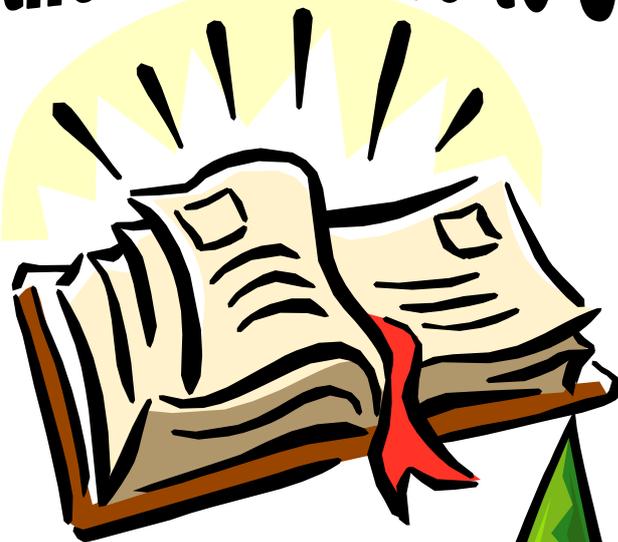


**What Does the Word have to say About**



**Divination /  
Fortunetelling**



**and the Power of my Tongue**

# Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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## WHAT DOES THE WORD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT DIVINATION / FORTUNE-TELLING AND THE POWER OF MY TONGUE

### Hosea 4:6

*"My people are **destroyed** for **lack of knowledge**; because you [the priestly nation] have **rejected knowledge**, I will also **reject you** that you shall be no priest to Me; seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, **I will also forget your children.**" [Amplified Bible]*



Why would people visit a diviner / fortune-teller? Well, there are various answers to this question!:

*"I did it for fun! We were teenagers, the fortune-teller and her caravan were at the carnival, and, besides, 'everyone' did it those days!"*

*"I just HAD to know what the future held for me!"*

*"My friend didn't want to go alone, so I went with her/him..."*

*"I was at the end of myself ... did not know which way to turn ..."*

*"I was curious!"*

*"Well, this is a general custom in our family ... tea-leaf reading, palm-reading, and quite a few in our family were born with a caul, etc." (People with lack of knowledge, tend to see these things as "a gift from God!")*

*"Everything she told my friend, became true ....!"*



These explanations sound so familiar, true?

But the truth is, that people venture into these things either through pure **ignorance**, or blatant **disobedience** to the Word of God, and that leads to the wrath of God over them and their descendants. Ignorance is no excuse, not to even mention disobedience! The above Scripture puts it clearly: **"MY people.** In other words, here it speaks about **children of God** who got stuck in sin and curses **"...seeing you have forgotten the law of your God....."** and **"...thou hast rejected knowledge..."**.

How many times do we want to be confronted by God's Word with the fact that we have to live according to His Word, or otherwise we and our children will have to carry the consequences?! It is so easy to shrug it off and submit to the reasoning of our carnal minds that this is 'pure nonsense, and maybe it was for the Old Testament people, not for me today?' However, no one can hide behind the excuse of "I did not know". The Word of God is clear and simple about what is permissible and what not. We are serving a God Who wants us for Himself, body, soul and spirit!

**Numbers 23:21-23:**

*“God has **not beheld iniquity** in Jacob [for he is forgiven], **neither** has He seen **mischief or perverseness** in Israel [for the same reason]. The Lord their **God is with Israel**, and the **shout of praise to their King is among the people**. God brought them forth out of Egypt; they have as it were the strength of a wild ox. Surely there is **no enchantment with or against Jacob, neither is there any divination with or against Israel**. [In due season and even] now shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, what has God wrought!” [Amplified Bible].*

**Leviticus 20:6, 27:**

*“6 The person who turns to those who have familiar spirits and to wizards, [being unfaithful to Israel’s Maker Who is her Husband, and thus] playing the harlot after them, I will set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people [that he may not be included in the atonement made for them].”*

*“27 A man or woman who is a medium and has a familiar spirit or is a wizard, shall surely be put to death, be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them.” [Amplified Bible]*

From these scriptures we can derive that God’s wrath prevails over divination in it’s different forms, and that His pleasure, goodwill and blessing will be upon each and everyone who walks “clean” from these practices.

If we want to walk in our **personal Covenant** with our Father, and want to see and experience all the **benefits and blessings** thereof in our lives and in those of our children, we have to be free from all practices of darkness, in which divination / fortune-telling / wizardry, etc. are definitely playing a part.



**Deuteronomy 18:9-14:**

*“When you come into the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to follow **the abominable practices** of these nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or who **uses divination**, or is a **soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer**. For all who do these things are an **abominations to the Lord**, and it is because of these abominable practices that the Lord your God is driving them out before you. You shall be **blameless and absolutely true to the Lord your God**. For these nations whom you shall dispossess listen to soothsayers and diviners. **But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so.**” [Amplified]*

**Zechariah 10:2**

*“For the teraphim (household idols) have spoken vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility - and the **diviners have seen a lie** and the dreamers have told false dreams; they comfort in vain. **Therefore the people go their way like sheep; they are afflicted and hurt** because there is no shepherd.”*

**Ezekiel 22:28**

*“Her princes in the midst of her are **like wolves rending and devouring the prey, shedding blood and destroying lives** to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them over with whitewash, **seeing false visions and divining lies to them**, saying, thus says the Lord God – when the Lord has not spoken.”*

We need to understand one thing. We have an enemy who will not leave one single stone unturned in our lives to steal, kill or destroy, and even more so after we have opened up our lives for the Spirit of Christ. Since the earliest of times the enemy made it his business to mimic the Gifts of the Spirit. Remember: **the enemy can mimic any gift of the Spirit, but NOT the Fruit of the Spirit!**

What, then, is his copied version of the **Gift of Prophecy** and the **Ministry of the Prophet**? It is **divination, fortune-telling, wizardry, soothsaying, etc.** and.... at a *certain fee*, of course! These people advertise themselves in the media as **fortune-tellers, “madame this-or-that”, palmreaders, tarot card readers, augurs, etc.** Many of these people are ordinary, friendly people, and will even describe their “gift” as “from God” – and .... “my grandmother was like that, oh, and my aunt, and I got it too!” The more people the enemy can manage to get under his control through these evil practices, the better for him!



The moment we let ourselves into the “practice” of one of these workers of darkness, we give the enemy of our spirit, soul and body a legal right to use that “information” against us at any given time in our lives. He’s holding a trump card for later! And the younger your age, the better!

Even the popular practice amongst young girls or pregnant mothers to e.g. swing a wedding ring on a piece of string like a pendulum above the wrist to divine whether it’s going to be a boy or a girl, and how many children there will be eventually, also counts among these practices which are an abomination in the eyes of our God – divination!



The truth is that these ignorance and transgression of God's Word by a parent, or further back, by an ancestor, will have a tremendous and far-reaching effect upon us and our descendants. Those "prophecies" were pronounced through the insight and power of demons, and it carries a lot of weight in the spiritual realm. Thus we can expect that a large percentage of that which was foretold, may take place in our lives – HOWEVER! - it is **not God's will** for our lives, but the enemy's, only it's sugar-coated .... for now!

If it would come to your attention that one or more of your ancestors, whether it was a grand-grandmother, grandmother, mother, or even some of the male ancestors visited a fortune-teller to receive a peep into the future, what can you do? How can you be delivered from the wrath of God over these practices?

**Deuteronomy 5:7, 9-10:-**

*"You shall have **no other gods** before Me or besides Me. You shall **not bow down to them or serve them**; for I, the Lord your God, am a **jealous God**, visiting the **iniquity of the fathers upon the children** to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, and **showing mercy and steadfast love to thousands and to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**"*

The main condition, is that you have to be a **child of God**, covered by the **Blood of Jesus Christ**.

This iniquity/trespass/sin now needs to be repented of before Father as a **sin** and **iniquity** of our ancestors, which came upon us and our descendants (even if it was not committed by ourselves).

If you come before the throne of grace, having sincere remorse and repentance, Father will come and delete this sin so that the enemy will no longer be able to use it in any way against you or your descendants!

Remember, many of these foretelling and things that were said over our lives, may sound wonderful and exciting, but you must realize that those are merely a **poor reflection and image** and a **distorted copy with a hidden agenda** of our enemy in contrast with what our Father has planned for us.

It is therefore of utmost importance that **these words are silenced and deleted over our lives and future**, that the **works of satan must be bound and forced to a standstill and destruction**, and the **plan and blessing of God** for us and our descendants can get unbound and start rolling!



