

17. THOSE WHO PRACTICE MAGIC ARTS

In Greek Mythology, Odysseus learns that his men have just been turned into swine when given a *potion* by Circe. Hermes gives Odysseus a protective herb, and when Circe offers him the *potion* he drinks it without harm.

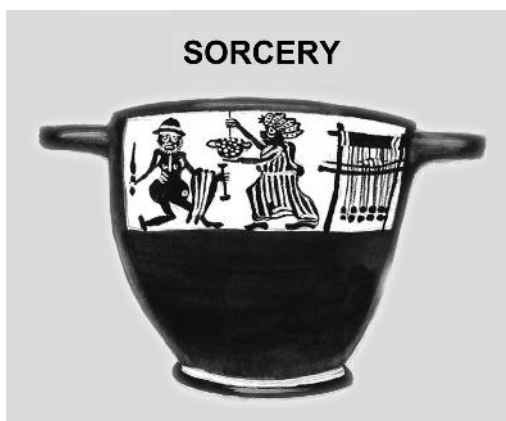


Figure 39. sorcery cup

In ancient times, the use of herbs, special concoctions for creating magic, and a variety of incantations were used to create mind-changing experiences. Plants with psychedelic properties are often used in Wicca (witchcraft), Satanism, occult magic, and shamanistic cultures to produce altered states of consciousness and to facilitate contact with the spirit world.¹ Today, many substances are commonly used to affect the mind; even though they are not taken for a psychic experience or to facilitate contact with the spirits, they actually do alter the mind to a varying extent. Mind-altering substances include tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, different narcotics, amphetamines (speed), cocaine, peyote, and other various plants such as certain mushrooms; even some prescription pharmaceuticals might be included in this list. Worldwide, there is “enchantment with the use of drugs.” Should we also include caffeine?

The *King James Bible* tells us what will be the end of those practicing “*sorcery*.” The *New International* version of the Bible translates the same word from the original Greek, as “*those who practice magic arts*.” They do not obtain eternal life and translation to heaven.

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
But outside are dogs, and *sorcerers* (*those who practice magic arts*, NIV) and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (Revelation 22:14, 15).

What is their eventual end?

...sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8).

Why does God destroy the sorcerers (those who practice magic arts)?

...for by their sorceries were all nations deceived. (Revelation 18:23-24).

Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:21).

What is *sorcery* and who is a *sorcerer*? In the book of Revelation in the King James version of the Bible, the word sorcerer has been translated from the Greek words “pharmakeia,” “pharmakeus” and “pharmakos,” all, according to *Young’s Analytical Analysis*, have the meaning of “enchantment with drugs,” “charm,” and/or “remedy.” *Webster’s New World Dictionary Third Edition*, lists: “witchcraft,” “magic,” and “enchantments,” as synonyms for sorcery. It is defined as follows: “1) the supposed use of an evil supernatural power over people and their affairs: witchcraft, black magic.” (Examples are: to cast a spell to cause harm to something or someone); 2) seemingly magical power, influence, or charm.” This definition does not imply causing harm but influencing an event, situation, or person.

Young’s Analytical Concordance of the Bible presents a broader definition of the word “sorcery” as it has been used in the King James Version. The Hebrew words *kashaph*, *kashap*, and *kashaphim*, meaning “wizard” or “witchcraft,” are translated in the King James Bible as “sorcerer,” as is the Hebrew word *anan* which refers to “*observing the clouds*,” a form of divination. The Greek words *mageia* and *magos*, or “magic” in English, are likewise translated sorcerer. Witchcraft, one of the synonyms of sorcery, is given additional synonyms by the concordance—*divination*, *charm* and *remedy*.

Webster’s New World Dictionary further expands the meaning of “sorcerer” by defining *magic* as use of charms, spells, rituals to control and/or cause events, or to govern forces—occultism, baffling effects and or illusions; truly, the practice of magic arts. In this chapter the word sorcery is used as defined by the synonyms and expanded definitions. I do not refer to black magic or to placing a curse on something or someone. The sorcerers will, in all probability, have as their goal to be helpful and to do well for others, yet the end result of following their advice or leading will be our loss.

A sorcerer could be one associated with alchemy, as the ancient alchemists concocted drugs and hallucinogens.² Manly Hall, in his book *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, tells us that alchemy and astrology are the oldest sciences of the world. He tells us that mastery of these sciences would restore man from the curse of the forbidden fruit so that he could again enter the Garden of Eden.³ Alchemy was considered a science of multiplication and a process of improving upon what already existed.

