

## BOOKS

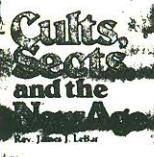
### CULTS, SECTS AND THE NEW AGE

Introductory comments by Cardinal John J. O'Connor and Cardinal John J. Krol.

Rev. James J. LeBar

For those seeking a perspective on the cult issue, this book should definitely be read and is especially useful for Catholics. The book provides not only useful facts about cultic movements; it also gives excellent suggestions for working with cult victims. LeBar offers a penetrating analysis of how the Catholic Church needs to address the problems cults pose, and includes important documents previously issued by Catholic Church leaders. The author also presents ideas for teachers on cult education.

288 pages--Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. paper \$7.95



Introduction by Cardinal John J. O'Connor and Cardinal John J. Krol

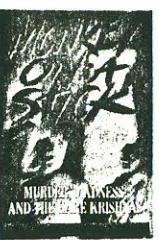


### THE FAITH HEALERS

Forward by Carl Sagan  
James Randi

Magician James Randi's behind the scenes indictment of faith-healing fakery reads like a Jack Anderson/Gary Trudeau collaboration in investigative journalism. The author uses his special investigative skills to examine the disturbing performances by prominent evangelists across the nation. Since most cult leaders either publicly or privately claim that they manifest some type of special knowledge or power, this is a vital book for those concerned with destructive groups. Randi shows the methods that are used to commit and convince the faithful.

318 pages--Prometheus Books--Cloth \$18.95



### MONKEY ON A STICK

Murder, Madness, and the Hare Krishnas  
John Hubner and Lindsey Gruson

A horrifying account of life among the Hare Krishnas, this is a suspenseful tale corroborated by exhaustive research. "Monkey on a Stick" is a spine-chilling look at the institutionalization of evil in the name of God, and traces the history of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, from its inception in the 60's to its current state of chaotic disarray.

414 pages--Harcourt Brace Jovanovich--Cloth \$19.95

### CHANNELING INTO THE NEW AGE

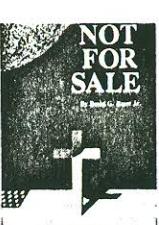
The "Teachings" of Shirley MacLaine and other such gurus

Henry Gordon

This humorous and informative book is an analysis of what "New Age" means, its derivations and content, the people involved in the movement, the forces that motivate and prolong it--and the dangers it presents to the unwary. Gordon challenges New Age adherents to prove the validity of such practices as crystal healing, acupuncture, astrology, hypnosis, astral projection, and many more. This is a practical and easily read text, valuable for explaining New Age "mysteries" in rational terms and perhaps as a gift for someone entranced with any aspect of the New Age. 198 pages--Prometheus Books--paper \$11.95



Foreword by Isaac Asimov



### NOT FOR SALE

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon and One American's Freedom

David G. Racer, Jr.

A dramatic account of the author's walk with the American Freedom Coalition (AFC), this book delves beneath the AFC's surface agenda of decency, morality, and anti-Communism, to show how Moon's desire for total political control of American democracy is exerted. Racer chronicles the involvement of prominent political figures in the organization's early leadership, including civil rights leader Rev. Ralph Abernathy, former Congressmen Bob Wilson and Richard Ichord, and prominent conservative Richard Viguerie. The book to read for anyone concerned about safeguarding democracy against fascist control.

"A truly extraordinary document--certainly the most revealing I have ever read about the ways in which the Moonies ensnare and hold the most vulnerable of all--men and women of ideals." James R. Whelan, former editor, "The Washington Times"

79 pages--Tiny Press--Paper \$5.95



### THE DEVIL'S WEB

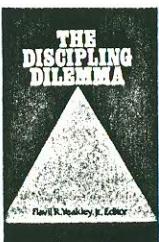
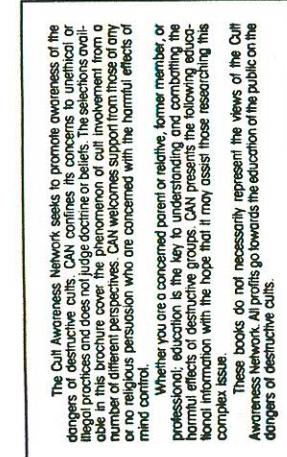
Who is Stalking Your Children for Satan?  
Pat Pulling