Let us now have a thorough look at the issue of WORDS and the positives and negatives thereof.

This teaching is based upon the assumption that all doors of the past are already being closed down, i.e. inherited sin and my own sin which could have opened doors.

**Prov. 26:2** *“Like the sparrow in her wandering, like the swallow in her flying, so the **causeless curse** does not alight.”*

This Scripture says that if I do have open doors in my life, curses will indeed hit me and that is why it is so important that I will go through a **personal cleansing session** to make sure that there is no “landing-place” for the enemy in my life. When I had done all of these things, **Rom. 8:38** will work for me, because then the enemy will have no more any lawful right in my life.

**Remember:** God is righteous and He has to judge sin. He says in His Word that if I open up doors in my life through sin, there will be consequences. Even while He loves me so very much, He still has to judge my sin. As a result of the open doors, satan is able to reach me. You must remember that satan is a legalist, and he knows the Word and how to get his hand on me when I wander outside of God’s precepts. **1 Pet. 5:8** states that satan is wandering around like a roaring lion to seek whom he can devour. I open the door through my disobedience. From the beginning in the Garden of Eden, God told man that he has to **choose** between the tree of Life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Love never forces itself, but allows freedom of choice.

The whole Word is one of **choice**: Blessings of curses. Blessings **IF** you are obedient, and curses **when/if** you sin. Every promise in the Word is **conditional** and dependent upon my OBEDIENCE. NOTHING just happens automatically. God is waiting for me to make a conscious choice, because He wants us to be co-workers with Him.



I am created into the Image of God and He said that He is the great “I AM”. When I speak words, I am acting as an ambassador of the Lord and my words carry power.

**Creative Power:** “I AM”

**Prov. 18:21** *“**Death** and life are in the **power of the tongue**, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].”*

There is POWER in the tongue!!

Through your words you are **JUSTIFIED** or **JUDGED**.

**Matt. 12:37** *“For by your **words** you will **be justified** and acquitted, and by your **words** you will be **condemned and sentenced**.”*

**Choose words of Life:**

**Prov. 12:14** *“From the **fruit of his words** a man shall be satisfied with good, and the work of a man’s hands shall come back to him [as a harvest].”*

According to these scriptures, we see that when we speak in alignment with the Word, it brings forth **life**.

**Heb. 1:14** says that God’s angels are ministering servants, they take our Bible-based words and carry it out, because

**Is. 55:11** states that God’s Word never returns void.



**Heb. 1:14** *“14 Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation? “*

**Is. 55:11** *“So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. “*



Satan, an imitator of everything God does, appointed evil spirits to guard our words. Whenever we speak negative words, they are out of their starting-blocks to work on the same principle as mentioned above, to do their work. They take our words and let it manifest.

**Jam. 3:5-6, 8-10** *“5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze!*

*6 And the tongue is a fire. [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man’s nature), being itself ignited by hell (Gehenna).*

*8 But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of deadly poison.*

*9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God’s likeness!*

*10 Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. These things, my brethren, ought not to be so.”*

**1 Pet. 3:10** *“For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days [good—whether apparent or not] **keep his tongue** free from evil and his lips from guile (treachery, deceit).”*

**Prov. 13:2, 13** “2 A good man eats good from the **fruit of his mouth**, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence.  
13 Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded. “

Scientists proved that when a person speaks negatively, get a fright or shock, the brain secretes some chemicals, namely: ADRENALIN. This leads to a feeling of tension (stress), which will motivate us and keep us awake. (EUSTRESS). Too much adrenalin causes sleeplessness, burn-out and chronic exhaustion. Deficiency of adrenalin, causes depression.

The opposite happens when a person speaks words which are aligned with God’s Word. Then another chemical excretion occurs, namely SERETONIN, which has a healing, restoring and building effect on the body. This makes me feel relaxed, healthy and happy. All of these are accompanied with the fact that we were created in the image of “I AM”, and therefore, when I speak the words of “*I am sick, depressed, weak, inferior, etc.*”, I am creating that condition with my words.



We are connected to the spiritual dimension in various ways. One of the invariables which is able to move between dimensions, is sound. There is nothing preventing sound from moving from our dimension into the spiritual dimension. When we talk, sing or pray, our voices can be heard in the spiritual realm – and we know that God lives in the midst of the praises of His people. **(Ps. 22:4)**

We can thus conclude that our voices do have a direct effect on God and the spiritual realm. Scientists say that if they could have strong and sensitive enough instruments, they would have been able to intercept the voices of even Adam and Eve, for sound never goes to be lost.

Thus, when words are being spoken, I can do nothing in the physical to take those words back or to nullify them. Those words will keep on resounding in the spiritual dimension and therefore it is of utmost importance that I have to understand the power of my words.

As child of God, I have the wonderful privilege when I have spoken erroneously, or badmouthed someone, broken down my spouse or wounded my child with my words, that I may go before the Lord and repent of my sins. **1 John 1:9** says that God is Faithful and Righteous to forgive me and cleanse me from all of my sin.

On the grounds of the perfect work of Jesus on the Cross and the Power of His Blood, I now can take authority over those words which I had spoken, I can “retain” them in the spirit, nullify and cancel them, and nail them to the Cross.

Then I can take authority over the evil spirits, dismiss them of their tasks to carry out those words which I had spoken, in the Name of Jesus.



The same applies when someone speaks negative words over me to break me down or badmouth me or to hurt me. Then I have to forgive that person immediately, once again “retain” those words in the spirit, nullify them and bind the evil spirits.

**Ps. 17:3** *“You have proved my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and find nothing [no evil purpose in me]; I have purposed that my **mouth** shall not transgress.”*

**Ps. 39:2** *“I was dumb with silence, I held my peace without profit and had no comfort away from good, while my distress was renewed.”*

**Ps. 141:3** *“Set a guard, O Lord, before my **mouth**; keep watch at the door of my **lips**.”*

#### **Slander:**

As children of God, we have to be very careful what we say to each other. The effect in the spirit is much more damaging, because we say it “in the Name of the Lord”. (Remember, we are His ambassadors and everything we do, we do in His Name, because we are carrying His Name).



**Eccl. 10:20** *“Curse not the king, no, not even in your thoughts, and curse not the rich in your bedchamber, for a bird of the air will carry the voice, and a winged creature will tell the matter.”*

Here the Word is warning that my gossiping will eventually come out!

#### **Righteous or Judged:**

**Prov. 4:24** *“Put away from you false and dishonest speech, and willful and contrary talk put far from you.”*

#### **Your own words will snare you!**

**Prov. 6:2** *“You are snared with the words of your lips, you are caught by the speech of your mouth.”*

**Prov. 10:11** *“The mouth of the [uncompromisingly] righteous man is a well of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.”*

**Prov. 15:23** *“A man has joy in making an apt answer, and a word spoken at the right moment—how good it is!”*

**Prov. 18:7** *“A [self-confident] fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to himself.”*

### **Words that wound:**

**Prov. 12:18** *“There are those who speak rashly, like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

### **Healing:**

**Prov. 16:24** *“Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body.”*

### **Leaders:**

We must be very careful of what we say about our leaders, for this too influences the spiritual dimension.

#### **1. City Leaders**

**Prov. 11:11** *“By the blessing of the influence of the upright and God’s favor [because of them] the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.”*



#### **2. Spiritual Leaders**

**Ex. 22:28** *“You shall not revile God [the judges as His agents] or esteem lightly or curse a ruler of your people. “*

### **In conclusion to this:**

*Words are containers. They carry faith or fear,  
and they produce after their own kind*

### Example of Prayer:

Father, I thank and praise You that You are my Father, that Your **grace and mercy** are available to me, and that You are always prepared to listen to my plea for mercy. Today I stand before You in the **Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ**.

I thank You, Jesus, that You cleared the way for me through the **Veil**, by Your **precious Blood and Calvary**, so that I may have the privilege to come boldly before my Father and His throne of mercy to **state my case** before Him.

Father, I thank You that You sent out Your Spirit into my spirit to **convict** me of **sin, righteousness and judgement**. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for the wonderful work You are doing within me, and that You will continue and finish it, up to the day that Christ returns.

Father, today I stand before You on behalf of my \_\_\_\_\_ (and/or myself), for the **sin of divination and similar evil practices**. Firstly, I come and I **speak forgiveness over** my \_\_\_\_\_ because she/he/they went to a fortune-teller/diviner in the first place, even **on my behalf** and **without my knowing it**. **I forgive and release them** and I ask that You will have mercy on them and that Your Spirit will convict them of sin, righteousness and judgment, and that they too will come to know the truth, so that they can be set free. (If they are still alive). I pray, Holy Spirit, that You will blow upon the spirit and soul of those fortune-tellers / diviners etc. and that You will convict them of sin, righteousness and judgment, that You will send Your Word to set them free from those manipulating spirits they are in covenant with, in Jesus Name.