Not only was alchemy considered a science, it was a religion teaching that God is in everything, a Universal Intelligence, a Universal Spirit, found in all matter.⁴ A common definition of an alchemist is one who tries to turn base metal into gold. Certainly that was one goal, but it also was a ploy to divert the attention from the true nature of the alchemist—that of bringing about a transmutation of material substance. This, in turn, would bring about a change of his spirit from being mortal to immortal.

During the middle ages, alchemy was forbidden by the universal church, and one practicing it could be sentenced to death. The common definition of an alchemist was a person who tried to turn base metal into gold; but many alchemists, in truth, practiced an occultist pagan religion. They were ridiculed because people really thought they believed that substances could be turned into gold, however, they were able to practice their occultic religion unrecognized. Alchemists

were found all over the world working not only with metals, but experimenting with plants, and subsequently finding many drugs and psychedelic substances. Hallucinogens and mind-altering substances were used at times to facilitate contact with the spirit world. One author's definition of alchemy is:

Our work ...is the conversion and change of one being into another being, one thing into another thing, weakness into strength, bodily into spiritual nature.⁵

The forerunner of a *chemist* was the alchemist. He not only looked for a way to transform one substance into another, he also was looking for some magical substance from mineral or herb that had the *secret of life, bringing immortality when consumed*.⁶

Earnest Steed, in his book *Two Be One*, makes the following statement.

At the root of all alchemy was astrology with its macrocosm, microcosm, and transformation.⁷

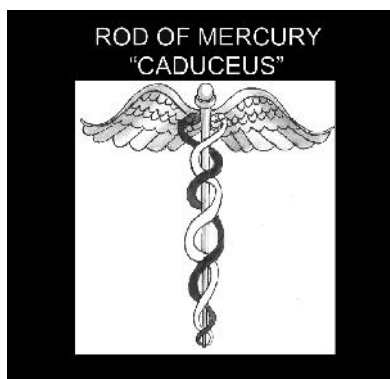
Various secret societies, Cabalists, Masons and Rosicrucian's, adhered to the philosophy of alchemy down through the ages.⁸ *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* by Albert Pike, has twenty pages [772–792] on the philosophical doctrine of the alchemists.



Thoth's sign

Manley Hall, a respected Masonic writer, tells us that alchemy was the secret art of the land of Khem (Ham), or Egypt.⁹ Thoth (another name for Cush), was known as the moon god in Egypt. The same god, called Hermes in Greece, was also known as Mercury.¹⁰ The Thoth sign is a flask with a snake coiled around it or a Y-shaped tree with the snake ascending it. This sign of a flask with the snake, can be seen on signs at pharmacies in many countries.

The symbol of snakes entwining a rod, staff, or tree (a *caduceus*), is an ancient symbol associated with medicine and healing. Mesopotamians considered the intertwining of serpents as the god of healing. (A 4000-year-old beaker with a caduceus on its sides was found in Mesopotamia and is in the Louvre Museum in Paris. It is also shown in the book *Medicine: an Illustrated History* by Lyons and Petrucelli.) The Greek god of healing, Asclepius, had as its symbol *one* snake twined around a rod or staff (Thoth symbol).



Caduceus

I had the privilege of visiting the ruins of an ancient Asclepius temple of healing in Pergamum, Turkey. The temple still had in its ruins this symbol of a snake climbing a flask and entwining itself around the base. This temple was associated with an ancient medical school, at which the physician Galen was a professor. His concept of disease and healing dominated the *mind-set* of medical practice for more than 1500 years.