Pat Pulling lived every parent's worst nightmare. In 1982 her gifted son died by his own hand after becoming involved in the fantasy role playing game "Dungeons and Dragons". This tragedy started the author on a seven year path of investigation into the violent Satanic subculture. She explores the influences of violent entertainment, including heavy metal music, fantasy role playing games, television, and movies. A book especially for parents, school officials, and anyone concerned with this menace. Useful appendices for resource aids

206 pages--Huntington House, Inc.--Paper \$9.00

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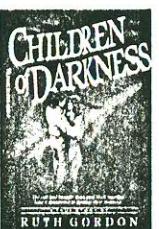


### THE DISCIPLINING DILEMMA

Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr., Editor  
H.W. Norton, D. E. Vinzant, G. Vinzant

This is a serious, well documented study which analyzes the disciplining movement in general and the Boston Church of Christ in particular. In the course of their investigation of the Boston Church of Christ, the authors were given the unusual opportunity to administer personality tests to 835 Boston Church of Christ members. The results were telling and startling. Although the book covers the history, tactics, and psychology of disciplining from the standpoint of the mainstream church of Christ (non-disciplining congregations), its information is valuable for anyone concerned with disciplining and shepherding. An outstanding inside view of a rapidly growing cult.

206 pages--Gospel Advocate Co.--cloth \$9.95



### CHILDREN OF DARKNESS

Ruth Gordon

A true story of a woman's search for love, and how she joined and ultimately escaped from The Children of God, this account gives the reader a personal view of a young born again Christian's odyssey through the nightmare of involvement with the Children of God cult. It is especially readable for students.

312 pages--Living Books--paper \$4.95

### SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Sara Diamond

A penetrating study of the interwoven relationship between cults and the Christian Right in America, this book gives a detailed history of this relationship and why it is of concern. Special emphasis is paid to the shepherding movement, and links with the Unification Church are documented. An additional plus is the excellent index listing both individuals and organizations discussed in the text.

292 pages--South End Press--\$12.00



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## NEWSLETTER

CAN's monthly newsletter reports current developments in the U.S. and abroad concerning cults. Details on important court cases, criminal activities of cults, feature articles, book reviews, conferences, and other news often not available anywhere else are in every issue. A must for anyone who needs current information on destructive groups.

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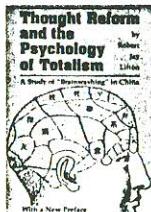
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 General Packet on Mind Control

## BOOKS

### THOUGHT REFORM AND PSYCHOLOGY OF TOTALISM

A Study of "Brainwashing" in China by Robert Jay Lifton, M.D.



A classic study on thought reform, this book offers an analysis of the experiences of fifteen Chinese citizens and twenty-five Westerners who underwent "brainwashing" by the Communist Chinese government. First published in 1981 and out of print until recently, Lifton's work is considered to be central to the literature on cults and totalism in general.

"Now, after twenty-eight years, my own sense of what might be the most dangerous direction of the twentieth-century mind—the quest for absolute or "totalistic" belief systems." —Robert Jay Lifton in new preface 510 pages—Univ. of N Carolina Press—Paper \$14.95

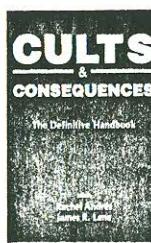


### COMBATING CULT MIND CONTROL

by Steven Hassan.

As a former member of a destructive cult, Hassan provides an inside view of cult life—its seductions, its abuses, and the deep psychological disturbances and personality changes that it can cause. Hassan's own cult experience coupled with his knowledge as a mental health professional who has counseled individuals victimized by cults has enabled him to write an excellent book that offers sound, practical advice for combating the influence of mind control. This book is especially helpful to families and cult victims.

...A major contribution...For the first time, a skilled and ethical ex-counselor has spelled out the details of the complicated yet understandable process of helping free a human being from the bondage of mental manipulation...Steve Hassan has written a "how to do something about it" book." Margaret Singer, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley. 226 pages—Park Street Press—Cloth \$16.95



### CULTS & CONSEQUENCES

The Definitive Handbook Edited by Rachel Andres & James R. Lane  
 Nearly 40 authors have contributed to this outstanding guide for anyone concerned with a cult problem. The editors have tapped a wide variety of sources, including Norman Cousins, Rabbi Stephen Robbins, Drs. Margaret Singer and Louis J. West, authors Jim Siegelman and Fle Conway, former Unification Church members Chris Carlson and Doug Lenz, one of the founders of the Cult Awareness Network, Henrietta Chapman, and attorney and anthropologist Randy F. Kondel. The editors present an impressive array of perspectives on every aspect of cult involvement. The problem is examined from such a wide variety of vantage points that the reader cannot help but come away with a better understanding of cults.