I now come and repent of the **consulting** of a diviner / fortune-teller, etc., as an abominable sin before You, and I realize that this **sin, transgression and iniquity** of \_\_\_\_\_, had given the enemy a foothold and legal right upon me and my descendants. I have studied Your Word as mentioned above, and I saw that this is a repellent abomination in Your eyes, and that Your wrath gets released over those who practice it as well as upon their descendants.

Today, I **humbly** ask Your **forgiveness**, because this sin stands recorded against my name, and I ask that You will **forgive me and wash me clean** from this blemish.

I pray that You will give command concerning these words which were spoken over my descendants and me, and which are still hanging in the spiritual realm, that **Your Holy Fire will target and destroy it**, so that these **words may no longer be operative**, and that **any of these false prophecies** which are already in operation against me or my descendants, will be **brought to summary justice and be stopped**.

I now ask You Father, that You will **turn around into a blessing with Your own Hand**, each and every curse that was uttered, and that none of these things will have **any further effect** upon me or my children. I ask that You will **purify and redeem my body, soul and spirit** from any hold of these false prophecies.

Father, I pray that You will sever me in the **spiritual realm** from any **ungodly soulties** of \_\_\_\_\_ (fortune-teller/s name/s), as well as from any **evil spirits** which were consulted by them, and that You will **purify my name** from anything that was put or hung upon it. I also pray that You will commission Your angels to place under arrest any **gatekeepers** of the enemy who had to guard these false prophecies in our lives, to bind them and place them under the Feet of Jesus Christ. I pray that You will target and demolish the throne of the enemy as well as the pillars on which it rested in our family.

I pray that You will remove all and any **spiritual blockages** in me, caused by those false prophecies, in Jesus Name.

Father, I pray that You will sever the **power of the serpent** over my **conscious- and unconscious mind, memory and dreams, as well as over my possessions, relationships, properties and ministry**. I pray that You will blot out all of these false words from my memory, so that it will be remembered no more, and that You will fill that vacuum with **Your plans, Your dreams, Your prophecies** for me and my descendants.

Father, I now thank You from the depth of my heart for the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and for Your perfect plan to purify and save us from all evil practices in which we became ensnared. **Once again I thank You for Your grace and mercy and Your Word.**

I now choose to direct my heart to You undividedly. I choose to root myself in Your Word and to walk in obedience to Your Spirit.

I honor and praise You, Father, that You have now directed me and my descendant's future on a sure road according to Your will and pleasure.

I close this prayer in the powerful Name of my Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**AMEN.**

**1 John 1:9**

*"If we freely admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and continuously cleanse us from all unrighteousness, everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action]."*

## WARNING: HARRY POTTER

### Harry Potter and control of children's minds

To understand how important "Harry Potter" is, as part of the government plan to brainwash children, just think about this : an order was issued, around countries controlled by evil, to show in each country in one of the main TV stations, during Christmas 2002, the complete trailer (25 minutes!) for Potter II.

Can you imagine how much this would cost, had this be charged as a normal TV ad ?

As with Potter II, the brainwashing dosis increases, more people start finally to ask some of the questions that they should have asked long ago. They are answered in the article below, which uses the Bible as the reference to illustrate evil vs. Good. In this context (like almost everything in the Bible) there's no contradiction with the natural society values: **brainwashing children into hating God and accept the occult, vices and horrible practices is EVIL.**

Mat Marriott, December 2002



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What You May Not Know About The Real Harry Potter And The Agenda Behind It The Harry Potter books hit the world -- schools, libraries, and the New York Times best-sellers list -- like a spiritual tidal wave, breaking down barriers to the forbidden dark occult. It has captivated children around the world more than even computer. 100 millions books have been sold in 35 languages with over 680 Potter websites, and Harry Potter clubs all over. Even after the fourth book was out, the discussion shows no sign of abating. This may be more than just a fad. Potter-mania is here to stay! As one who has researched the occult and has experience in dealing with those in the occult over a period of 25 years, I am persuaded that this is not some harmless entertainment, but a real and present danger to our young people. Please lay aside any bias that you might have and hear the powerful evidence. **More and more discerning parents are questioning Potter books.** This is purely **pagan witchcraft** repackaged. Harry Potter, an orphaned boy, was sent to live with his "horrible," anti-witchcraft Uncle and Aunt after his parents (powerful witches) were killed by an even more powerful witch. Harry has Generational Witchcraft in his background, making it very likely that he will be a wizard when he grows up. In the books, "muggles" like his Uncle and Aunt were pictured as cruel and narrow for preventing Potter from learning witchcraft, the readers get a clear impression that parents, teachers must be mean for keeping them from pursuit of the occult. It is almost as if the author anticipated that some readers would **develop an interest in witchcraft** and is **preparing them for rebellion against authorities.**

Harry finally got freed from his relatives and discovered new friends and an exciting life at the Woghart school of Witchcraft.

Witches are depicted as being very smart, very "with it," and of living wonderfully exciting lives. Harry and his colleagues routinely **practice sorcery, cast spells, and talk with spirits of the dead.**

After much research, I will try to show in this article that the author, J.K. Rowling, is into the **occult**, that hundreds of kids have already been drawn towards it. I will answer the common excuses and arguments that Potter-defenders use. It will be proven with quotes from the books that Potter is a boy who lies, breaks rules and that these books are anti-parents, etc. For those who are new, Harry Potter is a 13-year-old boy who went to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft to learn the occultic arts and later to fight the evil Voldemort.

### **Is Rowling an occultist?**

I am aware that some Christian websites have been misinformed about an alleged interview of Rowlings in an article "Harry Potter Books Spark Rise In Satanism Among Children" in "The Onion" magazine, during which she allegedly said some "off the wall" things about Jesus and Satan. There was never such an interview.

Rowling revealed for the first time the identities of the people who inspired her characters. Ian Potter, a damp-proofer whose childhood antics have startling similarities to Harry, lived just four doors away from Rowling as she was growing up in the village of Winterbourne, near Bristol. He was Rowling's playmate. Inspiration for Professor Snape, the spine-chilling teacher at Hogwarts School, was drawn from a teacher at Rowling's former school. The character of Ron Weasley, one of Harry's best friends, was based on Rowling's oldest friend, Sean. His full identity remains hidden.

Rowling grew up loving the occult

Mr. Potter, 43, who lives near Bristol, said: "The girls, including Joanne, used to dress up as witches all the time." Miss Potter, 32, said: "Ian was the perfect inspiration for the mischief-making wizard character. He was a total nightmare, a real horror." Miss Potter recalled how Rowling would make potions as part of their fantasy games. ". Joanne would always send us off to get twigs for the potions." Apparently, Ms Rowling knew how to find the books that nurtured her fascination even as a child. Now she, in turn, spreads her **love for the occult** to children around the world. Interestingly, Rowling says that **Halloween is her "very favorite" time of the year.** This is one of the clearest indications that she is deep into the occult. It is the nr. 1 most "holy day" in the occult calendar.

### **Children are drawn towards the Occults after reading Potter**

"I was eager to get to Hogwarts first because I like what they learned there and I want to be a witch." Gioia Bishop, age 10. The Pagan Federation has appointed a youth officer to deal with a flood of inquiries on how to become a witch (average 100 a month!) following the success of the Potter books.

The federation says the Potter books, and TV shows such as Sabrina The Teenage Witch and Buffy The Vampire Slayer, had probably sparked the new flood of interest."

In an interview with Newsweek's Malcolm Jones, Rowlings said, "I get letters from children addressed to Professor Dumbledore [headmaster at Hogwarts School], and it's not a joke, begging to be let into Hogwarts, and some of them are really sad. Because they want it to be true so badly they've convinced themselves it's true." Harry Potter is playing the part of Pied Piper, leading children to their eternal doom.