The alchemist, the pseudo-scientist in China, also searched for the elixir of eternal life, which he felt was needed in order to harness the energy that created all things, including life. The Taoist alchemist thought he could find a “potion” which contained the secret to life. Over thousands of years, as the alchemist looked for that secret to life, he tested a vast array of substances. He did not comprehend the biochemical aspects of the substance he tested, so the testing of the potions was not always free of danger. In the book, *Secrets of the Alchemist*, we are told of the ultimate goal of laboratory alchemy in China—to produce the elixir of immortality,

and:

According to Chinese records, a number of alchemists—and several emperors—succumbed to fatal doses of these mystical substances. Often the cause was mercury poisoning, since many alchemical recipes called for ingredients of pure mercury or mercuric compounds.¹¹

Pharmaceutical science of today is the study of the biochemical properties of a substance and its interaction with the biochemistry of a living subject. The ancient alchemist had no comprehension of either the biochemistry of a plant, or understanding of living organisms. Since man sinned and was driven from the Garden of Eden and lost access to the tree of life, he has ever been looking for the *secret of life*. He attempted to find it through alchemy by blending substances, transforming a substance, or creating a potion that would hopefully give eternal life. The ancient pagan pantheistic beliefs teach that there is constant transformation and change. The Pa Kua, (Chinese circle of harmony), is also a symbol of this concept.

The European alchemist sought to find and capture the *vital energy* that he thought gave life. It was very elusive. The Chinese alchemist looked for it in some herb or plant so as to make a potion that could then be administered. Perhaps this helps explain why the Chinese have so many herbs as medicinals—the constant quest to find one that would bestow eternal life.

Alcohol was called the “water of life.” It was cold but tasted hot; it was considered water and fire, elements that were regarded as creative.

The words *whiskey* and *vodka* both mean, *water of life*, conveying the belief that opposites were blended to achieve life.¹²

Ancient medical treatment involved the use of a great many practices and substances in an attempt to relieve disease. It not only involved herbs and concoctions, but minerals, acts, dances, rituals of many types, and the many preparations the alchemists had made. *Hippocrates* (460-370 B.C., and *Greek medicine*, brought about a change to medical treatment and influenced the thinking of doctors for 400–500 years. He used very few of the usual treatment modalities and taught that disease was related to lifestyle. He believed in the cosmic forces, four humors (fluids) and the dualism concept, yet he felt that exercise and rest, nutrition, and excretion, were the great influences for health or for disease.¹³

After Hippocrates, the physician *Galen* (129-200 A.D.) changed the *mind-set* of medicine. Hippocrates' influence lasted 400 or more years, but Galen's influence lasted more than 1500 years. Galen was at the Asclepius healing center and medical school in Pergamos of Asia Minor (Turkey). Hippocrates had brought in a breath of fresh air to medicine and looked at lifestyle as the greatest influence on disease. He advocated living in such a way as to lessen illness. Galen turned the mind of physicians the other way. He advocated the use of many drugs. *Theriac* was a mixture of more than 70 minerals and substances (eventually over 200) that Galen advocated. These herbs and substances were blended together for use as a universal antidote for illness, snake bites, or any type of disorder.¹⁴ Theriac as a universal treatment concoction was used until the late 1800's in Europe. Today a similar popular medicinal is to be found in Russia. It is called "mumio," and contains approximately 50 different substances. Masonic writer Manley Palmer Hall, states the following:

Upon the authority of Hippocrates, Galen, and Avicenna, medieval astrologers and physicians developed an elaborate system of correspondences between the planets and herbs, chemicals, and mineral medicines. They administered them according to the rules of sympathy and antipathy, and judged the disease by the afflicting planet and its aspects.¹⁵

The intrigue to treat disease with some sort of mineral, herb, or concoction has been present throughout time and has continued to our present day. There are many proven valuable pharmaceutical therapies in use, but the need for their use often could be greatly reduced by following a different lifestyle of exercise and diet. Is it feasible that by depending upon a medicinal rather than lifestyle changes thus eliminating or reducing the need for therapy could fall under the definition of sorcery? Pharmaceuticals are heavily used in the mind therapy sciences, from anxiety, attention deficit disorder, depression, to psychosis. There are times when nothing short of a specific medicine will be of value in treatment; however, for many problems there are other solutions. It is man's preoccupation with the belief that for every symptom and distress there is a medicinal therapy that could be thought of as a deception or sorcery.

Wednesday Feb. 9, 2011 *The Oregonian* a Portland, Oregon newspaper carried an article entitled "Take two pills and call me in 2000 years." Underwater archeologists had found a ship wreck (age— 2000+ years) in the Mediterranean Sea 40 years ago, but just recently the Smithsonian Institute had analyzed pills found in a container in the ship. These were medicinal tablets. DNA revealed them to be a variety of herbs—celery, alfalfa, wild onion, radish, cabbage, wild carrot, yarrow, jack bean and hibiscus, willow, aster, common bean and

nasturtium. This same article tells that “The Hippocratic Collection” is a series of ancient Greek texts attributed to Hippocrates which refers to 380 medicinal herbs used for a variety of ailments. Records show that Greek physicians used 45 different herbs in the pharmaceutical approach to health and healing.

