would find software or programming in nature?

Perhaps your answer is, "Frazier, after all you are a creationist, you *want* to see hardware and programming in nature, but is it *really* there"?

We can answer that. But let's make it difficult by using only sources that support evolution.

Hardware and Programming in Nature

Christopher O'Toole, an author of many books on nature, is based at the University Museum in Ox-

ford, England. He is also a frequent broadcaster and consultant to a Natural History TV series.

In his well-researched and most informative book, "Alien Empire"(1) Mr. O'Toole examines the world of insects and concludes insects are like miniature computers or hardware, and concludes insect behavior patterns are like software or programming.

"Alien Empire" begins with an analogy which explains it very well. The author poses the question:

"Imagine you are a chief executive of a high-tech engineering firm…Your chief designer presents you with an idea for a new project…How would you react if that project was nothing less than to design a million or more types of *robot*, with the following specifications:

Hardware Specifications

- Miniature, self-replicating robots.
- Most kinds will be able to fly, and many will be fast runners and/or jumpers…
- All will have on-board sensors for gathering visual, auditory and scent data and transmitters for emitting sound, scent and, in some cases, light signals.
- Many will be capable of prosecuting chemical warfare, using either compounds gathered from plants or (even) substances manufactured themselves.
- All robots will *generate their own energy* by resources of animal and/or plant origin. Some will exploit resources in collaboration with a range of fungi, bacteria or single-celled animals.
- Some kinds of robots will be *programmed* to steal components from other robots…
- Many types will be *programmed* to function in co-operating *groups.* These will construct and maintain their own micro-habitats, using building materials manufactured chemically themselves and/or materials gathered from the environment.

Software Specifications

- All types will have an on-board *computer* with *software* capable of *processing* and integrating visual and chemical signals. Some will also be able to process audio signals.
- All *software* will be time-sensitive, with adequate *memory* storage space."

After setting out the mini-computer hardware and software requirements for the one million different robots project, the author sums up:

"You may conclude that these specifications are the product of a diseased mind, the effusions of a mad scientist with delusions of grandeur and infinite resources. But you would be wrong. Such self-replicating robots, with precisely these specifications *do exist*. They have dominated the earth for at least 300 million years. Their interactions with plants made our humanity possible. We call these robots *insects*. And without them, we would *die*."

So there you have it. *Computer hardware* and *software/programming* in nature as seen by an evolution supporting author. (Although we disagree on that part, his 300 million years* quote is included to show the author is an evolution supporter.)

Mr. O'Toole apparently sees a marvelous project having taken place, although he gives evolution the credit for it.

In fact he takes several pages to explain "Insects and Evolution". Ironically, those evolution explaining pages are part of a chapter entitled, *"Designed* for Success", with the sub-title of "Miniature Miracles of *Engineering"*.

That prompts two questions. Is it logical to have *design* without a designer? Is it logical to have *engineers* that have not received instructions from a master engineer?

He further explains, "As the true *miracles* of miniaturization, insects compress all of this processing power into a tiny brain, an on-board *pre-programmed computer*…..A computer with the *processing* power of an insect brain, assuming we could build one, would be the size of a small tower block, and maybe even larger if we would include the necessary cooling system."

The author also asked the question, "Are Insects Intelligent?" He then answers:

"Insects can be seen as miniature *super-computers*. Most of what an insect needs to do to survive long enough to produce offspring is *hard-wired* in the *system—preprogrammed* efficiency.

Wow. Does that not seem to be incredible supporting verification in just one sentence?

Another Example

A Discovery Channel book also sees programming in nature. On page 13 of "Insects and Spiders"(2) the matter of fact statement is made, "A male praying mantis is *programmed* to release sperm (and thus complete mating) even after its head has been severed from its body by its partner."

On page 64 more programming is seen. "Mating is a risky endeavor for most male spiders. Usually their prospective mates are considerably larger and more powerful than they are, *programmed* to interpret any nearby movement as a potential meal."

Back to Mr. O'Toole: "But some aspects of an insect's world are just not predictable enough for a strictly preprogrammed response: the insect *computer* has to be able to learn and modify its responses. Hence, our smart Polistes wasps and the dance language of the honeybee."

This writer agrees that potential modification has been built in to what we can see as programming in nature. The writer, however, feels the dance of the bees is part of what has been programmed, else how

could the watching bees *understand*, and understand perfectly, the coded message from the dancing bee?

Programming With Latitude To Adapt

The book "Nature Writing"(3) gives an interesting example of how programming in nature has been given latitude to adapt. Gilbert White, an eighteenth century naturalist wrote"

"The more I reflect on the parental love of animals, the more I am astonished at it's effects…. The flycatcher…builds every year in the vines that grow on the walls of my house. A pair of these little birds had one year inadvertently placed their nest on a naked bough, perhaps in a shady time, not being aware of the inconvenience that followed.

But a hot sunny season coming on before the brood was half fledged, the reflection of the wall became insupportable, and must inevitably have destroyed the tender young, had not affection suggested an expedient, and prompted the parent-birds to hover over the nest all the hotter hours, while with wings expanded, and mouths gaping for breath, they screened off the heat from their suffering offspring."

Isn't that a remarkable example? Consider…these tiny birds had to 1) recognize the danger from excessive sun, and 2) make a connection between their shadows falling on the nest and a subsequent cooling, and 3) maintain the vital shadow despite their weariness.

Christopher O'Toole continues, Advanced insects such as ants, wasps, and bees have a vast range of such behaviors and therefore can react to a wide range of both internal and external stimuli…. This is a tribute to the *processing abilities* of the insect brain and sense organs. But insects are very selective in the information they take on board. Unlike us, they do not overload themselves with irrelevant information. An insect, then, is just as intelligent *as it needs to be*.