**Potter may help usher a generation to accept the Mark of the Anti-Christ.** In fact, Potter in the book got a **supernatural birthmark on his forehead!**

In Chapter Two, entitled "The Scar," we learn that the official name for the lightning bolt permanently etched into Harry's forehead, right between his eyes, is a "**curse scar**" [p. 21]. One big concern we have with Potter is that it encourages youngsters to want to copy Harry to have a scar painted between their eyes, just as we saw during the hyped build-up preceding the release of this fourth book. Someday, a spiritual superman is going to arise, and will soon demand that these kids take the ultimate Curse Mark, his Mark of the Beast. (**Revelation 13:13-16**). You can spot some of the fans by the **purple thunderbolt** stickers on their foreheads. This mark bonds them to Harry. Satanism is full of lightening bolts, even to the point of being used by Hitler's SS. Dr. Cathy Burns reports in her book, Masonic and Occult Symbols Illustrated, that the lightning bolt is also known within witchcraft as the "Satanic S"; she then lists the Satanic took groups using this lightning bolt: KISS [Knights In Satan's Service]; Black Sabbath; AC-DC . . . The sign represents the power of Lucifer falling to earth from grace as a lightning bolt. Satanist vows that, at the Battle of Armageddon, Lucifer/Satan and his forces will reverse this earlier defeat as they annihilate and His saints, When people by the hundreds of millions take this Mark of the Beast, how many of them will have been pre-conditioned to accept such a mark in such a place on their body because of Harry Potter?

It was Lenin who said, "Give me one generation of youth, and I will transform the entire world. "Now an entire generation of youth has been given to a woman named Rowling and her books. In order to succeed in bringing witchcraft to the world and thus complete satanic control, an entire generation would have been taught to think, talk, dress, and act like witches. **Rev. 18:2, 23** describe our future world as one filled with witchcraft and demonism.

### **Excuses**

**Excuse nr.1 - Potter is just a fantasy book!** We were raised on scary tales. If we tell our kids they are not real, it can't hurt. Some compare the Potter series with C.S. Lewis's Narnia Chronicles. But is Lewis the standard? At least he did not endorse the Occult. In Lewis, use of magic is always seen as rebellion, unless it is the power wielded by Aslan, the Christ figure of Narnia "Good stories capture the heart, mind, and imagination and are an important way to transmit values," writes Louise Derman-Sparks in Anti-Bias Curriculum:

Tools for Empowering Young Children, which is full of strategies for eroding traditional values and teaching new spirituality. "Many delight in identifying with the 'good' wizards and sometimes even with the obviously evil wizards.

They build memories based on felt experiences in an occult virtual reality, and they are desensitized to the danger," according to writer Berit Kjos. Our children are surrounded by peers who are fascinated by the dark art and would love to share their discoveries. Youth involvement in the occult is a reality! Once I talked to a sincere Christian parent who did not see problems with Potter. I found out that she does not believe in the reality of witchcraft or even the devil. Rowling created a captivating world where strength, wisdom, love, all the good gifts God promises those who believe Him are now offered to those who get into the occult. I once helped a woman who had demons speaking through her vocal cords, promising her **power to tell the future** & make much money if she would just follow Satan. Thankfully, she got saved & is today in seminary.

"We know the difference between reality and fantasy," some will argue. It doesn't matter. Adults and children alike absorb values through the subtle suggestions hidden in entertainment. And the more we like it, the more it affects us. Would it be okay to let your children read a **fantasy pornographic book**? Why not? It's mere fantasy! Have you not heard of the power of suggestion? Rowling's suggestions include:

- a. A vision of a better world: link main characters to pagan practices.
- b. Rebellion against Biblical authorities: link traditional authority figures to intolerant "muggles."
- c. An idealized view of paganism: link occult images to "good" wizards.

There is a difference between fantasy and the occult. Fantasy can be used in a way that totally leaves out references to the occult. But this is not what happens in this book. "The world of imagination and fantasy can help pass on to the child cultural and social messages [and] function as a way to experience vicariously things an individual could not do first-hand." Aminadav, C., International Journal of Adolescent Medicine & Health (April-June 1995)

**Excuse nr.2 - Potter is a good, hard-working example to kids!** Let's get actual quotes from the 4 books and see if this holds up water.

**Disobedience and Deception** - Harry lies and disobeys fairly often with no remorse. He is only concerned with the consequences that might affect him, such as when he "blows up" Aunt Marge, a malicious act on his part. "She deserved it," says Harry. What is disturbing is that these acts often go unpunished. Often the adults in a position of authority go along with this, or even participate themselves. In *The Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry disregards his teacher's order and is later honored for it! He lies on the run from his attack on Aunt Marge (p. 34), to Prof. Lupin (p. 155), He suggests that Hermione lie. Fred and George Weasley disobey their father and gamble, betting on the outcome of the game. However, does Mr. Weasley punish them? No, instead he instructs them to hide the gambling from their mother, (p. 117)

The fundamental occult philosophy that the "Ends Justify The Means" permeates the books. To achieve a goal deemed good, Harry and his friends consistently break rules, steal, and use Witchcraft against others.

Hatred -- "A hatred such as he had never known before was coursing through Harry like poison" (HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN p. 213). **Anger and hatred** permeate the books, prompting such actions as plotting revenge. "I hate them both," said Harry, [p. 196] This attitude is too common in the books. "A boiling hate erupted in Harry's chest. he wanted ... to attack ... to kill." [P. 339]

**No Absolute Standard of Good or Evil** -- Professor Quirrell told Harry, "There is no good or evil, there is only power, and those too weak to seek it." [P. 291] This is standard Witchcraft.

**Excuse nr.3 - That's better than kids not reading books!**

Would you give a drink made of 98% milk mixed in 2% arsenic to your kids? Why not? It is better than not drinking milk! In this case, the Potter drink is 98% witchcraft & occult poison.

**Excuse nr.4 - But most kids love Potter!**

I asked one elementary child what he thinks of Potter. He replied, "He is cool!" I asked, "Is he an good example?" "Yeah." Tell me how he's a good example." He scratched his head. Yale Prof. Harold Bloom says it's horribly written and says kids are better off not reading at all than reading Potter. (US N & WR)

**Excuse nr.5 - The books teach good versus evil, that good will triumph!**

Shockingly, Chuck Colson of Watergate fame defends Potter by telling Christian parents that the magic in Harry Potter books is the "good" magic. It is purely mechanical, as opposed to occultist. That is, Harry and his friends cast spells, read crystal balls but they don't make contact with a supernatural world." Pastor David J. Meyer, a former witch, said, "I have been studying the occult (both White and Black Magic) for 16 years. Harry Potter is not a story of good versus evil; it is a story of **White Magic Witchcraft versus Black Magic Witchcraft.**" Famous Satanist Anton LaVey called this differentiation nonsense. "White magic is supposedly utilized only for good or unselfish purposes, and black magic, we are told, is used only for selfish or 'evil' reasons. Satanism draws no such dividing line. Magic is magic, be it used to help or hinder." [The Satanic Bible, Page 51]. In the books, **Harry and his friends are the White Magic wizards** fighting Voldemort, the Lord of Darkness. **Both are wizards**, drawing their power from the same source! From 1983-87, **Masters of the Universe** was the most powerful license ever in the history of Toy Retailing. In the accompanying cartoon series, **He-Man** was the **White Magic Witch**, doing battle with **Skeletor**, the **Black Magic Witch**.

**Excuse nr.6 - But some Christian groups like Focus On the Family endorsed the books.** Perhaps they have not read through the books, but have taken the word of a staff. Is a fallible writer our standard in determining right or wrong? Family Life and others disapprove these books. We shall apply the Biblical acid test and see if Potter will pass.

On Judgment Day, Jesus Christ may not tolerate any such suggestion that it is all right to teach our children Black Magic Witchcraft because it is a "literary device". **"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."** [Ephesians 5:6] Christianity Today says that Potter is equivalent to a "Book of Virtues", citing the values of compassion, loyalty, courage, friendship as being taught. One cannot argue that the witchcraft of Potter is harmless because it teaches these values. You might as well argue that it is all right to feed your child **cheese and ham wrapped in a poisonous bun!** The cheese and ham will not kill your child, but the poisonous bun certainly will. Conversely, the virtues will not spiritually kill your child, but the **witchcraft will!** **"There shall not be found among you any one that ... useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a 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..."** [Deuteronomy 18:10-12] How can you glamorize witchcraft and call it Biblical?

**"Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."** Romans 12:9,

**"Abstain from all appearance of evil."** - I Thessalonians 5:22

## **Potter endorses vices and horrible practices**

### **1. Drug use**

In HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE, since Drug Use is essential in achieving **higher consciousness**, Harry and his friends learned to create drugs! Listen to Professor Snape explain: "I don't think you will really understand the beauty of the softly simmering cauldron with its shimmering fumes, the delicate power of liquids that creep through human veins, bewitching the mind, ensnaring the senses, I can teach you how to bottle fame, brew glory, even stopper death . . . What would I get if I added powered root of asphodel to an infusion of wormwood?" [P. 137] The plant, **wormwood**, contains **thujone**, an **hypnotic drug**, banned by the FDA since 1915 [Christian News, "Latest Potter Book Meets Cautionary Response From Christians, July 17, 2000] ; further, wormwood is used to make **Absinthe**, a **hallucinogenic liquor**. Further, look at the accurate description such drugs have on the senses: "creep through human veins" ... "bewitching the mind" ... "ensnaring the senses". At the end of the book, we see another instance of **drug glorification**.