One of the leading causes of death is an adverse reaction from drugs even when given properly by the practitioner. When we combine the accidental wrong medicine, or overdose etc., we recognize there is a major problem with use of medicinal therapies. These problems not only occur from physicians, but from patients as well. It would be a wise choice to seek ways of dealing with illness and disorders with as few medicines as possible.

In the writings of E.G. White, the words “sorcery,” “sorcerer,” and “sorceries” are found many times. She equates the word “sorcery” with spiritualism, witchcraft, magic, hypnosis, magnetic healers, false healers, earthly enchantments, divination, love of wealth and fame. Whatever form of deceit the devil uses to confuse and deceive men comes under her definition. There is a movement with some physicians across this country to blend conventional medicine with alternative and complementary methods; this blending is referred to as *integrative medicine*. There has been a rapid increase in the number of clinics adopting this *mix* of the scientific with the non-scientific. This blending is most deceptive for people who are unaware of the devil’s sorceries.

Andrew Weil M.D. has devoted the past 30 years to developing, teaching and educating others on the principles of integrative medicine . Weil is an internationally recognized expert on integrative medicine, medicinal herbs, and mind-body interactions....He is a clinical professor of internal medicine and the founder and director of the Program of Integrative Medicine (PIM) at the College of Medicine, University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. Weil received both his medical degree and his undergraduate AB degree in biology (botany) from Harvard University.¹⁶

Dr. Weil is the author of many books. A review of the titles of these books reveals his interest in meditation, deep breathing, guided imagery, sound and music therapy. He also has vast influence with the public. He trains other doctors in converting to the integrative method of practice. The following quotation will give some insight to the direction of his beliefs and teachings and their orientation. Dr. Weil wrote about his *fire walking*:

I once did a forty-foot walk over an extremely hot bed of coals without experiencing any burns or even any sensation of heat. (The coals just felt crunch.) This was in a large group with Tony Robins, where everyone got very charged dancing to African drums, chanting, and engaging in other rituals. On another occasion I got burned attempting a mere six-foot walk over cooler coals. On that occasion, there were no exciting rituals, no charismatic leader, and only a small group of not-very bonded individuals.¹⁷

Upon reading the above comment from Dr. Weil I thought again of the verse in Deuteronomy 18:9-12:

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. There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter

to pass through the fire, or 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 those things are an abomination unto the Lord; and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before you.

What is it that attracts and motivates people to fire-walk? What is to be gained from it? What prevents burns to the feet? It is an act performed in many places of the world. I lived for a short time in Phuket, Thailand, where once a year a festival was held for worshiping Satan. It was my understanding that fire-walking was a part of this festival. I have been in *pagan provinces* of Russia where similar festivals are held. Revelation 13:13, 14 (NIV) gives an answer to the above question:

And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth.

Satan will use fire to cause men to believe he, man, is God. God sent fire from heaven to ignite the sacrifice of Abel; at Solomon's dedication of the temple; At the sacrifice Elijah offered on Mount Carmel, and He sent fire to consume the soldiers of Ahaziah, king of Israel, when they went to arrest Elijah. In the days of Daniel God preserved the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. Just because God has allowed Satan to have power over fire, we need not be deceived if all miracles are tested by the scriptures.

By sending fire down from heaven at the end of time and protecting those who walk in fire, does not Satan hold himself out to be God? Does he not deceive by these miracles he performs? Should we not carefully consider the teachings of those people who are led by his power? They may be highly trained in the science of conventional medicine, yet the deception comes as they blend in Satan's method of healing with God's methods. Let the followers of Christ beware.

Another popular physician and author, Gabriel Cousens M.D., also leads the march toward integrative medicine. His orientation is revealed by his quotation found in chapter on Ayurveda in this book. Dr. Cousens has a popular following in regard to his dietary writings. He writes of foods being held over chakra areas of the body to establish which colored foods, when eaten, would most enhance the power of the chakras. His books strongly reflect Ayurvedic and Hindu concepts.