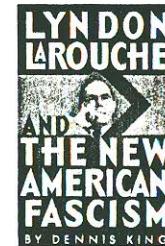
"A comprehensive and potent presentation of one of the most tragic phenomena of the 20th Century. Anyone who has been touched by cults MUST read this book cover-to-cover." Jackie Speier—California State Assemblywoman, former aide to the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan, wounded in Jonestown, Guyana 280 pages—Jewish Federation Council—paper \$14.95



**CULTS (What Parents Should Know)**  
 Joan Carol Ross, Ed.M & Michael D. Langone, Ph.D.

A detailed study on virtually every aspect of cult involvement. This is a practical guide to help parents with children in destructive groups. The authors paint a clear and concise picture of the problem facing many confused and anxious parents, and provide information and strategies so that parents can effectively respond to their situations.

133 pages—Carol Publishing Group—paper \$5.95



**LYNDON LA ROUCHE AND THE NEW AMERICAN FASCISM**  
 Dennis King

Dennis King combines careful research with a well-developed capacity for original insight in exploring Lyndon LaRouche and his movement. The book documents LaRouche's underated political influence and power. A chapter on dirty tricks reveals how this cult infiltrates those groups that speak against it. This is an important book for anyone concerned with cults in politics.

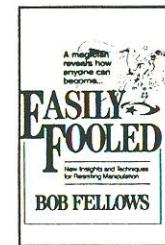
"America is too violent and diverse...to avoid forever a major internal challenge from some sort of totalitarian demagoguery. When the test comes, the story of Lyndon LaRouche may provide the key to effective and timely response." Dennis King 416 pages—Doubleday—cloth \$19.95



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 Ben崔顿 & L. Ron Hubbard

In 1950 L. Ron Hubbard wrote "Dianetics," a book which has frequently been on the New York best seller list and inspired the development of Scientology, a lucrative "mental health religion."

This book exposes the corruption and mind-control aspects of Scientology and is written with the pace and feel of a novel, fact stranger than fiction, shocking biography of the man and his movement. 402 pages—Lyle Stuart, Inc.—\$10.00



**EASILY FOOLED**  
 Bob Fellows

An outstanding presentation on how anyone can be manipulated into a variety of behaviors: cult involvement, drug or alcohol use, submission to advertising and sales techniques, etc. Fellows, a professional magician, mentalist, and educator, reveals many of the principles used by cult leaders to convince their followers that they possess special powers. The book suggests practical methods for recognizing and combating manipulation and is full of insights into everyday human behavior. For anyone engaged in public speaking on cults, Easily Fooled offers audience participation exercises to enhance presentation. A workbook that should be read by every parent, teacher and student in America. 36 pages—Mindmatters—paper \$5.95

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# **UNDERSTANDING CULTS AND NEW RELIGIONS**

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*Irving Hexham  
and  
Karla Poewe*

BP  
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H49  
1986

WILLIAM B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING COMPANY  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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To  
*EDITH BELL*

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# **SATAN**

## **IS ALIVE AND WELL ON PLANET EARTH**

by **HAL LINDSEY**  
with C.C. Carlson

*1972*  
 **ZONDERVAN**  
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*Printed in the United States of America*

*In memory of Kent Carlson, the son of my dear friends, Carole and Ward Carlson. Kent, eighteen, was killed in a plane crash on the day this book was being completed. His life was a tribute to a godly home where he was taught the love of Christ, his fellow-man, and his country. Earth is poorer, but heaven is richer because of the entrance of this wonderful young man.*

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Introduction

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A few years ago I came face to face with a complete reversal in the academic community. An unusual change came over many who had denied any belief in the power of a supernatural God. The indifferent, the scoffers, the proud agnostics in the Age of Rationalism, began to turn to another form of the supernatural. They became involved with psychic research, parapsychology, ESP, mystic philosophies, and Eastern religions. Recently there has been an upsurge in all forms of the occult!

Witchcraft and Satan worship spread throughout campuses and cities. In America, a so-called civilized country, people are involved in weird rites and rituals.

This book is an attempt to define a personal enemy who rules our world system. Whether we know it or not, he also influences every life to some degree. Until recent years his very existence has been doubted. Our churches

## ONE

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### What's Happening?

*"Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen, both when we wake, and when we sleep."*

JOHN MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, A.D. 1667

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What a change! I had shelved my usual life style of teaching among the youth culture of California for a few quiet days with my wife, Jan, and a group of professional people at a conference in Indiana. No pressures, an easy pace, a chance to recharge the batteries.