In order to achieve their goal of the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry and Hermione have to correctly choose between several bottles full of drug potions, which they are to correctly drink in the right order. The drug message in this book is clear. To reach your goals in life like Potter, you need to know how to make drugs and take drugs in just the right way or else you are a 'dunderhead'.

## 2. Drinking blood

".The cloaked figure reached the **unicorn**, lowered its head over the wound in the animal's side, and began to **drink its blood**. "Drinking blood is forbidden in Scripture [**Genesis 9:4-5**] but practiced regularly in Satanism. **Casting Spells** -- God forbids this practice in **Isaiah 8:19**, "***And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?***" Witches that cast spells "peep" and "mutter" their incantations. In many spells, a witch will draw a circle on the floor and then will step inside to draw either a hexagram or a pentagram. Once the circle is thus prepared, the witch and the coven present will get inside the circle to get ready for the demon to be summoned. Death glorified - Headmaster Dumbledore; "To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure." The most alarming area Rowling continues to explore is that of death. **Death** has played a **prominent role** in all the Potter books beginning with the horrible deaths of Harry's family.

## 3. Occult symbolism used

a. **Unicorn** is a common occult symbol for **Antichrist** according to Biblical scholars. God declares in **Daniel, chapter 8**, that the symbol of **Alexander the Great** shall be a **unicorn**. Constance Cumbey writes that certain symbols were to be particularly effective in preparing the world for the Antichrist. "New Age symbols such as the rainbow, the **unicorn**, and triple-sixes [666] were to be increasingly displayed." [Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow, p. 122] Notice that Harry is flying between two columns that are simply crawling with serpents "***And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...***" [Revelation 12:9; also 20:2]

b. In the book cover for Harry Potter And The Chamber of Secrets, we see Potter grabbing on to the tail of a **red Phoenix Bird**. The **Phoenix** is one of the **oldest occult symbols**, having been invented by **Egyptian Mystery religion**. Phoenix is a symbol of **Lucifer** who was cast down and whom they think will one day rise triumphantly. [Dr. C. Burns, Masonic and Occult Symbols Illustrated, p. 123] During most of 1999, new ager Hillary Clinton and several female members of the President's Cabinet were seen sporting a very expensive lapel pin depicting a Phoenix Bird.

c. Rowling understands the significance of **frogs, cats, and owls** to the occultist. Satanists have always revered the **cat** that is a symbol of **reincarnation**. The **frog's bulging eyes** represent the **All-seeing nature of Lucifer**. The **owl** is a symbol of occult **wisdom**.

d. **Demon Possession** -- Harry recounted for Ron the time in the previous year when Professor Trelawney was demonically possessed.

e. **Shape-Shifter** -- ["Goblets of Fire," p. 623] One of the most common type of shape-shifting in popular media is a **werewolf**. This transformation is done only at the highest levels of Witchcraft. Severe demonic possession is required. Years ago, I had a Satanist who told me that he personally has seen shape-shifters on the West coast. He felt like being "poisoned by cyanide" as he talked to me on the phone. I know this sounds far out.

f. **Gambling** is glorified as the wizards wanted to gamble on the outcome of the match ["The Goblet of Fire," pgs. 87-89]

g. **Drinking** -- Heavy drinking was depicted at the World Cup match [Page 88-89]. Virtually all the faculty of Hogwart's School is depicted as drinking heavily at school.

h. **Cheating** -- "Cheating's a traditional part of the Triwizard Tournament and always has been". [Professor Moody counseling Harry on what he has to do to win the tournament; p. 343] Remember children admire this newfound hero!

i. Practices like **Bestiality** -- [p. 454]

j.. Real names of the Devil. **Sirius** is one of the most important characters in this book. He is constantly on guard to protect Harry. Listen to occult writer M. Temple Richmond, writing in his book, "Sirius," p. 29:" . . . **Sirius is the Keeper of Hell!** The Egyptians also called him **Set**." In SF, there is a **temple of Set** headed by a **Satanist** who allegedly terrified kids from the **Presidio**. Christian author, Bill Schonebelen, former practicing Satanist, says that the Egyptian worship of Set was truly abominable. He says Set was worshipped with obscene, **homosexual rituals**." Thus, when Harry is **related to Sirius**, he is **related to Satan himself!** And when Sirius comes to Harry's aid time and again, Harry is being delivered by Satan! Wow! In the books, Sirius is depicted as a grossly misunderstood good guy who is really wonderful in his heart of hearts. This depiction matches exactly the belief of the occultist, who believes that Lucifer is really the good guy, misunderstood by many. The God of the Bible is always pictured in the occult as the real bad guy. In the books, **Lord Voldemort** is cast as the ultimate adversary of Sirius. Harry also learns a new vocabulary, including words such as "**Azkaban**", "**Circe**", "**Draco**", "**Erised**", "**Hermes**", and "**Slytherin**"; all of which are names of **real devils or demons**. These are not characters of fiction!

**God warns, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" [Isaiah 5:20]**

We shall have to be on the lookout for the further development of Voldemort in later novels, but the stage seems to be set for Lord Voldemort to be revealed as the terrible God of the Christian and Jewish Bibles. Suggesting That the World Is Full of Witches Rowling wrote: "It was only just dawning on Harry how many witches and wizards there must be in the world." [p. 81]. Again, the subtle suggestion that this is normal!

**HARRY POTTER'S CHAMBER OF SECRETS DEPICTS KILLING, CUTTING UP, AND STEWING HUMAN BEINGS!** To make a Restorative Potion, humans are cut up, and stewed! These sincere Christian Potter-defenders either have never read the books or they **think cutting up people is okay so long it is fantasy.**

In all the books, witches and warlocks are conjuring up spells in order to get revenge on an enemy or to play a trick on someone. In fact, students casting spells upon other students have gotten so bad that Hogwart's School issued a proclamation forbidding such practices. In **Potter's White Magic**, we now see **human sacrifice occurring**, even though White Magic practitioners -- like **Wiccans** -- would protest mightily that they do NOT practice human sacrifice. But this type of human sacrifice is actually needed in some types of spells. A former Black Magic Satanist has written: "The flying potions main ingredient is the fat from a sacrificed unbaptised male child below a certain age."

***"For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off [executed] from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God."* [Leviticus 18:25-30]**

***"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations."***

**[Deuteronomy 18:9]** Kids are learning these pagan practices from Potter! Every one of the most pro-Potter websites has admitted that Harry Potter is filled to the full with Witchcraft.. If you consider yourself a Christian who loves God & His word, you would be willing to give up reading Harry Potter or resist the temptation to see the Potter movie. Books definitely not for young children. Rowling incorporates graphic depictions, including a professor whose leg is mangled by a **three-headed dog**. While the books are basically aimed at elementary-aged children, it might be too scary for some. Pastor David J. Meyer is a former witch "I have examined the works of Rowling and that the Harry Potter books are **training manuals for the occult.**

**Untold millions of young people are being taught to think, speak, dress and act like witches by filling their heads with the contents of these books.** How serious is this? By reading these materials, many millions of young people are learning **how to work with demon spirits.**

On July 8 at midnight, bookstores everywhere were stormed by millions obtain the fourth book known as "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." These books were taken into homes everywhere with a real evil spirit following each copy to curse those homes. July 8th was also the 18th day (three six5es in numerology) from the witches' sabbat of midsummer. What would the faithful Christians do with a Potter book in **Acts 19:18-20: "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed."** As parents, we will answer to God if we allow our children to read witchcraft books.

### **Harry Potter and Dungeons & Dragons**

Both immerse their fans in a well-developed fantasy world, replete with **wizards, spells.** Some of you may recall a number of youth who committed suicide after playing with D & D a role-playing adventure game. Fantasy Games Can't be Harmful? Magic List of Books a First-Year Student Hogwarts School will have to read

1. The Standard Book of Spells (Grade 1), by Miranda Goshawk. Many spells require both the taking of drugs and demonic possession.
2. One Thousand Magical Herbs and Fungi
3. Magical Drafts and Potions

Rowling has said her future books will get darker. The evil that Rowling portrays is both dark and scary. Does Harry Potter pass the test of **Phil. 4:8?**

**"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."** [Philippians 4:8] If God has not allowed any one any age to saturate their minds with Satanism, how could parents allow it? I have been unable to find any mention by Rowling to religion or faith in Jesus Christ.