Another powerful influence enticing interest in New Age/New Spirituality exists in the USA, Canada and in areas of the world where the television show of Opra Winfrey penetrates. She has featured many individuals on a repeated basis who by their appearances on her show and their books, promoted by Opra, have given great exposure and the potential of acceptance of New Age/Neo-Pagan/New Spirituality concepts by vast millions of people. Marianne Williamson famous for her "Course on Miracles," which was channeled to her by a spirit; Gary Zukov and his book, *Seat of a Soul*, espouses the divinity of man; Opra's endorsement of the book *The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne which teaches that we are all *God*; Echart Tolle and his book published in 2008 entitled *A New Earth Awakening To Your Life's Purpose*, teaching a shift in consciousness with an indwelling of divinity referred to as "Christ;" promotion of the popular Dr. Mehemet Oz, a Muslim and Sufi (mystical order in Islam), intertwines the occult with his superb knowledge of nutrition and healthy lifestyle; all recipients of powerful promotion by Opra's show. Dr. Oz now has his own TV show wherein he mingles the good with the bad. His

wife is a Reiki Master also a follower of the late world renown spiritualist Emmanuel Swedenborg; doctor Oz is a strong promoter of her spirit powered healing technique.

Rick Warren, “America’s pastor,” author of *The purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*, recently launched January 15, 2011 a 52 week course from his Saddleback Church on wellness. This program is titled “The Daniel Challenge” and is a weekly program guided by Mehmet Oz M.D., Daniel Amen M.D., and Mark Hyman M.D., all well trained specialists and highly versed in health and nutrition but also heavily engaged in promoting New Age/Neo-Pagan concepts. They will be bringing up to date nutrition and healthful living information but will be blending in Eastern meditation techniques as an important component of health.

Rick Warren has far reaching influence, his organization is extended to and has communication with more than 160 nation network, and 400,000 ministers and priests have attended his teaching seminars.¹⁸

From the pen of Ellen White we find:

The God of heaven came to Paul, and through the Spirit of God miracles were wrought. But there were some men there who tried to imitate the miracles, and the evil spirit fell upon them, and they were beaten and bruised because they took the name of Jesus to use in their sorcery. *They cannot mix; they cannot mix at all.*¹⁹

God’s design for health and healing is not to be mixed with that of Satan’s. Let us review the basics of what has been presented in this book. The devil desires to draw men’s minds away from recognizing God the Creator. He devised a counterfeit story of creation based upon the blending of two opposing divisions of a supposed universal energy, which is considered god. This energy, when blended in the right proportions, brought about the creation of the universe (cosmos), earth, and man. This universal energy (god) is said to be in all substances of the universe, including man. Man need only to bring the god within himself to a higher level to obtain immortality.

Man’s journey on earth, according to the pagan, is to escape from the cycle of reincarnation, and to progress upward to become an ascended master or god himself. This may take many lifetimes. Many ways are promoted to shorten the journey to godhood, often called “higher consciousness.” Yoga meditation, yoga exercises, qi gong exercises, and psychedelic drugs used to connect with spirit entities are some of the ways believed to shorten the pathway to Nirvana or godhood. Another way to hasten this progression toward godhood is to be a follower of a guru. I invite the reader to pause and reflect upon the contrast between the theory and variety of modalities presented by *energy or vibrational medicine* and the instructions God gave through E.G. White in 1863 as to how the Health Reform Institute was to be operated. Our Creator was to be upheld as the Source of healing and His physical and spiritual laws were to be followed. The plan of operation was simple: no coffee, tea, alcohol, or tobacco; plant-food diet with only small amounts of milk, cream and eggs, if at all; exercise; rest; regularity of meals with no eating between, abundant use of water for bathing and drinking, and placing our trust in God for healing.

There is a power in the universe and it is the power of God. It is not inherent in the planets. It is not hidden away in the mind of man waiting for some gimmick to release it. It is not accessed by pendulums or radionic machines, or by mindless meditation. The power of God is accessed by prayer and Bible study, and obedience to His physical and spiritual laws.

Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these *sorceries*, saying: “this is the great power of God.”²⁰ But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false Christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures.²¹

Take each verse of this chapter [Revelation 18], and read it carefully, especially the last two: ‘And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy *sorceries (magic arts)* were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.’²²

...It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism.²³

Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan, may boast of great benefit received; but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to have disregarded the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard His people from Satan's power.²⁴

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