If I had known what was going to happen in that reserved atmosphere, I probably would have belted back to the refuge of the mad West.

We had two days of lectures which were calm enough. No past midnight rap sessions, no crisis calls at 2:00 A.M., no emergencies that couldn't wait while we ate dinner. We had unwound and were feeling great.

The last day we decided to have breakfast with some women who had come to the conference together. One of them had attracted our attention because every day she wore an unusual plaid skirt. All of the women were high fashion, but this one was a striking individualist.

The comments at the breakfast table drifted to prophecy, and the Scottish kilt gal dropped a bomb in the

conversation when she said, "I've always been able to look into the future and foresee what is going to happen."

I gulped my coffee and snapped to attention. I began to question her.

"This isn't something new. . . . I've had a gift of psychic power all my life—Inherited it from my mother and grandmother, I guess."

To this day I have a difficult time describing the change in the atmosphere. I looked at her more closely and realized that she was a woman with deep problems.

After we had discussed some of the results of this psychic ability, one of her friends said, "I know she has something unusual. She's told me things about my life she couldn't possibly have known by natural means."

The psychic woman added, without any attempt to boast, "I've always believed this power is from God."

Before I had really thought about it, I blurted out, "This is not of God. And if you don't reject this power, it will destroy you."

Everyone at the table was startled. I almost choked, but as soon as I had said it, I knew it was right. There had been a growing sense of uneasiness (that's an understatement—it was a sensation of the presence of evil) from the time the woman had mentioned her psychic ability.

Then I noticed she was wearing an unusual ring. I recognized the head of the ram with a woman's breasts, the symbol usually worn by Satan worshipers.

The group broke up quickly—whether out of embarrassment at my rudeness or as an excuse to go to the morning seminars, I don't know.

Our friend in the plaid skirt remained, however, obviously willing to hear me out. As a conversation opener, I asked her about the ring, and she said that she had been attracted to artifacts like this since childhood and possessed hundreds of dollars' worth of these things. She didn't seem to be aware of their Satanic significance.

It was a bright morning, yet I could feel an uncanny oppression around us. We talked about her life, and she began to confide that she was having some real person-

al heartaches. She told me her husband had left her recently; when I asked her if she knew why, she began to reveal some eerie things.

In recent years, she said, she had times of depression when she would like to sit alone in her darkened house. She said that "a spirit" began to come to her at night, trying to totally possess her being. A couple of times she went into convulsions. She began to drink heavily. Her life became restless and disoriented, and in the midst of all this her husband walked out.

As I talked with her, a sense of unexplainable fear kept gnawing at me. I wanted to run and forget this whole thing. It wasn't that the woman herself was evil; it was extrasensory, some sort of unnerving spiritual presence.

I knew, as I had from the beginning but didn't want to admit to myself, I was dealing with something that until this time had been only a doctrine from my seminary training. I knew what the Bible had to say about such manifestations, but I had never been called upon to deal with someone who was under the influence of an evil spirit.

What happened during the following hours was an amazing experience, and I'll tell you more about it later in the book. At this point, it is sufficient to say I witnessed a miracle! This woman was freed from an evil spirit. Not in Africa, not in the remote regions of the Amazon, but in the sunshine of an American college campus.

This incident awakened me to the widespread phenomenon of the occult. It alarmed me that the increase in astrology, extrasensory perception, witchcraft, black magic, fortunetelling and Satan worship, which you might expect among the youth of the West Coast, was evident in other places. The occult influence went deeper into American life than I had imagined.

#### AMERICAN JUNGLES

The drug epidemic was the alarm sounded in the middle and late 1960s by law enforcement officials.

Statistics mounted to fever level and realistic, compassionate men like Commander Bob Vernon of the Los Angeles police force watched the sickening results on young lives. The disease started largely in the West and quickly spread from coast to coast.

An interview with Commander Vernon in the early 1970s revealed a shifting scene, a new upsurge. This time the infection was bizarre. Some of the events he related were happening right at our doorstep.

As we sat in Commander Vernon's office, listening to the incredible stories he told us, we found our shockproof constitutions were beginning to shatter.

By the time this book is published these stories may have become so commonplace that most of us will have developed attitudes which are beyond the realm of being surprised by anything.

I would like to repeat parts of the interview verbatim, without comment. Add your own exclamation points.

