

WHICH WITCH IS WHICH?

A Paper For
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Thomas W. Westerfield

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In the 1970's when we were entertained by Geraldine, the alter ego of Flip Wilson the popular black comedian, a line which she used to beguile her suitors, was, "the devil made me do it".

In the Spring of 1978, amateur radios stations around the globe including mine, crackled with conversations about the radio signals originating from an obscure campground in Guyana, South Africa. June 8, 1978 brought us all to the realization that from beginnings as a religious cult in Indiana to a primitive camp, the source, to be known in the morning press, world wide, was Jonestown, site of the Jim Jones Massacre.

Rational voices everywhere questioned the act. What on earth would cause over 900 individuals to ceremonially take their own lives?

Did the devil make them do it?

Similar questions again surfaced with the recent visit by the Haile-Bopp Comet and the actions of the Heaven's Gate Cult in Southern California. Mass suicide, ritualistic castration, an apparently non-violent group found to be driven to extremes.

Did the devil make them do it?

More recently one of the Kentucky teenagers who is alleged to have committed the murders of the Lilliled family of northeastern Tennessee, calmly described herself self as the daughter of Satan. In addition to the brutal murder and the ensuing flight, reports on the activities of she and her companions reveal cult-based behaviors including self-mutilation,

the drinking of animal and human blood.

Did the devil make her do it?

Reports surrounding the multiple murders of a mother and classmates in Pearl, Mississippi reveal a foreboding scene where a group of teenagers led by a self-styled "father", plot to eliminate their "enemies". The accused actor for the group divulged in his personal writings the practice sessions he went through to build up to killing his mother and fellow students, their sessions involved the ritualistic killing of a beloved family pet, their dog Sparkle. After the killing of the dog, he wrote of the good feelings he experienced during the act.

Did the devil make him do it??

The media reports almost daily bizarre activities of individual or groups, which challenge the most reasonable of thought.

As you pursue the detailed accounts of all of these events there is one particular common theme, the participants exhibit a fascination with the paranormal.

Why do the individuals become attracted to the supernatural phenomena? Does the devil make them do it? I submit for your consideration a number of possibilities, the first of which is, yes, the devil did make them do it.

References to the devil appeared in religious writings dating back to 2000 BC. Aside from the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the most familiar to most of us would be the Holy Bible and the dialogue between God and Satan over loyalty of Job. Satan is responsible for a host of terrible plagues that beset Job.

There are numerous others in the Bible including the temptation of Christ.

Through the scriptures, Satan is described as a murderer, a liar, subtle, all mischief. Christ himself describes Satan as one to pervert the right way of the Lord.

Referred to by the proper name Lucifer, translated from the Hebrew, means "light bearer". Satan who is further described in the scripture as a fooler is characterized as a powerful angel cast out of heaven and given the privilege of interfering with the lives of God's creation, man.

In a recent survey of Americans, who claim to hold religious values, 58% hold to a strict view and indicated a belief that the devil and hell do exist. Another 35% categorize their understanding of hell and Satan as a mental perspective of actual situations and experiences they have day to day. The remaining percentage is not sure what they believe.

Few are bold enough to declare them selves a disciple of Satan but there are those who do. Most notable among them is the California based, Church of Satan which boasts of membership in the hundreds of thousands and professes to worship Satan as a god. Founded by an atheistic philosopher, Anton LaVey, members of the church promote a godless lifestyle of indulgence suggesting that monotheistic religions such Christianity label as sins those activities, which should be enjoyed.

Most troubling in the review of satanic influences are those which have an impact on children. Numerous studies cite children's fascination with ritual, acceptance by a group, the

perceived absence of authority as the candle toward which the moths of youth are attracted.

You cannot review the satanic influences on children without a consideration of the influence of heavy metal rock music and the philosophical views of those musicians. One of the principal influences in this area is the group, Marilyn Manson. Lyrics of their songs routinely describe every type of repulsive act you can imagine including rape, incest, sodomy, vulgarity, racism, sadism, and, and, and. After a recent debate in Louisville between several church groups and the sponsors of a proposed Marilyn Manson concert, I confess to seeking out some lyrics from the groups music. I was shocked. Here are a few.

I am so all American I'd sell you suicide.

I am so totalitarian, I've got abortions in my eyes

Hey victim,

You were the one who put that stick in my hand.

Let's just kill everyone and let your God sort them out.

F**k it.

Consider if you will another influence. Did the Ouija make them do it?

Recently when reviewing investment opportunities I perused an article which reported on the giant toy chain retailer, "Toys R Us". Amidst the information available was a reference to the items, which rank the highest in their sales. Among the list were the expected hot characters and board games. Of the board games, I was surprised to find the Ouija board as a historical top seller. Puzzled by its ranking, I sought to find a basis for

the attraction.

