

# Why witchcraft is wrong

## Introduction

It is easy to dismiss all occultists as evil people caught up in a satanic pursuit and pursuing selfish gains; but this is simplistic. Although the root of all occultism is satanic, both historically and doctrinally, it is a fact that there are many otherwise decent people who have been attracted to witchcraft for various reasons; some altruistic.

Some people, considered as ‘good’ folk in the world, are involved in witchcraft because:

- They want to heal people from sickness.
- They believe that there is a ‘white’ form of witchcraft that is dissociated from the Devil.
- They believe that witchcraft gives them understanding about how natural elements in the world work.
- They believe that witchcraft is a way of understanding divine or spiritual matters.
- Some joined in order to be part of a distinctive, unusual community.
- Some saw it as a natural development of herbalism and chemistry.
- Some believe that they can use witchcraft to overcome demonic forces in the world.
- Some believe that they can influence the political world for good by witchcraft.

So, there are truly evil people that practice witchcraft in connection with Devil worship and personal gain but there are others who have no part in that.

Yet the Bible explains that all witchcraft is evil at source and to be forbidden. Therefore, it behoves me to explain the reasons why witchcraft is wrong.

## The Bible’s condemnation of witchcraft

We must start with the word of God because that sets our course. For Christians, the Bible settles the matter; witchcraft is to be avoided.

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. Deut 10:10-12

### One who practices witchcraft

Literally, ‘one who practices divination’. *Qecem* = divination, witchcraft.

### A soothsayer

‘*Anan* = to make appear, produce, to practise soothsaying, conjure, to observe times, practice soothsaying or spiritism or magic or augury or witchcraft, soothsayer, enchanter, sorceress, diviner, fortune-teller.

### **One who interprets omens**

*Nachash* = to practice divination, divine, observe signs, diligently observe, practice fortune-telling, interpret an omen.

### **Sorcerer**

*Kashaph* = to practice witchcraft or sorcery, use witchcraft, sorcerer, sorceress.

### **One who conjures spells**

*Chabar* = to unite, join, bind together, be joined, be coupled, be in league, heap up, have fellowship with, be compact, be a charmer, to tie magic charms, charm. In this context, a charmer or conjurer.

### **A medium**

*'Owb* = water skin bottle, necromancer, one who evokes the dead, practice of necromancy, one that has a familiar spirit.

### **A spiritist**

English, ‘spiritualist’. *Yidd@’oniy* a knower, one who has a familiar spirit, soothsayer, necromancer, wizard.

### **One who calls up the dead.**

*Darash* = to resort to, seek, seek with care, enquire, require, to resort to, frequent, to consult, enquire of, seek of God or heathen gods, necromancers.

So this passage includes multiple aspects of witchcraft: divination, sorcery, necromancy, soothsaying, clairvoyance (being a medium), augury, and conjurer.

You shall not permit a sorceress to live. Exod 22:18

You shall not eat *anything* with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying. Lev 19:26

Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God. Lev 19:31

A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood *shall be* upon them. Lev 20:27

For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you. 1 Sam 15:23

They caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practised witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. 2 Kg 17:17

Also he made his son pass through the fire, practised soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke *Him* to anger. 2 Kg 21:6

So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. 1 Chron 10:13

Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practised soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. 2 Chron 33:6

And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter', should not a people seek their God? *Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?* Isa 8:19

You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, *and* the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you. Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; *it shall not be* a coal to be warmed by, *nor* a fire to sit before! Isa 47:13-14

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal 5:19-21

By your sorcery all the nations were deceived. Rev 18:23

So there is no doubt that the Bible condemns all forms of witchcraft.

## **What is witchcraft?**

The occult is divided into three aspects:

- Magic: casting spells to change nature.
- Divination: seeking to know the future by various means.
- Spiritualism: communicating with spirits (demons); usually masquerading as dead people.

Witchcraft chiefly refers to the practitioners of magic; conjurers, sorcerers – the claimed ability to change reality by spells, potions and conjuring up spirits. However, witches will also use divination and spiritualism. So witches are the prime focus of occultism using all three aspects.

The New Oxford Dictionary defines witchcraft as:

The practice of magic, especially black magic; the use of spells and the invocation of spirits.

The Oxford World Encyclopaedia says:

Witchcraft is the term for people that practice magic of various sorts; people who chiefly cast spells. The New Oxford Dictionary defines it as, '*the practice of magic, especially black magic; the use of spells and the invocation of spirits*'.

The malevolent exercise of supposed supernatural powers, especially by women, attributed to a connection with the devil or evil spirits. The witch's male counterpart is wizard, sorcerer, or warlock. There are accounts of witchcraft in ancient Greek and Roman texts, for example Medea, who uses sorcery to help Jason win the Golden Fleece. In the Old Testament King Saul consults the Witch of Endor. In the early Middle Ages popular superstition began to associate witchcraft with demonic possession and the rejection of God. By the late 13th century the Inquisition dealt with cases of witchcraft involving heresy, and secular courts, especially in Germany, punished these supposed crimes with characteristic cruelty. Mass persecutions began to take place in the 15th century, and the publication of *Malleus Maleficarum* ('Hammer of Witches') in 1487, describing witches' sabbaths, night-flying, intercourse with the devil, transformation into animals, and malicious spells cast on men and cattle, greatly increased superstition and persecution. Witches were popularly depicted with a black cat (the 'familiar') and a broomstick. The 16th-century Reformers further contributed to the persecution of witches, as did the unrest stirred up by the religious wars. The last trials for witchcraft in England were in 1712, and on the Continent (in Prussia) in 1793. In America the belief in witchcraft was rife but the Salem witch trials (1692) caused a general revulsion. In the 17th century better education led to rejection of belief in witchcraft, but popular superstition survived much longer. In the 20th century, in Europe and the USA, a new kind of witchcraft claiming to be a revival of pre-Christian pagan religion, has been practised by a small number of adherents and has at times been associated with allegations of animal sacrifice and child sexual abuse.

The origin of the English word 'witch' is, the Old English word *wicca* (masculine), *wicce* (feminine), and *wiccan* (verb). Current senses of the verb are probably a shortening of 'bewitch' (to gain control over someone by casting a spell on them; enchant).

Modern witches would claim that their witchcraft is merely ancient nature religion (based on pantheism and animism) and fertility rites. However, common practices go beyond this to include sorcery, spiritualism, divination and necromancy. This is occultism and not merely ancient folklore or pagan nature religion.

## Aspects of witchcraft

### Spiritualism (spiritism US)

Communing with evil spirits (demons). Witches differentiate between good and evil spirits, but there is no such dichotomy. Often witches claim to be able to ward off evil spirits but this is a mere deception by demons to attract the susceptible to further deceit.

In extreme cases, witches claim to be able to conjure up spirits and command them.

In reality the spirits that communicate with occultists are all demons;<sup>1</sup> that is, fallen angels in league with Satan. These were cast out of heaven for rebellion against God. They are not elect (good) angels who serve God in heaven, who are not at the beck and call of witches. All demons lie and murder (Jn 8:44) and work by deception. Their purpose is to try to destroy the work of God in mankind. Thus every form of spiritualism is very dangerous.

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<sup>1</sup> Origin: Middle English, from medieval Latin, from Latin *daemon*, from Greek *daimōn* 'deity, genius'; also from Latin *daemonium* 'lesser or evil spirit', from Greek *daemonion*, diminutive of *daimōn*.