**"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. . . ." [Matthew 7:16-20]**

Harry Potter is without question a tree of **Bad Fruit**. Why do some recommend the bad fruit of the Harry Potter tree? Rowling is appealing to the most powerful brain function children have-*imagination*. Through her creative use of words and her delightful storytelling style, she is making witchcraft and magic attractive.

### **Occult Numbers Used In Story Plot**

Notice date they select the movie to be out is Nov. 16. The way occult numerologists count is by adding  $1 + 1 + 1 + 6 = 9$ ; 9 is a very sacred and powerful number, the upside down of another occult number 6. Harry is aged 13 in this book; **thirteen** is **Satan's number of rebellion**. Harry was admitted to Hogwarts School on his **11th** birthday. Harry is assigned room number **11** in the **Leaky Cauldron**. **11** is sacred to the occultist. "... **Eleven is the essence of all that is sinful, a symbol of destruction, death.**" [The Occult Power of Numbers, p. 100-101]. Perhaps coincidentally, the terrorist act was on Sept. 11,  $9 + 1 + 1 = 11$ .

***Jesus said, "You cannot drink the Lord's table and the demon's table. Shall we thus provoke the Lord to jealousy and anger and indignation?" [1 Corinthians 10:21-22] God said, "And be not be conformed to this world." [Romans 12:2]***

**Potter, Pokemon**, and many other role-playing fantasy games are dangerous and often lead to a **deeper curiosity and fascination with the occult**. Parents, teachers, take charge! Do not be over-confident. Speak the truth in love. Help me reproduce this in its entirety and distribute/ e-mail this vital, timely message out to the young & the old!

### **Endnotes**

- a.. i. "Harry Potter and the Source of Inspiration" by Danielle Demetriou
- b.. ii. Malcolm Jones, "The Return of Harry Potter!" Newsweek (Online), July 1, 2000, page 4. Watchman123, 2001

## **B) STRAIGHT TALK ON HARRY POTTER – By William J. Schnoebelen**

No book in recent years has attracted the success of the celebrated "Harry Potter" series. Supposedly these children's novels, written by a woman in Britain named J. K. Rowling, have made her one of the wealthiest women in the world. She has written four books, the latest being HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE, which weighs in heavier than some laptop computers. In total, her books have sold more than 30 million copies.

Her appealing hero is Harry Potter, a nerdy orphan boy whose parents were killed when he was very young by an evil wizard named Voldemort. From this encounter, he has a lightning bolt-shaped scar on his forehead raised by dull, cruel relatives (an aunt and uncle) who are "Muggles," the Harry Potter term for non-wizards who don't like or believe in magic and who tend to persecute those who do.

Harry's saga starts when he is 10 old in THE SORCERER'S STONE and he ages a bit in each book. He is 14 in the latest book. Without going into all the plot details (which may be better known than the Bible), Harry is rescued from his bleak, Muggle-ridden existence by an invitation to come and attend "Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry." From there, he gets into all sorts of adventures, gradually building to a confrontation with the evil wizard who killed his parents.

These are marketed as children's books (the first is suggested for ages 8-13 and the last book ages 10 to adult) although they are well written and are being enjoyed by adults as well. The problem is in the spiritual nature of the books. Not many books for children come to mind where the main hero is a wizard (or wizard in training).

To be sure, magic is a common feature in fairy tales and fantasy. But whether you are talking about Grimm's Fairy Tales (some of which WERE awfully grim), the WIZARD OF OZ, or other common stories, there is a difference. Usually the magicians and wizards were secondary characters or even villains and the main ones (Dorothy, Snow White, etc.) were ordinary mortals who were either being victimized or helped by witches. But Harry is the hero, and readers are being asked to identify with him. This is of critical importance, as we shall see later. Magic is serious business, as anyone will tell you who has practiced it. I was heavily involved in magic and sorcery for at least ten years and I believe I am qualified to speak about the subject with some authority and experience.

A rather surprising controversy has arisen within the Body of Christ over the issue of Harry Potter books. These books ARE about magic and sorcery. Of this there can be no doubt. The controversy in the church revolves around whether or not such books should be in the hands of Christian children. Chuck Colson, who is a highly respected Evangelical author and speaker, astonished many when he weighed in on the side of Harry. He claimed the books were not dangerous for children because they were not about magic in the occult sense. Rather, he said, they concern "mechanical magic" which is a literary device. He states that the magic in the Potter books is:

"...purely mechanical, as opposed to occultic. That is, Harry and his friends cast spells, read crystal balls, and turn themselves into animals—but they don't make contact with a supernatural world.... [It's not] the kind of real-life witchcraft the Bible condemns." [1]

While Colson does not exactly define his term, mechanical magic, he implies it is something on the order of ray guns or time travel in the science fiction genre — a fictitious construct designed to entice the reader and move the plot along — part of an entirely fictitious universe. I do not find this persuasive.

First of all, part of the problem is that witches and magicians do exist. They DO cast spells and read crystal balls. A few even work on the discipline of lycanthropy [2] — shape-shifting into animals. Thus, there is nothing fictitious about any of this, except in the minds of head-in-the-sand Christians.

Secondly, part of the problem is defining what magic is. It is a term that has acquired all sorts of connotations in the public mindset. A newborn baby can be "magical." Although it may be poetic to say that your new girl friend's smile is magic, what has happened is that "magic" has come to mean anything that induces a sense of awe or wonder. This is not precise.

### **Magic and Magick**

Then there is the confusion between stage magic (illusion) such as practiced by folks like Houdini or David Copperfield and "real" magic. For this reason, most serious practitioners of the art of sorcery prefer to spell it the old English way, as "magick," precisely to distinguish it from pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

The famed sorcerer Aleister Crowley defined magick as "the science of causing change to occur in conformity with will." That is very broad. Obviously, if I turn on a light switch in my home, I have caused change to occur in conformity with my will. The way most students of the subject exegete Crowley's remark is to say that it refers to causing "change" without using the usual mundane methods of causality available to all people. A dictionary definition is "the supposed art of influencing the course of events by the occult control of nature or of the spirits." [3] This definition is key to understanding the problem with Harry Potter and with Colson's definition. Most all definitions of magic include the idea of occultism and/or trafficking in spirits. Most often, the spirits are evil. Harry is a child who is a wizard in training. What is a wizard? Again, the dictionary tells us that a wizard is "a sorcerer, a magician." [4] ANY of the textbooks of magick, called grimoires, [5] make it very clear that the source of true magical power is making pacts with and controlling spirits - evil spirits.

Another bit of confusion that must be cleared up is the difference between magick and witchcraft. The Potter books tend to blur them together, reflecting a common misperception. They are not the same, as any Wiccan (white Witch) will tell you. Some witches practice magick (we did) but some do not. Witchcraft as it is popularly understood these days is a religion, a pagan religion involving the worship of nature deities. Most often these are seen as a goddess and a god. The main point of Wicca for most serious witches is devotion to the gods or goddesses of their religion.

If witches do magick, it is usually of a simple variety, cord spells, candle spells or healings, etc. This is often what is called "folk magic" and is very different from ceremonial magick, the kind usually associated with wizards and magicians. Folk magic is usually done on a "limited budget" and is pretty simple. It often involves things drawn from nature. Nowadays, anthropologists call it "cultural spiritism."

Magicians, in contrast to Wiccans, often worship nothing. A Wiccan practitioner of magick might have faith in the gods of Wicca, but most magicians we have dealt with over the years are either agnostic or atheistic.

Usually, when one thinks of magick or sorcery, we are talking about "high magick" or "ceremonial magick." Ceremonial or high magick, as the name implies, usually involves quite complex rituals and a lot of time, study and preparation. For example, some of the rituals we did as witches who happened to be ceremonial magicians took more than six months to prepare.

Witches PRAY to their deities. A magician will seldom pray to anyone. He or she will command! The magician believes in the efficacy of her ritual work. She would not pray to get a result anymore than I would pray before turning on the light in hope that I would get electricity. It is not a matter of faith, it is a matter of "scientific technology". However, the technology behind magick is all mental, emotional and demonic in nature.

## Conjuring

Colson and others make the mistake of assuming that there really is no such thing as the kind of magic described in the Potter books. This is not entirely true. While some of the activities in the Potter books, (playing Quidditch [6] for example) are obviously fantasy, many of them are not. Many Christians do not even realize that there are people out there who are serious sorcerers. Since they assume that all this is fictitious, what can be the harm in reading about it?

As a former magician myself, let me explain what charming little Harry Potter would have to do to arrive at the place he is at in these books. Let me walk you through an actual magical rite in brief. To achieve the power to fly, for example, the wizard might employ any number of rituals. He would have to determine what kind of elemental force is involved.