*"Do you see indications of witchcraft or Satanic cults in the Los Angeles area?"*

"Yes, and they're increasing all the time. We've found evidence of animals, mostly dogs, who have been skinned and all the blood drained from them. We discovered through talking with some of the cult members that the blood is put into caldrons, mixed with LSD, and then used as a drink during their rites or ceremonies."

*"What are some of the actual cases of Satan worship and these blood sacrifices?"*

"Not too long ago a woman called us and said that she had seen a van pull up to the beach and some of the occupants take out a box and bury it in the sand. She thought they were trying to dispose of a baby. We arrived on the scene and found that the box contained the remains of an animal that had obviously been skinned.

"We have also encountered a case where a part of the ceremony required skinning a dog without killing it. It was a careful job and one of the most pitiful sights I've ever seen."

*"Where are some of these cults located?"*

"Many live in communes. Our Metro squad made a raid into a canyon near here where they had to let down ropes to get into the area and haul up the occupants. They were living in the most primitive way you can imagine—just a short distance from one of the most affluent neighborhoods in the country—indulging in acts of sexual deviation, pagan ceremonies, and rites which defy imagination."

*"Is Satan worship tied into the drug scene?"*

"It's a part of it. However, some of these procedures have little or no relationship to drug usage. Not too long ago there was a 'Kiss-In' on a Santa Monica beach. I walked into the area and was struck by the similarity between what I saw and what I knew of the rites of African savages. There were about four hundred people, so tightly packed together that they were just one big mass swaying to the throb of drums and weird music. Although it was early in the afternoon and we found little drug evidence, they soon became glassy-eyed—transported, so to speak, into another world. Some of them began to peel off their clothes. Some began to indulge in open sex, oblivious to any around them. We noticed that most of them wore charms around their necks. They believe in the spirit world and will readily tell you that the Devil is very real to them."

*"Are there leaders in these groups of Satanists or Devil-worshippers?"*

"Usually. We had a strange one in the station not too long ago. He said his name was 'Om' and that he was God. He had a following who believed that the only way to worship was through sexual deviations, and they practiced all of them. 'Om' has a group of followers who are so perverted it's impossible to describe. We asked him how old he was and he replied, 'Before the world was, I am.' We pressed him for his age and he replied, 'Through the illusion of time the way you mortals view it, I am thirty-two.'"

*"You've talked about animal blood sacrifices. Have you ever found evidences of human sacrifices?"*

"A highway patrolman apprehended a man who was said to have killed another man and eaten his heart. When the officer searched him, he found knuckles of a human in the suspect's pocket. He was part of a Satanic cult."

*"Do you have an explanation for the trend toward witchcraft, Satanism, and some of these other bizarre cults?"*

"For one thing, I know there is a spiritual hunger among people today. Many of them have gone to a church and haven't found the answer to that hunger. Someone comes along and offers them a feeling of belonging, a sense of being loved by a group, and they fall for it. There are other reasons, of course, but longing for acceptance and a place in the world is what I see as being a very important part of the insane direction many are taking into the supernatural."

Commander Vernon is a no-nonsense man. He reports it as he sees it.

#### THE SATANIC AGE

Are we in a new age of Satan? Many people would be revolted by the so-called churches which openly worship Satan. The most widely publicized establishment of this kind is the First Church of Satan in San Francisco, headed by Anton LaVey, the High Priest.

The bald, narrow-eyed LaVey was quoted as saying, "The Satanic Age started in 1966. That's when God was proclaimed dead, the Sexual Freedom League came into prominence, and the hippies developed as a free sex culture."<sup>1</sup>

Satanic cults are expanding in every major city in the United States. "We have received reports from other California cities which show the existence of three Satanic groups in Berkeley, two of them communes, one in Big Sur, one in Venice, five in San Francisco, and one

in San Diego. The number of Satanist circles gathering in Los Angeles County is indeterminate."<sup>2</sup>

Some of the churches of Satan are brazenly open, such as LaVey's establishment, an impressive three-story Victorian home, while others are camouflaged by storefronts or meeting halls.

In Europe Satanic masses are held in ruined churches and monasteries, but we should not be deceived by creaking castles or shadowy figures in musty rooms. Satanism is not just an old-world phenomenon.

Arthur Lyons says, "Satanism is not only present in Europe, but in the United States as well. In fact, the United States probably harbors the fastest-growing and most highly organized body of Satanists in the world."<sup>3</sup>

In the "churches" entangled in Satan worship the rites are opposite from those of a Christian church. Every desecration of Christianity is emphasized, from the upside-down cross to the flagrant use of sex and sexual stimuli. In Hollywood the altar was a glass tank filled with formaldehyde, containing the body of a dead baby. Lyons reported that the "high priest" had a hypnotic effect upon a teen-age girl. The ritual in which she became involved was so debasing he couldn't describe it.