The Ouija board, trade name of a board game marketed by Parker Brothers, consists of a board arrayed with numbers, letters and symbols and a moveable object called the planchette (French for "little plank"). Proponents of its power profess that the planchette, when lightly touched by participants will move about the board spelling out messages.

Generic versions of the Ouija, referred to as talking boards had their origin in the early 1800's. Dozens of manufactures produced them while individual users crafted many.

There are numerous reports of positive acts conjured through use of the talking board. In the early 1900's, Mrs. John Howard Currens, an obscure author, claims to have channeled an entity named Patience Worth through the Ouija. These contacts supposedly resulted in the production of six novels, two thousand items of blank verse, hundreds of pages of poetry. A friend of Currens, Emily G. Hutchings, claims to contacts with the spirit of Mark Twain through her Ouija board as the source of her novel, ostensibly by Twain, "Jap Heron".

Iris Maloney won 1.4 million dollars in the California lottery. She claims that her source for the winning numbers was communication from her Ouija.

More bizarre acts are reported from experimentation with the Ouija. These range from hallucination filled behavior to outright instructions to commit heinous crimes.

Critics of the Ouija's power claim the influence is driven by phenomena called ideomotor response. Such a response is

supposed to be caused by the individual's subconscious desire for a specific response.

Ben Alexander an atheistic occult leader converted to Christianity has written extensively on the harmful influence of this game on children. Citing case histories, Alexander characterizes a desensitization to mind controlling influences on these susceptible youthful subjects.

Is it possible that these acts are the result of some other Did they experience too much Halloween?

Many have strong beliefs that Halloween has a history of diabolical evil hidden behind a mask of sugar coated candy. Evidence of the perverse nature of this day begins with the identification of the events, which occur. Law enforcement records substantiate an extensive occurrence of Occultic/Satanic worship.

Our Pilgrim forefathers knew well of Halloween's occultic roots. It was banned in America until 1845. At that time, the flood of Irish emigrants, which resulted from the 1845-46 potato famine, brought with them the old Druid Holiday. Prior to the Druid practices, and long before the birth of Christ, ancient Celtic peoples observed the end of summer with sacrifices to SAMAN, the lord of death and evil spirits. This pagan god was illustrated as a ghostly skeleton holding a sickle in his hand. Sound familiar? Consider our modern day Grim Reaper. The Celts considered November 1st as the day of death. They believed that Samhain was over powering Muck Olla, their sun god. On the eve of the feast (October 31) they believed that the spirits of all

who had died the previous year were assembled and allowed to make a return visit to their homes. Druid priest(early witches/warlocks) lead worship activities, which included the burning of animal and human sacrifices. These activities involved a circle of trees or stones. A prominent reminder of these events which still remains is located in Stonehenge, England. The presence of over 300 funeral mounds containing countless human remains provides evidence of human sacrifice at this site.

Present day Halloween activities yield a similar quantity of heathen activities. You might ask, what is the harm in children dressing up, wearing masks and trick or treating neighbors. On the surface nothing. Again however, children's minds experience a desensitization to the bizarre.

Let's explore some of the traditions and their historical foundations.

Why costumes? The masks and costumes stem from a Druid custom where people put on attire which gave them the appearance of the animals they were sacrificing. They believed they would frighten evil spirits away.

Tricks and treats have a comparable foundation. The Druid priest would go door to door soliciting offerings for Satan. A household, which did not give, would experience material loss. Their herd would be killed and sometimes the head of the house would be maimed.

The "Jack-o-lantern", according to World Book Encyclopedia, is the symbol of a damned soul, symbolic of a wanderer who could

not enter heaven or hell. The lantern told the wandering soul that this house was sympathetic to his plight.

Black cats as a part of the celebration grew from the Druid belief that cats were humans reincarnated. Today numerous Humane Societies and animal shelters will not release black cats around Halloween because of their experience with these animals being tortured or sacrificed.

Why all the fuss? Would you think you children cute or clever if they dressed up imitating Charles Manson or Jim Jones of the Jonestown Massacre? How about child molester John Wayne Gacey? Likely not, because you would not want them to think you approved of the behavior of these person. Extending that reasoning then, why would you want them to take on the attire of Satan or Dracula?

Children's exposure to sadism, sexual violence, Satanism, torture, mutilation and bizarre murders causes them to become callused to these behaviors. Entertainment is a powerful socializing agent in contemporary society. I would not attempt to reference the numerous editorials of our esteemed fellow member but slasher and horror movies do use violence and sexual arousal to maximize profits and they are an inevitable prescription for conditioning sexual sadism into our pre-teen, teenage and young adults.

Gentlemen of the Athenaeum, this evening we have ventured a glance into the "dark side", the world of spirits, demons, the occult and the potentially overpowering forces being played on us but more significantly, our children. Ultimately each individual

must form their own philosophy but as a closing comment I would offer you mine:

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that use the divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Numbers 23:23-24.

Thank you!