Flight or levitation would be of the AIR element.[7] This would determine the kind of robes, incense, candles, evocations, talismans or amulets and ritual tools used. Simply put, the wizard must use all the right tools and then cast a magick circle [8] and a triangle of manifestation. These are usually painted on the floor, or laid down in some sort of incense, sulphur or chalk. The wizard stays in the circle. There are certain prescribed numbers of candles or flaming pots that might be used, depending on the magical workbook and system used. The wizard would need to wear a certain colored robe — usually blue or orange for air. He would be armed with a magic wand (not a stick with a sparkly star on the end) because wands are usually attributed to the air element. He might also have sword, because it is often felt that to be prudent you should have a sword when doing evocations. With the wand or the sword it is believed that you can order spirits to obey you.

An evocation is the calling up of a demon or djinn (the Arabic form of our word, "genie."). The term evocation is used to distinguish it from the other common ceremonial magic practice called invocation. In magic, invocation is calling upon a higher being than yourself, such as an angel or god. Believe it or not, there are magical workbooks that involve calling upon archangels and angels and forcing them to obey you. Of course, a good angel could not be commanded by sorcery.[9] It therefore stands to reason that such angels would be fallen and evil. Evocation is used to call on lower-than-human beings such as demons or elementals.[10]

The actual ceremony (aside from preparation) can take a long time. The wizard summons the spirit into this "triangle of manifestation." This is a triangle painted or inscribed on the floor about a meter on each side. This is the evocation. There will be lots of incense burnt, partially because this is believed to give the spirit some sort of material basis with which to materialize. The goal is to actually get the demon to appear visibly in the triangle, but in a form that is not too disturbing to the wizard's sensibilities.

## **Bargains with the Demon?**

Once the demon has manifested, the wizard will have some sort of talisman (which could be a medallion or a piece of parchment with writing on it) with which to bind the demon to their will. The demon will not want to obey, so there is usually a long period of threatening the demon, brandishing the sword at it and uttering horrid maledictions if it will not obey. The demon will also try to escape or trick the wizard into leaving the circle. If the wizard should step out of the circle during this time, the demon would have the right to crush him to a pulp and carry him off to hell (or somewhere like the abyss [11]). Another thing that could occur is that if the wizard accidentally does something to disturb the integrity of the circle (scuffing off some of the chalk or sulphur, etc.) then the demon could do whatever it wanted to him.

It may take several hours, but finally the demon will grant the wizard's demands.[12] This may involve simply bestowing the power of flight on the wizard, or charging him a talisman with powers of flight so that as long as he wears it, he can fly. Then the demon is released to return to its place with the final adjuration that it promises to do nothing to ever harm the wizard once he banishes the circle. Demons are supposed to keep their word (??).

This is all based on an elaborate set of rubrics that, in my experience, the demon or spirit frequently will just ignore and rip the wizard to shreds.

Most wizards really believe that these rules (such as the circle) will keep the demon at bay. Sometimes the demons will allow the wizard to luxuriate in this delusion for some time before finally lowering the boom. This is why most REAL wizards I have known have come upon bad ends. VERY bad ends.

## **Step into the Abyss**

What follows is an actual account of a ceremonial magic rite that went very wrong. The magician had set up his circle in the garage after painting all the windows over with black paint. He done all of the ceremonies described earlier and had called up a demon into the triangle. The garage was filled with the smell of incense and the howling of the demon. It was not happy at being confined to the triangle.

After almost four hours of cursing and adjurations back and forth between the wizard and the demon, the room had grown very dark. There was no light left but the candles and the lurid coals of incense. The very chalk lines on the floor marking the circle and triangle seemed to shimmer in the gloom. The demon seemed just about to buckle to the will of the magician. Then, all of a sudden, the telephone rang!

Without thinking, the magician reached out of the circle to answer it. With a horrid scream, his entire body disappeared in a belch of flame, along with the demon. In a second, the garage was empty of all but the faithful, terrified scribe sitting in the corner and the smell of roasting human flesh. The magician was never heard from again, and left behind a wife and child. The ultimate irony of that tragedy is that there was no phone in the garage!

## **A Deadly Game**

This illustrates how demons will NOT play by the rules, and how deadly magic can actually be. A magician would say that this unfortunate fellow had been sucked into the abyss forever. A more Biblical suggestion would be that he was sent to hell for his blasphemy. Most magicians ultimately think that they can become God. At the very least, they believe they can acquire god-like powers.

This horror is the "back story" behind cute little Harry. True wizardry or sorcery would not really allow him to have much fun at all without going through the above rituals. This is what Harry would have to learn at his wizard's academy, Hogwart's. Here is where the "mechanical magic" concept comes in. People like Mr. Colson want to tell us that none of this applies because Harry was BORN a wizard. His parents were magicians. Therefore, he comes by his talents naturally. He is a natural born wizard.

There is a bit of truth in this. In real life, if Harry's parents were really magicians or wizards, they would be demonized to their eyeballs. They would have more demons than a cheap hotel has roaches. Because of **Exodus 20:5-6[13]**, those demons would pass into baby Harry at birth. He would indeed grow up with a (super)natural propensity for sorcery. However, instead of having to conjure up all these different demons with their different powers, he would have them right within him from birth. It is "convenient," but it is not something I would want MY child to desire.

In fact, we have ministered to several people who were born into just such a background and who were horribly tormented by demons simply because they didn't particularly WANT to get involved in sorcery and all the nasty things that can ultimately be expected in such pursuits. Only the power of Jesus could set such people free.

The fact of the matter is, there is no such thing as "mechanical magic" in the sense that I believe Mr. Colson is using the term. It cannot be just a plot device because magick, by definition involves a spiritual component. Unlike ray guns or time machines, magick brings with it a philosophical or even theological worldview. You could be a Christian, a Jew or a Buddhist and fly a rocket ship. The same could not be said of magick.

## **You are What You Eat!**

To return to the point about the difference between magick and witchcraft, magick is essentially agnostic. The true goal of every wizard is to become his own god. There is no room in world-view of a sorcerer for a sovereign God. This magic world-view[14] sees the universe as a machine that dispenses favours to magicians in response to their performing the right ritual.

It is opposed to the Biblical world-view in which there is an all-powerful, sovereign God that we cannot manipulate with charms. This God is a Person, not a machine or an impersonal force. In the Biblical world-view, we pray to God and if He feels our request is in His will, then he grants it.

This is a major concern of mine in seeing these kids Harry Potter. Whether or not they grow up to be sorcerers, they are immersing themselves in the magic world-view that does not fit with the Bible. You cannot be your own god and also worship the one, true God. This is why these books are more dangerous than they appear. You are what you eat, intellectually and spiritually.

If you consume books like Harry Potter that promote a magical view of the universe, you will come to believe in those things - gradually. This change in beliefs will be very subtle. It will seep into your mind like smoke and before you know it, it will become a part of your mindset.

On top of that, many media report that children are not just reading the Potter books, they are re-reading over and over again! They do this because they are entertaining, but also because they find this world of sorcerers and magic beguiling and charming (both words rooted in magic) and because they IDENTIFY with the wizards. This is eerily like Christians who read and re-read the Bible, except of course they are digesting the very Words of God.

The Harry Potter books, in common with most horror and fantasy material, present a godless universe, one in which the most powerful wizard wins. They are books in which the hero is a wizard who shows no evidence of belief in God and does not use the power of prayer to combat evil. This is NOT the vision of the universe that a Christian parent should wish to instill in their child — nor is "white" magic an appropriate response to evil. John Andrew Murray, a Christian headmaster of a school in Raleigh, NC, has observed in USA TODAY that the Potter books contain no evidence of a "higher moral authority." [15] This creates a very morally confusing universe for young readers. Some might object that the Hardy Boys, Superman or other juvenile heroes of old never prayed either. But the difference is that they did not use the devil's tools (ceremonial magic, necromancy, etc.) to fight evil. Most of those heroes fought evil with physical might or intelligence (however, superhuman they might have been). Theirs was not primarily a spiritual battle. Harry's battles are spiritual in nature, whether the author or the reader acknowledges it or not. In using sorcery, he is fighting fire by pouring gasoline on it!

### **Crucial Differences**

Some people have said, "What is the difference between these books and the fantasy works of C.S. Lewis (the Narnia books) or J.R.R. Tolkien?" Well, three differences really. First of all, Lewis was a Christian, although he was not really the kind of Christian most evangelicals or fundamentalists would approve of. Tolkien was a devout Catholic. Whatever you might feel about Catholicism, both of these authors come from a strong Judeo-Christian background and there is a moral component in both their works, even though they are fantasy. [16] Fantasy, per se, is not bad. It is only bad if it promotes a godless or "might makes right" view of the world.