We are reminded of the sordid spectacle of the girls who were mesmerized by Charles Manson. In a personal interview with a former Manson family member, I found they indulged in all types of Satanism and witchcraft. Manson was said to have had visions and magic powers. There were stories of his being physically transported from one end of the Spahn ranch to the other. Group sexual experience, an indulgence of some witch covens, was commonly practiced by the Manson cult. The twisted reversal of Christianity was evident. Manson was called "God," "Jesus," and "Satan" by his followers.

After Manson's conviction for the seven Tate-LaBianca murders, five members of his "family," girls with their heads shaved to prove their loyalty to their leader, led a trek through Hollywood on their knees "in witness to the second coming of Manson."<sup>4</sup>

### BUBBLE, BOIL, AND TROUBLE

The steps which separate witchcraft and Satanism are almost invisible. Their histories, rites, and followers are intermingled. Statistics of witch covens given today would be out of date in a month. *Life* magazine reported in 1964, "It is difficult to estimate numbers as not all covens are known to one another, but the interest appears to be growing."<sup>5</sup>

Seven years later a Ph.D. from Harvard wrote, "It is undeniable that the rising addiction to mysticism has swelled to a veritable epidemic."<sup>6</sup>

In Switzerland an ex-priest and his mistress were charged with the murder of one of their followers. They said she had been sexually and physically possessed by the devil.<sup>7</sup>

In France 60,000 sorcerers are taking in \$200,000,-000 a year.

In Frankfurt, Germany, there are reportedly tens of thousands who believe in witches.<sup>8</sup>

The bishop of Exeter said that more Britons are turning toward black magic as their interest in traditional religion declines.<sup>9</sup>

The chairman of the psychology department at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, advertised for a woman who felt she was a witch or had unusual psychic powers to assist in a course on extrasensory perception.<sup>10</sup>

"The Golden State is the new holy land of Satanism, and its occult flood has divided itself into two main streams, two types of witches—the drugged and the drugless."<sup>11</sup>

One estimate says there are five hundred witches in Manhattan.<sup>12</sup>

### WHY WITCH?

Louise Huebner, who claims to be Los Angeles County's official witch, describes the recent revival of the "Old Religion," as witchcraft is often called, and its attraction to young people in this way:

"You see, witchcraft is a participatory religion. This isn't a religion where you go somewhere and sit to listen to a sermon. We all get involved."

"This attracts the young person, because he or she is sick of the organized and recognized religions. They want to be active—to take part. Witchcraft offers them just such an opportunity."

"Witchcraft is actually a return to nature, a worship of the natural gods as opposed to the chrome and glass gods you find in society. We're more interested in finding powers within ourselves, in broadening our own minds."<sup>13</sup>

In Orange County, California, an area known for its family living, Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland, an attractive witch housewife, Cassandra Salem (an assumed name), made another observation on witchcraft.

"Our whole religion is based on the lunar cycle, moon worship, and we really were the first ones interested in ecology, which you are hearing so much about right now."

"We're the ones who are pushing for a return to nature, and we may be on the right track. At least witchcraft seems to be growing faster right now than any other religion."<sup>14</sup>

### UNHOOK MY NOSE

Many witches are seriously concerned about their image. They make it clear that there are, according to their views, good witches. Dr. Robert Ellwood, assistant professor of religion at the University of Southern California, recently offered a course on "New Religious and Philosophical Movements in Southern California."

He said that a meeting he attended of eight or nine witches, magicians, and Satanists "took on aspects of a Protestant church meeting." In describing the witches he commented:

"They rejoice in being witches and being pointed out, but at the same time they expressed concern to one another about their bad 'image' because of publicity about the Manson family, a recent article in *Esquire* magazine, and the motion picture *Rosemary's Baby*."<sup>15</sup>

#### MERRY ENGLAND

The image concern among the witches extends to England, where spooky castles and eerie happenings have long been a rather romantic part of legend and life. Tourists are delighted if they can stay in a haunted house.

Modern English witches are different. For one thing, they insist that they have a vital and growing religion. According to one report, there are as many as 6,000 witches meeting regularly in small groups throughout England.<sup>16</sup>

The witches of England work at their religion seriously. They meet regularly and perform their rituals in a manner of worship, not of magic-making as many in America are doing. The witches' deities are a sun god and a moon goddess, and according to one "high priestess," who is a housewife and a manager of a home for the aged, "We witches are simple people with simple beliefs." She describes candidly the type of people in their covens.