## **Necromancy**

Communing with the dead; especially to predict the future. This is also communicating with demons. Demons pretend to be dead people in order to deceive the gullible.

Dead people cannot communicate with living people in the world. They wait in Hades (the place of departed spirits) for their condemnation on the Day of Judgment.

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. Eccles 9:5-6

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

## **Clairvoyancy (being a medium)**

Clairvoyance is the supposed faculty of perceiving things or events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact. This usually means invoking the dead or spirits. A medium is one who practices clairvoyancy by communicating with the dead or spirits. Origin: mid 19<sup>th</sup> century from the French, from *clair* ‘clear’ + *voir* ‘to see’.

## **Magic**

This is the chief characteristic of witches. It is the claimed ability to be able to change nature or reality by means of casting spells, invoking spirits or other supernatural methods.

## **Soothsaying, prophecy**

Foretelling the future by occult means.

## **Augury**

This is the art of interpreting omens, such as in the entrails of sacrificed birds, to foretell the future. Interpreting tealeaves is another form of augury. Utilising the symbols in the I-Ching after casting yarrow sticks is another.

## **Astrology**

The study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world. Telling the future from the motion of stars, moon and planets.

## **Numerology**

Telling the future by means of consulting and interpreting numbers, such as birth dates.

## **Tarot cards**

Telling the future by means of consulting pictorial cards.

## **Crystal ball gazing**

Telling the future by looking into a large ball of glass.

## **Alchemy**

The forerunner of chemistry, based on the supposed transformation of matter. A pseudo-science originating independently in China, Greece, and India in about the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, concerned with the possible transmutation of all matter. In medieval times it was concerned particularly with attempts to convert base metals into gold or find a universal elixir of healing.

## **Hermetism**

An ancient occult tradition encompassing alchemy, astrology, and theosophy.

## **Theosophy**

(Greek, 'divine wisdom'.) A religious philosophy claiming insight into the nature of God and the Universe through direct experience, making use of such means as mysticism, meditation, occult practices, and hidden meanings in sacred texts.

Theosophists include Neoplatonists and Gnostics, but they are now more generally identified with members of the Theosophical Society, founded in New York by Helena Blavatsky [1831–91]. The ideas of the society were heavily influenced by Hinduism and its base moved to India, where its leading exponent was Annie Besant [1847–1933].

# **Artefacts of witches**

## **Amulets**

An amulet is a specific kind of fetish object that is highly popular as a source of occult power. An ornament or small piece of jewellery, e.g. a medallion, thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

## **Ankh**

An object or design resembling a cross but having a loop instead of the top arm, used in ancient Egypt as a symbol of life. The word derives from the Egyptian, meaning literally life, soul. It is also called 'the *crux ansata*'.

## **Athame**

A ritual knife with a black handle. It is only used for ceremonies where it represents the male principle.

## **Brooms**

Broomsticks were associated with witches in English folklore. It is claimed that drugs were used by some witches to numb their legs while sitting on a broomstick to give the feeling of flying.

## **Cauldrons**

Witch's cauldrons were large pots used to manufacture potions that were claimed to have supernatural powers (e.g. to make someone love you). This was largely an image from folklore.

## **Circle**

An ancient symbol of wholeness, infinity and eternity. In witchcraft it is a symbol for the female principle in nature. Sometimes called 'a magic circle, it is used by sorcerers in rituals. Around it are the names of gods and various symbols. Inside the circle a pentagram is often drawn. Standing inside the circle is supposed to provide blessing and protection from dark forces.

## **Covens**

A coven is a gathering, or church, of witches in a local area.

## **Crystals**

These are deemed to have natural energy and are used to enhance spells or bring healing.

## **Cup**

A chalice used for ceremonies; it represents the female. It is usually filled with red wine.

## Familiars

Imaginary demons existing in the form of animals, especially black cats, in a witch's possession. This was a common idea after the *Malleus Maleficarum* was disseminated.

## Fetishes

A talisman, charm, amulet, totem, icon, idol, image, effigy, doll, statue, figure, figurine. These were believed to have magical properties, such as warding off evil.

## Henbane

A poisonous herb used to create hallucinogenic effects, such as believing that one has been transformed into something else.

## Pentacle

A disc or circle containing the five-pointed star. It is a symbol of the element earth.

## Pentagram

The five-pointed star. Three points up usually represents human spirituality. Four of the points symbolise the elements, while the fifth symbolises the spirit that governs them.

In Black Magic three points down means darkness and bestiality. It creates a Baphomet image of a goat's head.

## Sigil

An inscribed or painted symbol having magical power.

## Wand

This symbolises the element air. According to *The Key of Solomon*, a wand should be made of a hazel tree. It is used in casting spells.

## Witch's ladder

A string of 40 beads, or a rope with 40 knots, used for ceremonial worship. Similar to a Catholic rosary.

## Black mass

A travesty of the Roman Catholic Mass in worship of the Devil. Used in Satanism.

## Titles of witches

- **Warlock** (male witch). Origin: Old English *wærloga* traitor, scoundrel, monster, also the Devil, from *wær* covenant + an element related to *lēogan* belie, deny. From its application to the Devil, the word was transferred in Middle English to a person in league with the devil, and hence a sorcerer. It was chiefly Scots until given wider currency by Sir Walter Scott. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Shaman**. A person regarded as having access to, and control over spirits, especially among some peoples of northern Asia and North America. This typically involves entering a trance state during a ritual. The goal is usually divination and healing. Origin: late 17<sup>th</sup> century from German *Schamane* and Russian *shaman*, from Tungus *šaman*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Witchdoctor**. Similar to a shaman. A magician among tribal peoples credited with powers of healing, divination, and protection against the magic of others. Commonly used in Voodoo.
- **Magician**. A person with magical powers, Origin: late Middle English; from Old French *magicien*, from late Latin *magica*. [New Oxford Dict.]

- **Mage.** Archaic or poetic/literary; a magician or learned person. Origin: late Middle English; anglicised form of Latin *magus*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Magus** (pl. *magi*). A member of a priestly caste of ancient Persia. A sorcerer. Origin: Middle English; via Latin and Greek from Old Persian *maguš*. [New Oxford Dict.] Note: Matthew 2:1 ‘Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem’. ‘Wise men’ = Greek **ma,goj magos**: a magus; the name given by the Babylonians (Chaldeans), Medes, Persians, and others, to the wise men, teachers, priests, physicians, astrologers, seers, interpreters of dreams, augers, soothsayers, sorcerers. [Thayer Greek Lexicon.]
- **Hag.** A witch; especially one in the form of an ugly old woman. Origin: Middle English; perhaps from Old English *hægtesse*, *hægtes*, related to Dutch *heks* and German *Hexe* ‘witch’, of unknown ultimate origin. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Wizard.** A male practitioner of magic. Origin: late Middle English (in the sense philosopher, sage): from *wise* + *-ard*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Sorcerer (- ess).** Another name for wizard. Origin: late Middle English; from *sorser* (from Old French *sorcier*, based on Latin *sors*, *sort* ‘lot’) + *-er*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Wise-one.** Traditional rural British name for a witch.
- **Cunning-man.** Old English term for a witchdoctor.
- **Toad-doctor.** Old English term for people that could undo evil witchcraft.
- **Wiccan.** A member of Wicca. A modern witch.
- **Enchantress.** A woman who uses magic or sorcery, especially to put someone or something under a spell. Origin: late Middle English; from Old French *enchanteresse*, from *enchanter*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Beldam.** A malicious and ugly woman, especially an old one; a witch. Origin: late Middle English (originally in the sense grandmother); from Old French *bel* ‘beautiful’ + *dam*. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Hex.** Chiefly N. American. As a verb it means to cast a spell on; bewitch. As a noun it means a magic spell; a curse or a witch. Origin: mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (as a verb); from Pennsylvanian German *hexe* (verb), *Hex* (noun), from German *hexen* (verb), *Hexe* (noun). [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Pythoness.** Archaic a female soothsayer or conjuror of spirits. Origin: late Middle English; from Old French *phitonise*, from an alteration of late Latin *pythonissa*, based on Greek *puthōn* ‘soothsaying demon’. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Theurgist.** Theurgy is the operation or effect of a supernatural or divine agency in human affairs and the name of a system of white magic practised by the early Neoplatonists. Origin: mid 16<sup>th</sup> century via late Latin from Greek *theourgia* ‘sorcery’, from *theos* ‘god’ + *-ergos* ‘working’. [New Oxford Dict.]
- **Thaumaturge.** a worker of wonders and performer of miracles; a magician. Origin: early 18<sup>th</sup> century (as *thaumaturg*); via medieval Latin from Greek *thaumatourgos*, from *thauma* ‘marvel’ + *-ergos* ‘-working’.