Could Honeybees Have Been Programmed?

"Alien Empire" also gives us information about the various jobs done by honeybees. As noted in the previous example, some latitude to adapt seems built in for emergencies.

"If the colony is attacked and damaged by a large predator such as a honey-badger, the age structure of the colony can be disrupted. In this case, the range of duties is *reallocated* and bees that *were once guards* may *reactivate* their royal jelly glands and revert to being nurses.…The ability of the colony as a whole to respond and *adapt* to crises is one of the many secrets of the honeybee success story."

Isn't that remarkable? Could considerable thought have gone into the survival of honeybees, so much so that pre-determined job duties can even be re-arranged for emergencies?

What is age structure?

The author explains. "The tasks performed by worker honeybees are *age related*. A newly emerged worker spends her first *three days* as a *cleaner*. From about days *3 to 10*, she is a *nurse*. Glands in her head become active and enlarged and these secrete royal jelly…. She feeds this to the larvae…. At day *10*, the glands which produce royal jelly atrophy, and at the same time, the wax glands in her abdomen become active; she makes the transition from nurse to *worker* and *makes* honeycomb until about day *16.* For the next *four days* she receives pollen and nectar loads from returning foragers and *places* them in the comb…. From about *day 20* she is a *guard* at the nest entrance…. After guard duty, the bee spends the rest of her *six week* life as a *field bee*, foraging for pollen and nectar.

During this period, she calls upon her considerable powers of *information processing* to communicate the sources of pollen and nectar to her fellow foragers, using the famous dance language."

Let's summarize what we have just been told by the author. Except for the very rare emergencies, the honeybee follows a *definite*, *pre-determined*, sequence of job duties. Notice:

Bee Age	***Job Duty***
3 days	*Cleaner*
4-10 days	*Nurse*
11-15 days	*Worker **making** honeycomb*
16-20 days	*Worker **placing** nectar in honeycomb*
21-? days	*Guard duty*
Rest of life	*Field bee foraging for pollen and nectar.*

We need to consider some questions:

1. Are these duties highly specialized?
2. Does the honeybee attend school to learn each of these highly specialized jobs?
3. If not school or training, where did she learn to do them, and to do them so perfectly?

Just the job of *making* the honeycomb is in itself a *highly skilled, precise* job of engineering. To quote Nobel Laureate Karl von Frisch(5) on the matter of honeycomb making, "What truly astounding precision!….Human craftsmen could not to do work of this nature without the use of carpenters' squares and sliding gauges".

This writer had always assumed bees were *born* to do *one* of the six distinct jobs listed above (in itself amazing enough). But to learn that all six jobs are performed by each bee in an exact sequence was surprising to me. How about you?

Doesn't it seem that the knowledge needed to do *six* different jobs during a short six week life span has to have been *programmed* into every honeybee? Doesn't it seem as if that knowledge is passed to each new generation by something like *programming*?

Doesn't it seem that not only the *knowledge* of *how* to do each function had to have been *programmed*, but also *timing* and a timing *mechanism* as well?

It's More Than Just Programming

In addition to what we have seen reported as mini-computers and programming, O'Toole also pointed out these tiny, tiny insects have their own:

1. on-board clocks,
2. magnetic compasses, or
3. gyroscopes as well.

He further states that "the ways in which information from their sensors is processed is the *envy of all human computer scientists".*

Imagine that.

We are told by Mr. O'Toole there are One million identified insect species. And there are another Fourteen (some say twenty nine) million species as yet unidentified and unnamed. The book "The Science Times Book of Insects" puts the number of insect species at between 15 and 30 million. In the book, "Microcosmo"(4) it is put this way, "There are as many kinds of insects as there are stars in the sky." So it seems there are at least Fifteen million different "hardware" insect body designs and Fifteen million different insect "software" programs.

Those are indeed incredibly awesome numbers! But also consider this: the differences are *more* than just body design and programming, they also include for *each* specie:

1. Different food supplies and feeding methods.
2. Different protections from predators.
3. Different mating and mate recognition methods.

Factoring these differences in as well makes the above numbers and the mammoth amount of work involved all the more awesome.

In Summary

We have considered insects as mini-computers, described as such by a well-respected evolution supporting scientist and author. As for programming, this short article has just scratched the surface about programming that can be seen in nature.

What previous generations without any computer knowledge called "instinct" we can better understand as "programming". As such, it can be seen all over in nature including birds building their nests, spiders making webs, honey bees constructing hives, and on and on.

We need to ask ourselves: Recognizing the *hardware* or mini-computer aspects of insect bodies, and their behavior patterns as *programming*, are those things more logically the result of:

Evolution, which admittedly is:
mindless,
purposeless,
accidental chance?

Or, are they more logically the result of:
planning,
design,
an intelligent, Creator/programmer?

Which alternative makes more sense to you?

A Comforting Admission

My article would normally end at the above question mark. But for this particular one I would like to add this observation:

As a believer that we have been created:

"I find it a great comfort and very reassuring every time I remind myself a God who was able to create 15,000,000 different insect bodies and 15,000,000 insect software programs, has also promised to take care of me—and you!"

Endnotes:

(1) "Alien Empire" published 1996 by Crowood Press, Ramsbury, England.
(2) Published in 2000 by Random House, USA.
(3) By Robert Finch and John Elder, published 2002 by W. W. Norton & Co, New York.
(4) By Claude Niridsany and Marie Perennou, published no year given by Stewart, Tabori and Chang, New York.
(5) "Animal Architecture" published 1974 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

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