"We are just ordinary people going about our own particular jobs. We are reasonably intelligent. We have doctors, teachers, businessmen, farmers, nurses, theatrical people, office workers, and housewives among us. Most of us have studied comparative religion. We do not try to convert others, but we do encourage people who have a leaning towards our craft. We do not take everybody who wants to come in."<sup>17</sup>

This would imply that witchcraft is a rather exclusive club of believers.

#### BROOMS ARE OUT

When witchcraft is mentioned today in many circles, some people become defensive and say, "You really don't believe in witches, do you? That went out with the Salem trials."

It is true that any study of witchcraft revives scenes of a medieval inquisition where many innocent victims were self-righteously judged in the name of "Christianity" or "The Church." However, this is not the impression the witchcraft devotees want to give us. It must appear to be exciting, sophisticated, inviting, or perhaps just a little amusing.

No one is attracted by fangs and raspy cackles.

#### TRUST HOLLYWOOD

I was introduced to a clever place in Hollywood by a calling card announcing the "Sorcerer's Shop." The shop was appealing in every way with an atmosphere of quality. A raven with the predictable name of "Lucifer" greeted me, while a large owl with the equally appropriate name of "Solomon" ogled me from his perch near the door.

The shopkeeper was about twenty-two years old; he told me he was a college graduate with a degree in political science. He was dignified, gracious, and serious.

Some of the usual accouterments of witchcraft were visible: the cauldron, the jars containing special herbs for spells, the various types of incense and candles. There were dozens of instruction books on witchcraft, potions, spells, astrology, tarot, and the occult. The host told me that some spirits had been there a few nights previously and that a sword had flown off the wall. He said that this was probably the work of a poltergeist (a spirit that causes solid objects to move from one place to another).

## COVENS ON THE CAMPUS

Witchcraft has become so widespread that most high schools and colleges have their own special witches. They live in dorms, go to class, and on the side meet in their covens. A coven is a circle of witches and warlocks (male wizards or witches) numbering thirteen. The rites, rituals, and literature of witchcraft are ancient and established.

In the Bible Belt of the Midwest at a girls' college, conservative in outlook and rated high academically, the school newspaper which was issued at the beginning of the fall semester contained an editorial that told of a strange occurrence. Thievery was evidently a severe problem at the school library, because almost 2,000 books were missing after the inventory was taken at the end of the summer. The part of the editorial which caught my attention was the information that all of the books on witchcraft had been taken—completely removed from the shelves.

On the same campus I watched a televised talk show on the college station featuring a coed who said she was a witch. It was an impish interview, leaving the audience with the impression that this was not something we should take seriously.

The pretty coed said, "To be a witch I had to say the Lord's Prayer backwards three times while staring at a candle."

When asked about Christian beliefs, she became quite animated, but also defensive.

"I have nothing against Christianity," she said. "You're wrong if you think witchcraft is against Christianity. It isn't."

She continued to say that there was a "pyramid" that must be ascended in graduating steps before you could become a witch. That witch's pyramid involved faith, will, and imagination. However, she could not divulge how to become a witch.

The *New York Times*, in commenting on the campus scene, described a certain Catholic university where a coven of warlocks was discovered. The dean of the in-

stitution said, "We've really become progressive around here. A couple of hundred years ago we would have burned them at the stake. Twenty-five years ago I would have expelled them. Now we simply send them all to psychiatrists."<sup>18</sup>

## WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY CONVENTION

I could have registered at the Witchcraft and Sorcery Convention and no one would have thought it was strange. It was held in the plush suites of one of the major Los Angeles hotels. The registrants were a cross section of respectable America with the intent smiles and programmed schedules of any convention. Most of them were promoting supernatural comic books or occult artifacts. The majority of speakers were members of the publishing industry specializing in weird tales. However, beneath the businesslike surface was an undercurrent which emerged after a few meetings. Then the big announcement was made: Nick Nocerino (not his real name) was going to speak; as a parapsychologist teaching in the occult, he was considered an expert in the field. He announced that he was a wizard ("Not a warlock, please. That is a perversion of my craft.") and proceeded to describe in a series of lectures some fascinating trade talk.