It is important to state that, although there is a tradition that British witches are women, witches can be male or female. In some cultures witches are always male (e.g. North American shaman). However, in Western society it appears to be true that most witches are women. The movement of women from environmentalism and Feminism to witchcraft has advanced this.

## Types of witchcraft

### **Wicca**

Modern British witchcraft (q.v.).

## **Voodoo**

Caribbean witchcraft based on African animism. A black religious cult practised in the Caribbean, Brazil and the southern US, combining elements of Roman Catholic ritual with traditional African magical and religious rites, and characterised by sorcery and spirit possession. The name derives from *Vodun*, 'god', or 'spirit' in the language of the Fon people of Benin.

Voodoo combines ancestor worship and belief in African deities with Roman Catholic elements, dating from the time of colonisation. The *loa*, identified as ancestors, saints, or gods, communicate with the individual by spirit possession, during collective worship, presided over by priests or priestesses, which involves song, drumming, ecstatic dance, and ritual sacrifice. Voodoo has become associated in the popular imagination with its use of *obeah*, 'sympathetic' magic practices in which objects or images (such as dolls) are used as substitutes for reality, and beliefs, such as that a sorcerer can raise the corpse of a dead person (*zombi*) to be used as a slave. Such practices are not, however, typical of ordinary voodoo rituals. In Haiti the Roman Catholic Church, which for many years denounced voodoo, has come to coexist with it.

## **Santeria**

A mixture of Voodoo and Catholicism prominent in Cuba. A pantheistic Afro-Cuban religious cult developed from the beliefs and customs of the Yoruba people and incorporating some elements of the Catholic religion.

## **Black magic**

Magic that involves Devil-worship and invoking evil spirits to cause harm. Also known as 'the left-hand path'.

## **White magic**

Magic that claims to exist for benevolent purposes only.

## **Mongolian magic**

Ancient animism and spiritualism.

## **Native American shamanism**

A specific type of animism and witchcraft.

## **Sex magic**

Debauched immoral rituals invoking evil spirits, such as evidenced by Crowley, and practised by today's elite.

## **Fertility cults**

Ritual magic and spiritualism designed to give a good harvest. Canaanite Baalism was a type of this.

## **Kabbalah**

Jewish occultism.

## **Sabbateanism**

An extremely evil and radical form of the Kabbalah. Belief in this is held by many modern Jewish elite people.

## A short history

### **Does witchcraft predate Christianity?**

Witches often describe their practices as '*the Old Religion*'. By this they mean that witchcraft predated Christianity in Britain. This is both true and false.

The witchcraft that is mostly practised today is Wicca. This is not old at all but is a very recent development, beginning in the late 1940s. I will describe this later. So Wicca is not old by any definition. Wiccans practise a modern cult religion.

Witchcraft is also considered as existing in Britain before the arrival of Christianity with Roman soldiers; but this also needs analysis.

Britain had been peacefully settled by various Celtic tribes in the 200 to 400 years before the Roman invasion under Emperor Claudius in 43 AD. It is difficult to assess the pagan religion of the Celts because they did not write their history down. Teaching was practised by the Druid priest class that depended on oral history and memorisation. We know enough to say that Celtic religion was a spiritistic and pantheistic animism based on nature worship. Oak trees were especially highly regarded. There is also evidence of human sacrifice (some dispute this) and they certainly piled heaps of severed heads after their conquest of Colchester and London. Whether you can call this witchcraft is disputable.

However, the Celts were not the original inhabitants of Britain. We can trace these from the group that arrived with Brutus after the fall of Troy. So these would have been ancient Turkish people (not the modern Turko-Mongol people). There may have been even older inhabitants of whom we know nothing apart from shards of pottery. All these would have practised some form of idolatry, probably similar to the classical Greek pantheon.

None of these could be considered as witchcraft in the modern sense.

But there is a sense in which witchcraft is ancient.

Occultism developed after the Flood in Babel / Babylon chiefly led by the Emperor Nimrod, the first empire builder. He, like many others later, was deified along with his wife Semiramis as gods. He was the sun god, she was the moon goddess. This set a pattern for many others, such as Apollo (Greece), Helios (Greece), Ra (Egypt), Mithras (Persia), Amaterasu (Japan), Sol (Roman), Surya (Theravada Buddhism), Aruna, (Hinduism) etc.

The priests at Babylon developed all the basic forms of occultism as well as establishing the first pantheon. So Babylon is the source of witchcraft and all other forms of idolatry and occultism. Witchcraft is thus very old. Yet it is still not as old as Christianity which goes back to creation. The origin of Christianity is in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. This predated the post-deluvian idolatrous system by thousands of years. Even the pre-deluge idolatry based on Cain came long after the pure religion that God gave to Adam, Cain's father.

So we can say this:

- Wicca is a very new religion.
- Witchcraft did not predate Christianity in Britain unless you class animism as witchcraft.
- Witchcraft's roots go back to ancient Babylon after the Flood.
- But Christianity goes back to creation.

