

The Operation of Demons in Magic

When we looked at occult magic in chapter 3, we saw that the spirits at work in magic are what make magic work. In chapter 5 we saw that Yahweh has forbidden the practice of all types of occult magic. Therefore, neither he nor the holy angels work through magic. The spirits at work in magic are always demons, regardless of who is practicing it and regardless of what it is being used to accomplish.

The apostle Paul cast a demon out of a slave girl who was a fortune-teller. She had been following Paul and his companions and mocking them for days, and when he finally had enough, he dealt directly with the source of her behavior:

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

—Acts 16:16–19 NKJV

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This girl was able to predict the future with enough accuracy that her owners were able to make money off her, but when Paul cast out the “spirit of divination” she lost that ability. This passage shows us that the supernatural abilities obtained through occult magic are real and demonic.

Earlier we saw that there are two main categories of magic: black and white (see p. 44). In black magic, the magician calls on an evil spirit, a demon, or Satan himself to do his bidding. There is, therefore, no conflict between black magic and the biblical view of magic, as far as the source of its power is concerned.

White magic is much more deceptive. In white magic the magician tries to get God or a holy angel to act on his behalf. White magicians will sometimes use passages of Scripture and the biblical names of God in their rituals, and it is sometimes difficult to distinguish white magic from the true worship and work of God. Nevertheless, the power at work in white magic is the same as in black magic. White magic is simply black magic with a mask on.¹

Neopagans and Wiccans often practice “white witchcraft.” They insist that it is not demonic because they only use it to do good things, but they are deceived. Although white witchcraft can appear to be a helpful and even godly practice, it is not. It is Satan appearing as an angel of light.²

Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan and author of *The Satanic Bible*, had this to say about white witchcraft:

There is no such thing as a white witch. White witchcraft is pure mythology. All witches are drawing on occult power, and that power does not originate with God.³

I don’t often agree with Mr. LaVey, but here I do. Magic is magic, and regardless of its adornment its underlying power remains the same.

When we look past the pious façade of white magic and consider it carefully, we can see that in some respects it is the more offensive of the two types. White magic is more deceptive and more arrogant than black magic. It is more deceptive in that those who get involved in it are duped into calling on demons. It is more arrogant in that it often attempts to control God.

The preeminent occult researcher of the modern era was the late

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German theologian Dr. Kurt Koch (1913–1987). Dr. Koch summarized the difference between genuine worship of God and white magic this way:

In the true prayer of faith, the person concerned submits completely to the will of God. In white magic the idea is to compel God to act.⁴

Those who practice white witchcraft believe they are using God or the holy angels to do their will, but this is impossible. God has condemned all forms of occult magic, so he will not respond to it. He is also sovereign, so no one can force him into doing anything. The holy angels are his faithful servants, and they cannot be forced to respond to magic either.

Because God has condemned all forms of occult magic, even white magic is performed in rebellion against him. As Dr. Koch stated:

Theologically viewed, such a venture is the basic rebellion of man. Man gives orders to the transcendent power; man wants to have God at his disposal. This arrogance is the starting point of magic.⁵

It is this selfish quality of magic that differentiates it from genuinely following God. God answers those who obey his Word and put his will first.⁶ He does not answer nor will he bless those who attempt to coerce him into action, regardless of what they want to use him for.

The only angels that respond to practices Yahweh has forbidden are demons. Therefore, when practitioners of white witchcraft summon what they think are holy angels, what they have really summoned are demons masquerading as angels of light. When demons answer the petitions of a white witch they perpetuate the deception she is under and encourage her to continue in this sin that advances Satan's kingdom. Those who practice white witchcraft think they are manipulating good spirits, but in reality, evil spirits are manipulating them.

Given Satan's desire to play God, he must love having his demons answer these misguided petitions. Satan sends his angels to answer a white magician's request, just as Yahweh sends his holy angels to minister to Christians. White magic gives the devil yet another opportunity to act as though he were God.

The deceptive tactics of Satan and his demons are very convincing, and it is not surprising that those who practice white magic are

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deceived. Demons have supernatural intelligence. If a shaman needs to know where to find food, they can tell him. If a fortune-teller is trying to predict the future, a demon can inform her of what will likely happen, and he may affect future events so that it does happen. A psychic surgeon can obtain information regarding someone's illness from a demon, and he can then use the demon's supernatural power to "heal" them.*

Now that we understand all forms of occult magic are demonic, we can better understand why Yahweh forbids them all:

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft [pharmakia], or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD.

—Deuteronomy 18:10–12

* Demons play both sides of the coin when it comes to healing. Dr. Koch observed that demons only "cure" conditions they cause.