Nocerino differentiated between what he called "witchcraft" (of which he is a part) and "wickedcraft," which is what he termed a perversion of his art. He called witchcraft a religion and said that ten years ago he could not find five good books on the subject, but that today he knows of at least five hundred books on the market. He said witches are everywhere. There are ten million in the United States, and about two thousand in Los Angeles. However, he added secretly, "What is known publicly about the number of witches is just what has to be known."

He said that in the past few years he had seen an outpouring of "wickedcraft" in the national magazines, such as *Esquire* and *McCall's*, and "it scared me . . . and I've been around for a long time." He thought it was a

crime that his craft was being perverted by bad publicity. He indicated there are witches in every part of the world, but they are more open in France, Germany, and England. In Italy, he said, witchcraft is practiced in conjunction with the church, but the church will not admit it.

*What? Church? Wizard? How about...? Can't be...? Am I...?*

"There is a move today," explained the famous wizard, "to bring witchcraft into the open as a religion."

"Many witches are very active in their churches," said Nocerino, "but no witch says, 'I'm a witch.' The stigma is too great."

Nocerino does not associate true witchcraft, as he called it, with Satanic cults. He explained that people are selected very carefully for a coven of witches and not just anyone who would like to be a witch or a wizard is accepted.

### YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS

Many regard witchcraft with the same degree of amused tolerance they granted to goldfish swallowing, telephone booth cramming, and other fads. The news media is giving it an aura of gentle fun. If a self-proclaimed witch is blonde and shapely, this is good copy. A recent wire story in one of the West Coast's leading newspapers told about a beautiful witch who was raising funds to combat the effects of movies that portray witches in a bad light.

"We get such bad publicity from crummy movies. Black witches are the bad witches who practice voodoo, for one thing. White witches are your goodie two-shoes who read your palm for \$2."

This lovely lady is a gray witch, she says, which is neither good nor bad.<sup>19</sup>

To get the message to the public there are record albums of "how to's" concerning witchcraft. One of them has a seductive advertisement featuring "The Gray Witch," who will tell you what you can gain today from practicing witchcraft.

"She introduces you to witches and warlocks who'll

describe everything from the appearance of a demon to the everyday problems of witchcraft in a modern society. Barbara will tell you how to develop and practice your witchcraft ability even if you're only a mortal."

### THE TEEN-AGE WITCH

Cheryl may have answered an ad on how to be a witch. Who knows? She didn't tell me that, but as we sat on the floor of the coffee house rapping about her experiences, she told me she was sixteen—well, almost sixteen. She was pretty, spoke softly, and had a sharp mind.

Cheryl had traveled the drug route since she was twelve or thirteen. She had uppers and downers, bad trips and good ones. Most of her associates were older, and as she watched them in the moments when her mind was clear, she decided that unless she split she'd fall apart. So Cheryl took another route. She became a witch.

At first she pretended it was just a prank. Someone bought her a crystal ball, and she spent hours staring into it and interpreting the visions she saw.

One day she told one of her friends in school that her friend's father was going to die. When he met with an accidental death two days later, Cheryl felt little sadness; she was high with power!

"It shook me at first," she said, "but I was fascinated by it. I had something no one else had! I had been doing a lot of reading about potions and chants, and I knew that I had this power over people. I could burn a hole right through someone by just looking at them."

A few years ago I might have listened to Cheryl and thought that she was a cute teen-ager with a lively imagination.

Not any more.

"Recent history has shown terrifyingly enough that the demonic lies barely beneath the surface, ready to catch men unawares with new and more horrible manifestations."<sup>20</sup>

Witches and Satanists, spirits and demons have surfaced in our generation. But underneath is the cauldron of cults, claiming for its victims the gullible and the young.

Who will be the victims? And the victorious?

## TWO

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### Perilous Tide From the Other Side

*"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*

PROVERBS 14:12

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A Washington newspaper reporter and a dead man have written a best seller about the "first inside, eye-witness account of the Hereafter."

Ruth Montgomery, one-time friend and confidant of Jeane Dixon, and Arthur Ford, deceased spiritualist and the medium the late Bishop Pike used to contact "the other side," are the co-authors of a book which is supposed to answer every major metaphysical and theological question that has plagued mankind since the beginning of time.

Ruth Montgomery sat at her typewriter in a trance and Ford transmitted through her fingertips the information about what is going on in the beyond. Evidently the world-famous personalities who have passed on are involved in the same interests they had on earth. Robert Kennedy is occupied with civil rights. J.F.K. is peacemaking in the Middle East. Churchill is arguing world politics with Franklin Roosevelt.

Arthur Ford says (through Montgomery's automat-

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