<b>Simplified history</b>	
Post 2245 BC	Nimrod's idolatry; the beginning of post-deluvian idolatry and occultism based in Babylon and Sumeria. This spread to the developing nations along with its pantheon of gods (Greece, the Near East, Assyria, Syria, India, Persia, Scythia, Egypt etc).
The ancient world	Development of occultism throughout the ancient world. Varied developments in different countries. Notable distinctives in Babylonia, Egypt, China, Canaan.
2100-1600 BC	Ancient British occult religion. Bronze age culture or earlier which built the stone circles of Stonehenge and Avebury (not the later Celtic Druids); probably as astronomical structures. Bell-Beaker people?
1600 BC	<i>Egyptian Book of the Dead.</i>
1122 BC	<i>I Ching</i> (Chinese book of Changes). Taoist fortune-telling.
400 BC	Druids in England. Celtic religion.
1st - 3rd c. AD	Hermetism. Combination of Greek philosophy with oriental religions.
5 <sup>th</sup> century	Denouncement of witchcraft as evil by Augustine of Hippo and also claiming it has no power, except to deceive.
820	Further condemnation by the Bishop of Lyons. Denied that witches could control the weather, shape-shift or fly.
744	Council of Leptinnes drew up a list of superstitions, prohibiting idolatry to pagan gods.
760	<i>Tibetan Book of the Dead.</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> century	Boniface declares that belief in witchcraft was anti-Christian.
950	<i>The Necromonicon</i> written by Abdul Alhazred.
800-1300	<i>The Kabbalah</i> developed. Originally an oral tradition, fully developed in the late Middle Ages by the 12 <sup>th</sup> century.
13 <sup>th</sup> century	Roger Bacon (1214-1292) English sorcerer, philosopher, monk and alchemist.
1230	Pope Gregory IX assigned the Dominicans to carry out inquisitions to identify witches.
1252	Pope Innocent IV authorised torture of suspected witches.
Late 13th century	The Inquisition dealt with cases of witchcraft involving heresy, and secular courts.
15th century	Mass persecutions began to take place in Europe.
1401	First Act of Parliament directed against witches, 'De haeretico comburendo'. Witches to be burned if they refused to repent.
1487	The publication of <i>Malleus Maleficarum</i> ('Hammer of Witches') describing witches' practices. This changes the Augustinian position and affirms the power of witches to do supernatural public harm, create storms, destroy crops etc.
1527–1608	John Dee: English alchemist, mathematician, geographer and Elizabeth I's astrologer. In later life he absorbed himself in alchemy, acquired notoriety as a sorcerer, and died in poverty.
1531	Agrippa's <i>Three Books of Occult Philosophy</i> .
1563	Queen Elizabeth I passes witchcraft act.
17 <sup>th</sup> century	Thousands of female witches persecuted in Britain by imprisonment, hanging, drowning and burning. Witchfinders appointed.
1643-1645	The largest witch hunt in France. Also the period of witchfinder generals, like Matthew Hopkins, in England.
1604	King James I passes witchcraft act. Jurisdiction changed from ecclesiastical courts to common courts.
1647	Connecticut witch trials.
1682	Temperance Lloyd, a senile woman from Bideford, was the last witch executed in Britain.
1692-1693	Salem witch trials. 150 arrested. 29 convicted of witchcraft. 19 hanged. One man crushed to death. Many accusers later admitted that the charges were made up. The initial cause seems to have been political.
1781	Antoine Court de Gobelin published ' <i>The Book of Thoth</i> ' (Tarot).
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century	Voodoo flourishes.
Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Eliphas Levi (1810-75) pseudonym of Alphonse Louis Constant, French occultist who was largely responsible for the revival of interest in magic in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
1843+	Modern spiritualism starts in the US.
1871	Albert Pike, <i>Morals and Dogma</i> (Freemasonry). Confirms that Freemasonry is Satanism.

1875	Initiation of Theosophy.
Late 19thc.	Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO). Sex magic.
1887	Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn founded. Lucifer worship.
1899	Charles Leland's ' <i>Arcadia: the Gospel of the witches</i> '.
1904	<i>The Book of the Law</i> was allegedly dictated to Crowley.
1921	Margaret Murray's ' <i>The witch cult in western Europe</i> '.
1948	Robert Graves' ' <i>The white goddess</i> '.
1948 onwards	Gardner actively promotes Wicca.
1951	British laws against witches repealed.
1963	Alex Sanders, initiated into Wicca, founds his own coven merging many aspects of ceremonial magic into Wicca. Elected 'King of the Alexandrian Witches' (a new order) in 1965.
1966	Anton Standor LaVey founds the Church of Satan.
1970	Paul Hudson's ' <i>Mastering Witchcraft: a practical guide for witches, warlocks and covens</i> '.
Post 1970	Paganism and witchcraft explodes in Britain. Church deteriorates.

## Prominent historical and mythical witches

### *The witch of Endor*

The Bible describes this woman as a 'necromancer' ('owb, 1 Sam 28:7), one who conjures up the dead. This is usually translated as a medium or one who has a familiar spirit.

This woman supposedly calls up Samuel from under the Earth for King Saul. This was a lie. In fact it was a demon masquerading as Samuel whose soul was actually on high in the blessed part of Hades awaiting Christ.

### *Medea*

In Greek mythology a sorceress, daughter of Aetes king of Colchis, who helped Jason to obtain the Golden Fleece and married him. When Jason deserted her for Creusa, the daughter of King Creon of Corinth, she took revenge by killing Creon, Creusa, and her own children, and fled to Athens.

### *Circe*

The witch mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey*. She was a witch-goddess that ruled an island called Aeaea where Odysseus was stranded. She turned Odysseus' men into pigs and Hermes gave him advice on how to defeat Circe so he protected himself with the mythical herb *moly*. After this she became his lover for a year.

### *Morgan Le Fay (Morgan of the fairies)*

In Arthurian legends the witch adept of Merlin. The enchantress sister of Arthur.

### *Grimhildr*

In Norse mythology, was a sorceress married to King Gyuki. She enchanted Sigurd (Siegfried) to get him to leave Brynhild and marry her daughter in the *Volsunga Saga*.

### *Elymas the sorcerer*

Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withheld them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, 'O full of all deceit and all

fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time'. And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Acts 13:6-11

### *Simon Magus*

In Acts 8 we read of a man called Simon, later nicknamed ‘Simon Magus’, or Simon the magician: ‘there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practised sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great’ (Acts 8:9).

Simon, however, is more impressed with the effect of the Spirit being outpoured on new disciples of Christ plus the miracles vindicating the Gospel and offers money for this gift. Peter berates him for this with sharp words and legend has it that Simon went on to found an occult cult. The term ‘simony’ derives from him.

### *Paracelsus*

Born Theophrastus Phillipus Aureolus Bombastus von Hohenheim [c.1493–1541]; a Swiss physician in the German Renaissance.

He developed a new approach to medicine and philosophy condemning medical teaching that was not based on observation and experience. He introduced chemical remedies to replace traditional herbal ones, and gave alchemy a wider perspective. Paracelsus saw illness as having a specific external cause rather than being caused by an imbalance of the humours in the body, although this progressive view was offset by his overall occultist perspective. He was celebrated as a prophet, diviner and inspired the Rosicrucians.

Not really a witch but his works have inspired many occultists, including Eliphas Levi.

### *John Dee [1527–1608]*

English alchemist, mathematician, and geographer. He helped in the first English translation of Euclid's works, and was Elizabeth I's astrologer. In later life he absorbed himself in alchemy, acquired notoriety as a sorcerer, and died in poverty.

### *Eliphas Levi*

Eliphas Levi Zahed; born Alphonse Louis Constant [1810-1875].

Wrote many books on the occult, magic, alchemy and the Kabbalah. He became a reputed ceremonial magician. Originally a Mason, he left the order of the Great Orient.

### *Catherine Monvoisin*

Excelled at premonitions, love potions, poisons, palm reading etc. She was arrested for witchcraft and burned at the stake in 1680 near Paris.

### *Agnes Sampson*

A Scottish midwife and healer in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was claimed that on Halloween in 1590 she attended a witch's sabbat and summoned a great storm over the North Sea to kill the Queen and another one later to kill the king. She was burned at the stake as the first victim of the North Berwick Witch Trials, which killed 70 people.

### *Mother Shipton*

Ursula Southeil was a deformed lady that looked like the folklore witch image who lived in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century – early 16<sup>th</sup> century in Yorkshire. She lived as an outcast but also possessed the gift of clairvoyancy and predicted many future events, often accurately.

