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EDITORIAL

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MAGICK is an Attitude of Mind

by Margaret Bruce

"Why is it," asked a correspondent recently, "that in spite of all my hard work and Faith in Divine Providence, all my efforts result in disaster, whilst acquaintances who have no occult knowledge whatever are successful in everything they undertake?" This is such a common problem that I thought it worth while to answer it in the form of a short article.

It does seem incongruous that an intelligent and worldly wise business man who, in addition to his practical knowledge of day-to-day affairs, has a formidable store of arcane theory, should have difficulty in making a modest living. Not only do his simplest plans go awry but Fate seems to take a perverse delight in selecting him as a victim for the most bitter disappointments. He loses Faith in himself and in his fellow men. He even abandons his erstwhile religious beliefs. If he has plumbed the depths of self-delusion, he will blame the passage of Saturn through his Sun Sign for what are, in effect, his own inadequacies.

Before seeking the cause of his failure let us look at the people he envies. They are mundane, irreverent, believers in little except the satisfaction of their personal desires. The one thing they possess that my correspondence lacks is the burning conviction that the World was made for them to enjoy and that they are entitled to everything they can get out of it.

Deplorable as this morality may appear, it is the attitude that gives them the edge over the average liberal occultist.

The present generation of occultists are, for the most part, rebels against the type of orthodoxy that has passed for religion since the reformation. Despite their protestations of indifference to its influence, the violence of their reaction to it is evidence of its deep subliminal impression. The grey philosophy of Protestantism had already imbued them with an undeserved sense of "sin" and unworthiness before they decided that the real religion for them must be a regressive Paganism or a hotch-potch of Mythological scraps. The abandoning of original beliefs, regardless of whether Jewish, Moslem, Pagan or Christian, is a mistake. Not because of the rightness or wrongness of the creed in which we have been brought up but because the switch of religion is a ritual blunder whose repercussions will be felt in every subsequent act of Magick. To put it simply, a change of religion is a complete rejection of previously accepted mistakes and truths. Since no belief, however bizarre, is completely without Truth, the rejection of such Truth is recorded in the subconscious where it acts to disrupt the effect of every magickal act and often to produce the very opposite of the desired result.

Now it is obvious that, as one progresses, certain beliefs are found to have been wrong. These may be discarded piece by piece as soon as an acceptable alternative is discovered. In no circumstances should they be ritually renounced lest, being Truth in disguise, they serve to destroy Magickal Potency in later years.

It is the fashion in the New Paganism to sneer at Christianity and to belittle the Christian Doctrine. This is itself an acknowledgement of the power of any religion to have deep psychological effects.

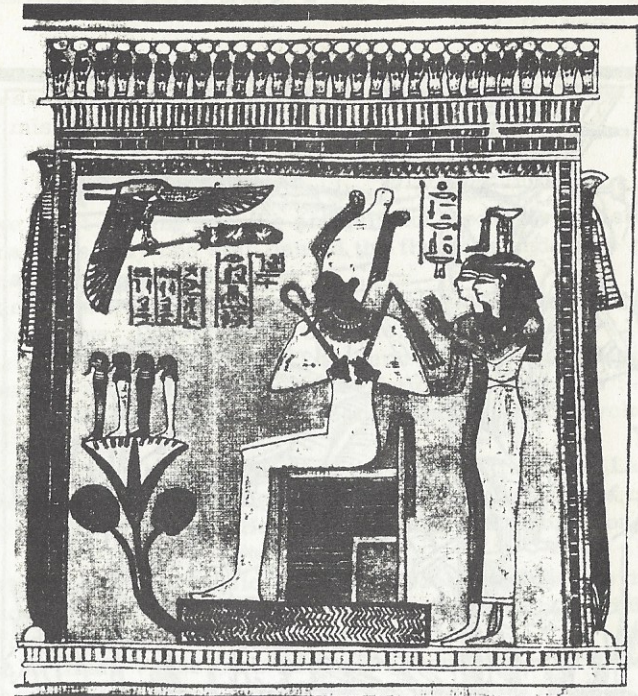
It is significant that the real Pagans who knew instinctively what they were about, accepted Christianity as another aspect of their own religious practices. Traditional Pagan spells and prayers abound with Paters and Aves and Kyrie Eleisons because every true Pagan knows that Isis, Ishtar, Diana, and Our Lady Immaculate are aspects of a single Truth and it matters little if the image wears a crescent Moon, a Gold lined robe or a mini-skirt. What does matter is that to renounce one of these images is to renounce all. The Church blunders by rejecting Ishtar and Astarte. The neo-Pagan rebel is equally short-sighted when he denies the power of The Virgin.

Once the basic unity of all beliefs is discovered beneath the mists of superficial differences it is seen that there is no need to reject anything at all and therefore no need to limit one's powers by inventing imaginary obstacles. The downright mundane sceptic who has no religious beliefs or superstitions can achieve magickal results instinctively because, having no beliefs he has nothing to reject. He judges by results and, because he is of the opinion that there are no gods - Christian or Pagan - he does not descend to the folly of reviling them. The laws of Magick are in action for him and, working at an unconscious level, they ensure his success in the wildest ventures. Meanwhile the bewildered and devout occultist wonders why his invocations go unheard or explode in his face like ill-timed fireworks.

The answer is to ritually renounce the original renunciations and, like the Pagans at the beginning of the Christian era, to pay homage to all aspects of Divinity.

Of course we must remember that Christian belief and doctrine has become insipid in its descent from the Glory of the Coptic rites which, in turn, were taken directly from the Ancient Egyptian rituals of Isis and Osiris. Even today, there is no need to scour the British Museum for traces of the Osirian Invocations. Attend Mass at any Catholic Church and you will find all the basic essentials including the gestures of the KA, the invocation of Fire at the elevation and the acceptance of the True Body and Blood. Of course when the rites became thoroughly Christianised it was necessary to invent the doctrine of transubstantiation in order to justify the belief that the Host and the Sacramental wine not only represented the Body and Blood but actually are these things. In the original Osirian Rites, this dogma was not essential, because all those who know the identity of the immortal Osiris know that the Sacraments of the Altar are the Body and Blood of Osiris The Beautiful in solid, scientific, measurable and material form without the necessity for invocations or priestly powers to make them so.

To repeat the solution. To understand and to know is to accept. Therefore, he who would obtain Magickal results must not renounce Christ, Baal, "The Devil and all his Works", or any other concept that enters into the primordial realm of Religious and Folk belief. As the old Grimoires say "Discover of each his name and function and, having bound them to obedience, dismiss each to his appointed place until such time as you shall desire him to serve you."



OSIRIS ENTHRONED. The essential foundation on which the Coptic, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic rites are based. Reject one and you reject all.

Articles in the next issue of INSIGHT will include:-

"The Ancient Art of Healing" by J. C. Nolan. This is the concluding part of this fascinating account into non-conformative techniques.

"To the Young in Heart" by Stanley Howard. In this article Mr. Howard gives practical techniques for levitation and invisibility.

Fraternity Section:- "The Mazdaznan Association", its work and ideals

"Would-be Witches". by Arnold Crowther, a well-known writer on Witchcraft matters.

"No Method but my own" by Glyn Hughes.. Are Rituals really necessary?

PLUS ... the usual features: Book Reviews, Readers' Letters, etc.