The second difference is that our culture and our world have changed enormously since the days of Tolkien and Lewis. Currently, our youth are awash in a culture that promotes evil, occultism, lust and power for its own sake. The magic world-view is all around them. It is promoted in Pokemon, in television, movies and music. More critical, it is often promoted in classrooms.

Think about it, we now have several major TV shows where the heroes are witches. We even have one now called "Angel" (of all things) where the (anti) hero is a vampire! Our young people swim in a miasma of spiritual filth that they cannot even perceive anymore. Often, God has been driven from their lives and been replaced with the ethos of power, violence and self-indulgence - in short, Satanism. In the 1950's and 1960's such ideas were rare enough that children could afford being exposed to fantasy stories which promoted magic. It was an uncommon thing. Today, they are already on toxic spiritual overload just from living in our society. It is a miracle if any young person can keep their faith. Those who do are to be enormously commended.

## Spiritual Lust?

This is the difference. The morals presented in the Potter books are anti-God and anti-Christian. More importantly, the lifestyle of magick is presented as fun. Few kids would find magick so appealing if they knew they had to grapple with a hideous demon to acquire it; and even then have a good chance of being slaughtered before the end of the ritual.

Not only that, the books are definitely drawing kids towards witchcraft. "Who wouldn't choose a wizard's life?" asked TIME magazine.[17] Even authentic, real Wiccans are "charmed" by the Potter series, according to the Associated Press.[18] Anything that witches find good and charming certainly ought to be viewed with suspicion by serious Christians.

This brings us to the third difference. The HP books are filled with much more explicit, appalling evil. There is a huge difference between what went on in Lewis or Tolkien and what kids are reading about in Harry Potter.

Just as a small sample, imagine a ten-year-old reading about:

- 1) The animal sacrifice of a cat[19]
- 2) Non-magicians like you and I (Muggles) are portrayed as dull, boring, cruel or useless;[20]
- 3) Power is the ultimate moral choice, irrespective of good or evil;[21]
- 4) Blood sacrifices;[22]
- 5) Cutting off the hand of a living person for a ritual;[23]
- 6) Boiling a baby alive in a cauldron;[24]
- 7) Possible demon possession;[25]
- 8) Werewolves [26] & vampires [27]
- 9) Bringing a evil wizard back from the dead through the shedding of blood [28]
- 10) Astral project or travel [29]
- 11) Casting spells and levitation [30]
- 12) Being able to shape-shift into an animal [31]
- 13) Crystal gazing or divination [32]
- 14) A hero (Harry) who tells lies, [33] steals, [34] breaks the rules,[35] and cheats by copying another student's homework,[36] (cheating is OK in wizard ethics[37]).
- 15) Approval of astrology[38]
- 16) Being taught that people can exist without their souls[39]
- 17) Communion with the dead, dead souls living within us[40]
- 18) Harry takes mood-altering drugs (which are REAL herbs that are used by witches and shamans)[41]
- 19) Use of the "Hand of Glory,"[42] a grisly occult artifact that is the severed hand of a hanged murderer. Its fingers are lit and burned as candles. The hand is placed in a house to make everyone in the house fall into a spell.
- 20) Use of magic charms[43]
- 21) Belief that death is just the "next great adventure"[44] (which might be true if you were a Christian, but no one in these books is a professing Christian.) For non-Christians like Harry, death is a one-way ticket to hell!

These are dangerous, false ideas, especially for a younger person. Little attempt is being made to keep these books from the hands of children even younger than ten! Additionally, there is a strong anti-family strain in the Potter books. As was mentioned earlier, Harry's biological parents were murdered.

Other than them, the only biological family he has are horrible. Harry's uncle, aunt and cousin, with whom he lives, are mean, selfish and unloving. They are "Muggles" (non-sorcerers) who make Harry's life miserable for his beliefs and even make him sleep in a closet!

Harry's witchy friends are made to appear very appealing next to these loutish family members, who could be seen as caricatures of "fundamentalist" Christians. The ordinary human adults of his family are seen as stupid and powerless, while the witches and warlocks are wise and powerful. What sort of message does this send to children about their relatives who might not live lives as fascinating as that portrayed in the books? Some of the Christians who defend HP books claim that one could never learn enough to truly practice magick or sorcery by reading them. That sort of statement could only be made by someone who was comparatively ignorant of sorcery. As a former magician myself, I can say that an intelligent child could learn a great deal of authentic magical material.

More important than that - these books enflame what C. S. Lewis called a "spiritual lust" for occult knowledge and power. They tickle the desire to become "little gods" and fill the child's head with violence, blood sacrifice and a world view which is decidedly anti-Christian. Is this desirable? Especially when the books are so well-written that the children are reading them over and over and virtually memorizing them?

A Harry Potter movie is coming out, and will probably be accompanied by all the usual Hollywood marketing (Harry Potter Happy Meals, etc.). There are already calendars, action figures, etc. If the books are any indication, this could be a cultural phenomenon that will make STAR WARS look insignificant by comparison! Parents need to be aware of how dangerous the materials in these books are, and stand their ground courageously for the love of their children!

#### Endnotes

1 Chuck Colson, 11/2/1999 Breakpoint radio broadcast.

2 Lycanthropy is an old and honoured element within the disciplines of magic and sorcery. The werewolf is the best known example of lycanthropy, but there are others. Most third world cultures which practice shamanism have practitioners who endeavour (and sometimes succeed) in shape-shifting themselves into animals — bear, wolves, ravens, etc.

3 OXFORD DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS, US ed., 1996, p. 900

4 *ibid.*, p. 1767

5 Grimoires are magical workbooks, often hundreds of years old. They range from the relatively civilized like the SACRED MAGIC OF ABRA MELIN THE MAGE to the nasty ones like THE BLACK PULLET.

6 A fictional game resembling polo played on flying broomsticks.

7 Most magicians in the West have four elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth.

8 This is NOT the same as a Wiccan circle. The point of the Wiccan circle is to keep power IN. The point of the magick circle is to keep things OUT.

9 Hebr. 1:14 indicates that angels can be asked to serve by those who only those who are "heirs of salvation" — i.e. Christians.

10 Elementals are believed to be nature spirits related to the four elements. An air elemental would be a sylph.

11 The abyss is a concept in ceremonial magick. It is a place between two spheres on the Tree of Life over which you must cross to become a "godlike being." If you fail, you fall into the abyss that is described as a place of annihilation or a place of mindless horror and darkness. In either case, the magician's soul is believed to be utterly destroyed forever.

12 Actually, there is a fair amount of resemblance between a typical magical ceremony like this and the lengthy and arduous Roman Catholic rite of exorcism.

13 This is the Biblical passage where we are told the sins of the fathers are visited unto the children. This is especially true of idolatry.

14 See Straight Talk on Witnessing to the Occultist, Witch and New Ager, etc. available from our ministry.

15 "Latest 'Harry Potter' Book meets with Cautionary Response from Christians" by Art Toalston, Baptist Press, 7/13/2000.

16 There are Christians who would object to the orthodoxy of Lewis and Tolkien. Neither man was exactly a fundamentalist Christian. Lewis was an Anglican, although much of his theological writings indicate a strong evangelical point of view. This booklet is not the place to enter into a debate over C.S. Lewis' theology.

Suffice it to say that, as benign as his works were, the Harry Potter stories are much, much worse

17 TIME, 9/20/1999.

18 "Potter Charms Modern-Day Witches" by Deepti Hajela, AP 1/30/2000.

19 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, p. 139.

20 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, p. 33.

21 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, p. 291.

22 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, p. 656.

23 Ibid. p. 641.

24 Ibid., p.666.

25 Goblet of Fire, p. 653-54.

26 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, p. p.345, 381.

27 Ibid., p.147.

28 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, p. 463.

29 Ibid., pp. 667-669.

30 Ibid., pp. 344-45.

31 Ibid., p. 534.

32 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, p. 297

33 Sorcerer's Stone, p. 292.

34 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, p. 165.

35 Prisoner of Azkaban, p.31.

36 Ibid., p. 146.

37 Goblet of Fire, p. 343.

38 Sorcerer's Stone , p. 257.

39 Prisoner of Azkaban, p. 247.

40 Ibid., 427-428

41 Sorcerer's Stone , p. 137, 286-87.

42 Prisoner of Azkaban, p. 52.

43 Ibid., p.118, 188.

44 Sorcerer's Stone , p. 302.