### *Marie Catherine Laveau*

Was known as the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans and was ranked as Supreme Witch. Born in 1801 of Black and Creole parentage. The rich and powerful came to her for healing advice. She was also a necromancer, performed telekinesis and mind control with many followers. She died peacefully in 1881.

### *Agnes Waterhouse*

The most famous witch in England. It is claimed that she murdered people, killed livestock, dealt with Satan, had a cat named Satan and confessed to these accusations. The first witch to be sentenced by a secular court to be hung. She did not repent and said that the Devil had predicted her death. However, at the gallows she prayed for God's forgiveness.

### *The wicked witch of the west*

The fictional villain in the *Wizard of Oz* film, based on the Frank Baum [1856–1919] books. This follows English folklore as the witch is pictured as an old crone with a hooked nose and green skin; black clothes and a witch's hat and she flies on a broomstick. She has animal familiars that do her bidding and is undone by water (a symbol for God's word).

### *Aleister Crowley [1875-1947]*

The most famous modern English witch and Satanist.<sup>2</sup> His parents were Plymouth Brethren; a faith he reacted against. He was a drug user, brash, eccentric, egotistical, cruel, bisexual, and an autocratic person. He had connections to Freemasonry, occult groups (such as the *Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn* and the *Ordo Templi Orientis*) and MI5. Wrote several major works on magic and developed a form of extreme sex-magic amongst his followers. He founded the religion of Thelema with himself as its prophet. His debauchery was so severe in his Thelema commune in Sicily that the Italian government threw him out of the country in 1923. Despite his shameful life, he was a major influence on 20<sup>th</sup> century magic and esotericism; including influencing Gerald Gardner and asking him to continue his work. Therefore Wicca owes a great deal to Crowley. His idea of magic (which he spelled in the archaic form 'magick') was '*the science and art of causing change to occur in conformity with Will*' (hence his law, '*Do what thou wilt*'). Despite his egotistical claims, he did have a certain amount of occult power when used on the weak-minded. Sex was used to focus the mind and will on a specific magical goal, such as making money. He considered consumption of sexual fluids as a Eucharist. This is repeated in the modern elite's rituals, such as Hillary Clinton's friend Marina Abramovic's 'spirit cooking'. A truly obnoxious, debauched satanic person if ever there was one. Rock guitarist Jimmy Page so idolised Crowley that he bought his spooky house in Loch Ness in 1973. It is noteworthy to me that Page's musical abilities deteriorated after this point.

### *Alex Sanders [1926-1988]*

Born Orrell Alexander Carter and used the name Verbius. A Wiccan High Priest and claimed king of the witches. He founded his own coven after 1963 where he merged aspects of ceremonial magic with Wicca founding the *Alexandrian Order of Wicca*. He later founded the *Ordine Della Luna*.

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<sup>2</sup> Though some deny this his writings prove otherwise.

### *Observations*

It is noteworthy that many famous witches have tended to be egotistical, selfish, autocratic, narcissistic types needing the adulation of followers. Many also died in wretched circumstances having lived very poor, or even evil, lives. Perverse fornication and divorces are also a common theme.

### *Resources*

For a detailed timeline and analysis of occult roots see my paper, '*A History of Important Occult Breakthroughs*'.

## **The witchcraft in Freemasonry**

I give a full explanation of this in my paper, '*A Concise Evaluation of Freemasonry: Its Claims and History*'.

The Satanism in Freemasonry is hidden from the junior levels (1-3) but is heavily focused on in the higher levels (up to 33). Baphomet<sup>3</sup> is worshipped as an avatar of Satan, while the complex god Jahbulon<sup>4</sup> is also worshipped as a proxy for Satan.

The Satanism in Freemasonry was openly stated by Albert Pike, a chief Masonic leader in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in his book *Morals and Dogma*. Albert Pike explains that the light in Freemasonry is the Cabala (Jewish occult mysticism);<sup>5</sup> and Lucifer.<sup>6</sup> Manly P Hall claimed that much of Pike's writings were taken from the French magician, Eliphas Levi.<sup>7</sup> Foster Bailey declared that '*Masonry in its true and highest sense is magical work*'.<sup>8</sup> Many Masons were open witches.

Pike extolled the power and virtues of magic and Satanism. In talking about this power he says, '*It was adored in the secret rites of the [witch's] Sabbat or the [Egyptian] Temple, under the hieroglyphic figure of Baphomet or the hermaphroditic goat of Mendes.*'<sup>9</sup> Pike speaks much of '*the great work*', which is a universal term for witchcraft, as well as alchemy and Egyptian magic. He says, '*The Occult science of the Ancient Magi was concealed ... it is found ... in the Rites of the Highest Masonry.*'<sup>10</sup>

The heart of Masonry is communication with demons pretending to be angels of light: '*The Master Mason ... is in communication with the unseen powers that move the destinies of life.*'<sup>11</sup> J F Newton eulogised the Masonic writer Arthur Edward Waite and commended his books. Waite wrote many books on Black Magic and in one gives instructions for conjuring up '*Emperor Lucifer, master and prince of rebellious spirits.*'<sup>12</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Pan, with the legs, horns and ears of a goat.

<sup>4</sup> A composite of Jah, Baal and Osiris.

<sup>5</sup> Pike, *Morals And Dogma*, p741ff.

<sup>6</sup> Pike, *ibid*, p321.

<sup>7</sup> Manly P Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy*, p413-414.

<sup>8</sup> Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry*, p96-98.

<sup>9</sup> Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p734.

<sup>10</sup> Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p639.

<sup>11</sup> Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p57.

<sup>12</sup> Newton, *The Builders*, p59. A E Waite, *The Book of Black Magic*, York Beach, Maine, Samuel Weisner Inc., (1989), p244-248.

There is a concealed interconnectedness amongst the global elite cabal and the root is Satan. This is true of Freemasonry, witchcraft, the Kabbalah, Luciferianism, Talmudism, New Ageism, Theosophy, Hermetism, Alchemy, and so on.

## Wicca

We need to look at Wicca because it is the most prominent form of modern British witchcraft.

Prior to Gerald Gardner, witchcraft in Britain was the province of rural, secret groups trying to maintain old folklore traditions. This was best exemplified by Margaret Murray who wrote '*The witch cult in Western Europe*' in 1921 and *The god of witches* (1933) as well as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article on witchcraft (1922). Murray was one influence on Gardner.

### **Gerald Gardner [1884-1964]**

Gardner was a colourful character who worked as an archaeologist in Southeast Asia. He learned the secrets of the magical knife in Malaysia, became a Mason in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and a nudist. On return to England in 1939 he became an occultist and a member of the Rosicrucians.

He met Dorothy Clutterbuck who initiated him into witchcraft. Under the penname 'Scire' he published *Magic's Aid* in 1949 and *Witchcraft Today* in 1954. He was concerned that witchcraft was dying out and he wanted to conserve occult knowledge. He did not discover a pre-existing witchcraft group.

Gardner collated the knowledge of Asian occultism with a selection of western texts and created a new religion based on the worship of the Mother Goddess. Chief influences on Gardner were: Murray, Clutterbuck, Crowley, Theosophy, Freemasonry, sex magic, blended together. The worship of a Mother Goddess became the centre of Wicca and also enticed Feminists and environmentalists (Gaia<sup>13</sup> worshippers).

### *Key followers*

Prominent disciples include: Alex Sanders, Sybil Leek, Raymond and Rosemary Buckland, Starhawk, Margot Adler, Jim Alan, Jessie Wicker Bell, Gavin and Yvonne Frost, Doreen Valiente, Zsuzann Budapest, Donna Cole, Ed Fitch, Janet and Stewart Farrar.

### *Principles*

Despite a wide variety of doctrines in the various modern witchcraft groups, the following basic principles may be noted:

- The great Mother Goddess, the moon goddess. Known as Astarte, Artemis, Aphrodite, Hecate, Diana, Kore etc. The associated ceremony is called 'Drawing down the moon'.
- The consort god Pan, the horned god, the sun god. Also known as Apollo, Baphomet,<sup>14</sup> Cernunnos,<sup>15</sup> Dionysius, Lucifer, Osiris, Thor. Each year Pan dies and is brought back to life in a ceremony called 'Drawing down the sun'.

<sup>13</sup> In Greek mythology, the Earth, personified as a goddess, daughter of Chaos (the goddess representing primeval emptiness). She was the mother and wife of Uranus (Heaven); their offspring included the Titans and the Cyclopes.

<sup>14</sup> The god of Freemasonry.

<sup>15</sup> In Gallo-Roman culture Cernunnos was a deity depicted with antlers, seated cross-legged and associated with stags, horned snakes, dogs, bulls and rats. Some believe him to be a Celtic god, because he has antlers. Wiccans wrongly claim him as their goat-horned god; an example of a proto-historical horned-god pattern.

The details of ceremonies vary in different covens.

This is typical of the ancient idolatry going back to Nimrod's Babylon. The various names are drawn from the different national pantheons in history.

These deity associations are illogical and have no basis in historical evidence. For example: Apollo doesn't have horns, nor do Thor, Dionysius and Osiris. Cernunnos has the wrong horns. Thor is not a sun-god, neither is Dionysius, Cernunnos or Osiris. Linking them together is completely arbitrary. In Greek mythology, Pan was the god of flocks, herds, woods, and fields, who personified lust as he chased nymphs. He was not a sun-god. Claiming that they are all versions of the same pattern god is facile and mere human invention; but such is typical in Wicca.

### *Calendar*

- Four seasonal holidays called 'sabbats' on the solstices and equinoxes.
- Four sabbats tied in with farming and historical celebrations: Candlemass ('Imbolg', 2 Feb), Beltane<sup>16</sup> (30 April), Lammas ('Lugnasad', 31 July), Halloween ('Samhain', 31 Oct).
- Most covens have a weekly meeting.
- Most also meet on the full and new moon. The full moon sabbat is called an 'esbat' ('witches sabbat'). In Satanism esbats are conducted weekly.

The Greater Sabbats: Imbolg, Beltane, Lugnasad, Samhain. The others are lesser sabbats.

Sabbats are most desirably conducted in the nude (skyclad) and in the open air to be close to nature. In cold, wet Britain this is often ignored.

### *Practices*

Clairvoyance, divination, astral projection,<sup>17</sup> spells, and so on.

Healing is considered as 'High Magic' when spells are used. However, many witches, believing that healing is a natural process of mother Earth, utilise specialised knowledge of herbs.

Initiation undergoes several degrees. To be in a coven one has to pass the first degree of initiation. Only witches can initiate other witches yet there is the belief that some people are witches from birth due to reincarnation.

The second degree is enacted with great caution and careful training and results in the ability to initiate others.

The highest level is the third degree, which results in being a high priest / priestess able to set up and run a new coven. This person has totalitarian authority over the coven members. This degree means practising the 'great rite'. This ritual involves simulated or actual sex. There are variations of this. Some merely do this symbolically with the athame representing the male and the cup representing the female.

This idea is modern beginning with Margaret Murray but Gardner ran with it. In fact, Cernunnos has more in common with Herne the Hunter of English folklore; a ghost associated with Windsor Forest.

<sup>16</sup> An ancient Celtic festival celebrated on May Day.

<sup>17</sup> Supposedly the soul leaving the physical body and travelling through space.

### *Ethics*

The moral code is known as ‘the Wiccan Rede’:<sup>18</sup> ‘*That ye harm none, do what you will*’. However, many witches do active harm through casting spells against enemies, invoking curses and killing children. This has included witches claiming to be Wiccans. Castigating and cursing other witches not of their fold and propagating a different creed is doing evil, but it has been quite common.

White witches and Wiccans claim to believe that being a witch means to effect harmony with the world and nature. They also believe that the effects of magic are returned threefold upon the person working it, which limits their activities. Yet this has not stopped many doing evil things.

### *Jungian philosophy*

Carl Jung taught a ‘*collective consciousness*’. Individuals draw on deep memories from the past. This collection of archetype memories holds experiences common to every race. Jung veered from philosophy into occultism as he aged.

Some modern witches believe that their gods and goddesses are simply Jungian archetypes symbolising the potential capabilities of every person. Magic is thus able to develop the inner planes of the mind, the collective consciousness.

### *Monism*

More common is that the gods and goddesses are personifications of the monistic, genderless, universal, eternal life force – the divine primal energy. Similar to Hinduism.

### *Polytheism*

The belief in various gods and goddesses is polytheistic, whether symbolic or (claimed) real.

### *Relativism*

Contradictory truths are held simultaneously. There is no singular expression of truth. There is no single conceptual model. Reality is experienced in many different ways.

## **Why do people get attracted to witchcraft?**

Since witchcraft originates in Satan, like all other lies and deceptions, the root of the attraction is a deceit that generates the opposite of godliness and serves selfishness. Now many witches claiming to be good would deny this but if you examine their motives deeply, it always proves to be true.

Black magic and Crowley-based magic is obviously centred in selfishness because their laws openly say so: ‘*do what thou wilt*’. But ‘white witches’ are also based on selfishness. The root of witchcraft is the desire to change reality; to exercise occult power. The reality is the divine law of working to earn your bread. All things in life are the product of hard work; nothing is achieved without hard work.

Now sinful men wish to avoid hard work and gain what they want by short-circuiting the work part. Some do this by gambling to gain money they did not work for. Some do this by stealing money and possessions they do not own. Some do this by fraud or forgery. Others seek to gain power over people and use various means to achieve this. The desire to control

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<sup>18</sup> Advice or counsel given by one person to another.

others is clearly satanic. Witchcraft is the desire to control people and situations and to immediately get something (power, healing, strength, fame) they did not earn.

Now ‘white witches’ claim to practise witchcraft in order to help others. In reality they are seeking to do this without work and effort. They want to short-circuit the process of normality and reality. They want to change nature by means of a spell (a mere series of words) or by gaining demonic assistance after invoking them (by a series of words or rituals). They want to control things that are not theirs without work. This is essentially a selfish desire.

There are many deceptions in this process; such as: claiming that it is the action of God or claiming that it is bridling a natural universal process. The deception is created by Satan in order to delude people into following his strategy.

The main reason for entering witchcraft is a lust for supernatural power. This goes beyond selfishness and involves a desire to control people and situations by means of occult methods. The lust for power involves all forms of the occult: 1) the lust to control people and situations by magic through casting spells and utilising demons. 2) The lust to know the future and use it to your advantage through divination. 3) The lust to have knowledge based on communication with demonic forces. All of these are based on satanic deception.

## **Reasons why witchcraft is wrong**

### **It usurps God’s power**

The foundational desire of witchcraft to change reality or nature by the power of will is seeking to usurp the power and prerogative of God. Essentially witchcraft is the original sin of seeking to be like God (Gen 3:5).<sup>19</sup> This is a very great sin incurring condemnation.

### **It is based on lies**

Witchcraft, whether in a benign or wicked form, is based on satanic principles. These are principles derived from the history of occultism that began with Nimrod’s Babylonish idolatry. The Bible explains that the Devil only tells lies and is the father of lies,

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. Jn 8:44

All the basic principles of witchcraft are lies and they lead people into deeper and deeper deception. For example:

- Spiritualism is communication with the dead. No, the dead cannot speak to the living. It is demons masquerading as dead people to lead people astray.
- Divination can foretell the future. No it can’t. Sometimes there is an appearance of prescience given by demons that work in a hierarchical team worldwide and can telepathically communicate an event from afar before local people have knowledge of it.
- Witches can have power over nature. No they don’t; only God has power over nature. To strengthen their delusion, God may sometimes allow occultists to appear to have certain powers (compare Pharaoh’s magicians Exod 7:9-12). Other powers are really the

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<sup>19</sup> ‘For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.’ Cf. Rm 1:24-25, ‘Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, [that you will be like God] and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.’

effect of mesmerism on other people. In other cases fear allows witches to have power over weak-minded people.

- There is no death. Many witches have proclaimed this and made it a doctrine.
- Sickness is a delusion of the mind. Many witches and occultists affirmed this, only to die after prolonged sickness (e.g. Mary Baker Eddy).<sup>20</sup>
- Witchcraft can do good things. No it cannot. Since it is based essentially upon principles derived from Satan it can only do bad things. However, Satan uses deception and can empower people to do seemingly good things, but this is only apparent; the root is always evil.
- Witchcraft is revelation of the original light. No, this is just a satanic delusion. ‘Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.’ (2 Cor 11:14-15)

Since demons are involved in all aspects of witchcraft, and since demons always lie because they are fallen angels following the father of lies, any information gained from a demon, such as a dictated ritual, will be a lie. The foundations of all witchcraft are lies.

### **It is founded upon Satan**

All Black Magic and White Magic derive from Satan; they are merely two aspects of using occultism to deceive people into becoming satanic slaves.

I have explained that the root of witchcraft stems from the idolatry and occultism that began in Babylon under Nimrod in opposition to God. Witchcraft is devilish; fact.

No matter how much white witches claim otherwise, the practise of their religion is Satanism, albeit a less severe form than outright devil worship.

Many White witches claim to be followers of Wicca. Wicca’s roots lie in the influence that Aleister Crowley had on Gerald Gardner who appointed Gardner to continue his work. Crowley was an especially evil and debauched magician whose ceremonial sex magic was utterly satanic and wicked (he called himself ‘the beast 666’). Wicca began with Crowley working through Gardner.

### **It seeks to exercise power over others**

This usually involves spells (incantations, hexes) or curses. Witchcraft potions and spells were often used to make someone love someone else or to gain vengeance by harming someone. This is really an extreme form of bullying.

### **It relies on sources that are human, untrustworthy compositions**

All the classic works on witchcraft are only the work of very dubious men, or sometimes teams of men. They have no divine authenticity and don’t even claim any. In contrast the Bible claims to be the word of God and proves it by many means.<sup>21</sup>

Sometimes works are claimed to be very ancient but are really forgeries or imaginations made much more recently, such as *The Necromonicon* which was written by Abdul Alhazred in 950.

Some examples include:

<sup>20</sup> The founder of Christian Science which was a syncretism of witchcraft with Christianity.

<sup>21</sup> See my paper, ‘Why the Bible is trustworthy’.

- 1531: Agrippa's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy* published in Paris.
- 16<sup>th</sup> c.: John Dee wrote *Calls of Enoch*.
- 1564: Dee wrote the *Moria Hieroglyphica* (Hermetism).
- 1618: Johan Baptista Grosschedel published *The Magical Calendar*.
- 1781: Antoine Court de Gobelin published 'The Book of Thoth' (Tarot).
- 1855: Eliphas Levi published *Transcendental Magic*.
- 1877: *Isis Unveiled*, HP Blavatsky.
- 1890: First volume of *The Golden Bough* by James Frazer was published.
- 1898: Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers published *The book of the Sacred Magic of Abra-Melin the Mage*.
- 1899: CG Leland published *Aradia, the Gospel of the Witches*.
- 1904: *The Book of the Law* was dictated to Crowley.
- 1929: *Magick in Theory and Practice*. Aleister Crowley (1875-1947).
- 1949-61: *Gardnerian Book of Shadows*.

Notice how most of the important books on witchcraft were written in the last 200 years. A full list of all occult books shows the same thing; very few have any ancient provenance. Only things like the *I-Ching*<sup>22</sup> or the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*<sup>23</sup> are old and these are not really substantial works on witchcraft. One is mostly symbols for interpreting fortunes and the other is rules and rituals to prepare for death.

Yet when you talk to witches they strongly affirm that their doctrines and practices are extremely ancient. When you probe about specific items you find that the ritual was prescribed less than 150 years ago. For example

- Wicca started in the 1950s.
- The Alexandrian rite started in the 1960s.
- Crowley started Thelema in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Ordo Templi Orientis started in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Church of Satan was formed in 1966.
- The Theosophical Society was founded in New York by Helena Blavatsky in 1875.
- The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was founded in 1887.

Usually a new rite or order cobbled together a bunch of arbitrary doctrines from a variety of sources and moulded them into new rituals. The choice was at the whim of the founder, such as Alexander Sanders, Gerald Gardner or Aleister Crowley. Often one witch would attack another witch denouncing his/her system as fraudulent; such as former colleagues that attacked Sanders when he started Alexandrian Wicca.

The whole thing is a fraud.

### **It is idolatry**

Witchcraft is idolatry; it denies the true God of the Bible and replaces him with a multitude of objects according to the type of witchcraft involved. Black magic witches worship Satan – ‘the left-hand path’. Spiritualists submit to the power of demons instead of God. Even ‘white witches’ ignore God and his laws but submit to laws inspired by Satan (though they may not admit this).

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<sup>22</sup> An ancient Chinese manual of divination based on eight symbolic trigrams and sixty-four hexagrams, interpreted in terms of the principles of yin and yang. It was included as one of the ‘five classics’ of Confucianism. English name Book of Changes.

<sup>23</sup> A collection of ancient Egyptian religious and magical texts, selections from which were often written on or placed in tombs.

### **It generates selfishness**

This is best summarised by the law written by diabolist Aleister Crowley, chief magician (wizard) of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and hailed witch.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

*Book of the Law* (1909) l. 40.

Any religion that makes people more selfish is not something that is honourable.

### **It often leads to personal mental damage and even suicide**

I have personally met people that were damaged by witchcraft and over time became more and more deranged. One very nice girl, a numerologist, ended up in a mental home. Others committed suicide.

History is filled with examples of people that were damaged by witchcraft. Some came to their senses, repented and got well; others continued and became lunatics or dead.

Even the so-called powerful heroes of witchcraft, such as the magician Aleister Crowley, ended up in a debauched, profligate persecuted state.

### **Where are the good works?**

Libraries of books could be written (and have been) about the benefits brought to the world by Christianity. A very short list would include:

- The first public schools in Britain.
- The first orphanages.
- The first hospitals.
- Children's work reforms.
- The abolition of slavery.
- Prison reforms.
- The advancement of multiple scientists: e.g. the law of gravity (Newton), the discovery of electricity (Faraday).
- Western democracy.
- The Protestant work ethic.
- The golden rule.
- Food banks.
- Soup kitchens.
- First aid groups.
- Youth training groups (e.g. Boy Scouts, Boy's Brigade).
- Social housing (e.g. YMCA).
- Free counselling.

Where are the social benefits of witchcraft? There are none. Where are the witches setting up local food banks? Where are witches saving children from abuse (in fact, witches are abusing and killing children). Where have witches set up hospitals?

Jesus said that works show what the person is really like. The lack of good works from witches proves that they are not a social good. The reason is that witchcraft focuses people on selfishness.

### **There are masses of bad works**

Where does one begin? Witchcraft has generated evil since ancient times. If we ignore lesser crimes, such as lies, deceit, fraud and so on, and merely consider serious crimes, perhaps the worst is child ritual murder.

Ritualised killing and torture of children is a common theme in witchcraft. The Bible explicitly states that burning children alive was a common practice of idolatrous occult religions, such as Molech and Baal worship. This included placing an infant on the protruding hand of a brass statue of a bull-headed man to be roasted slowly.

You shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech.  
Lev 18:21

You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Deut 12:31

And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practised witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. 2 Kg 17:17

Also he made his son pass through the fire, practised soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. 2 Kg 21:6

And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart. Jer 7:31

And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. Jer 32:35

For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them. Ezek 23:37

This crime was one of the reasons that God judged Israel and sent both Israel and Judah into exile.

Throughout history cases of ritual child murder have surfaced over and over again. Some of these cases are recorded in legal testimony in courts of law. Today it has a social care designation, Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) and examples continue to surface. I recently heard of one case in America where a young boy was discovered crucified, having been flayed alive first.

Over a million children disappear every year and no one seems to care. Although the authorities try to cover this up there is no doubt that ritual child sacrifice is still going on today.

Of the reasons why this is done we can say that firstly, it is to confront God who has stated that he loves children and that they have a place in the kingdom. Satanists of all sorts seek to reverse godly principles. But the second reason is that these witches believe that the blood of children, especially when first terrified and then murdered, when drunk, increases health and lifespan. Supposedly this blood is full of adrenochrome which is, allegedly, a powerful adrenaline type substance.

However, witchcraft usually brings about more mundane evils.

This is a more typical case. I will give an example of an ordinary local housewife who started visiting a witchcraft shop. She was love-bombed (made friends with and flattered). After some form of ritual she was told that she was the messiah that would bring peace to the world. She left her job and worked at the shop and became immersed in occult doctrine. She took to using crystals and saying things that deeply disturbed her friends and family. In fact, she appeared to go insane. After a few months she decided to leave her husband and desert her children and totally focus on the shop / coven run by women. The family was distraught and the husband never quite recovered. Eventually the shop closed down and I heard nothing more about her. A woman becomes a witch and destroys the lives of her husband, children and family, as well as her own. The Devil enjoys seeing this effect.

Without delving into the many suicides and lives that fall apart, witchcraft is riddled with bad fruit. The testimony of witchcraft is evil. The fact that some ‘white witches’ appear to be decent people is beside the fact. In general, witchcraft is evil and tends to evil.

## **Christianity and witchcraft**

The genuine Christian church does not persecute anyone, nor can it ever commit violence against other people. Witchcraft should be condemned as a sin, just like many other sins, as the Bible explains. Therefore Christians can have no part in witchcraft. But the church does not single out witches for persecution.

In the past many persecutions were done in the name of Christianity by people that were not Christians. Some did it for money, others for power, others because they were misogynists. However, some theologians, such as Cotton Mather,<sup>24</sup> supported the investigation and judicial punishment of witches for the greater good because that was the secular law. They merely followed the law of that time which was fuelled by superstition and fear.

The position of the writer is that ordinary witches should be treated like anyone else and should be spoken to, to seek their repentance. How can they repent if no one talks to them? They should not be castigated or vilified for their beliefs any more than any other sinner. It may be that a witch is really seeking God and was side-tracked. Before I became a Christian I was involved in the occult. If Christians did not befriend me and witness to me I would not be a Christian now. However, an openly Satanic Devil-worshipping witch should be criticised, as the apostles did (Acts 8:21-23, 13:10-11). The open Satanism cannot be ignored.

## **Conclusion**

Witchcraft is, at root, a form of deception created by Satan to enslave people to his will. As such it is evil and tends to evil. It often leads to depression and death in radical followers.

The roots of witchcraft go back to Nimrod’s Babylon (Babel) where godliness was perverted into idolatry. A false pantheon was developed which became a pattern for all nations and cults; plus, the principles of magic and occultism in general were drawn up.

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<sup>24</sup> American Puritan and influential New England Congregational minister [1662–1728].

Babylon continued as an occult centre for centuries, which is why the *Babylonian Talmud* of modern Jews is so filled with occultism. According to Hislop,<sup>25</sup> Babylon also inspired the trappings of Roman Catholicism.

Witchcraft, a form of occultism, is not the oldest religion. Christianity dates right back to the creation and Adam was the first Christian who looked forward to God's future deliverer promised by God (Gen 3:15) – even though he did not know Christ's name.

Modern British witchcraft, which is mostly in the form of Wicca, is a very recent religion that dates back to the early 1950s. It is a cobbled together bunch of ideas from various sources and artificially collated by Gerald Gardner.

Historical witchcraft is also not the ancient religion of Britain. The earliest Britons were ancient pagan idolaters from Troy that usually did not favour witchcraft.<sup>26</sup> Any pre-existing inhabitants are posited but without evidence. The Celts who migrated peacefully later were originally animists and nature worshippers and cannot be said with certainty to indulge in witchcraft.<sup>27</sup> When Christianity appeared, they became fervent Christians and many became missionaries. By the time Britain was unified as a Saxon set of kingdoms, it was largely Christian. Even the Danes that occupied the north later on became Christians. Saying that witchcraft is the original religion of England (as commonly claimed) is false.

Witchcraft has always been a marginal minority of adherents. In nearly every century of recorded history it has been condemned and individuals, sadly, persecuted. It has never been mainstream and was never a unified code of beliefs and practices. The various disciplines of divination, magic and spiritualism are tapped into by various individuals and groups to create some form of essential code. But the different groups vary significantly from one another. Even Wicca itself quickly fragmented into new developments.

There is no prime source document, no single source sacred text, no unified set of principles, no single personality summing up the teaching. There is not even an agreement about what God is or even which foundational disciplines constitute witchcraft.<sup>28</sup> Consequently, witchcraft is a hotchpotch of teachings and practices that vary from coven to coven, group to group and nation to nation. Native American witch-doctors are nothing like Wiccan witches who are nothing like Mongolian shamans who are nothing like Santeria witch-doctors who are nothing like Baal witches. The whole thing is a mess and anyone giving this mess credibility is irrational.

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<sup>25</sup> Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*.

<sup>26</sup> Classical culture did use auguries, prophets and oracles (such as at Delphi) but witchcraft was normally proscribed. In Greek mythology, Medea is pictured as an evil woman that even kills her own children to cast spells.

<sup>27</sup> It is difficult to associate Druids with witches. They were seen more as teachers, advisors to chiefs, priests, and guardians of tradition. They did revere trees however and no doubt had pagan idolatries.

<sup>28</sup> Out of astrology, Tarot cards, casting spells, magic in general, divination in general, numerology, healing, spiritualism, necromancy, curses, clairvoyancy, alchemy, Hermetism, Theosophy etc.