GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church May 1986
1908 Verde
Bakersfield, CA 93304
(805)323-3309

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Subscription rates are $8 U.S., $16 foreign surface, $32 foreign air mail. Ad rates are $36 for a full page, $20 for 1/2 page, $14 for anything less than 1/2 page. Ads must be camera ready. We always welcome submissions--typed double-spaced if possible, but we're not real picky.

DON'T FORGET THE PAGAN STUDIES CONTEST! The deadline is June 21st, 1986. If you haven't heard about the contest, send a SASE for information.

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Five Symbols on the Wheel from A Dictionary of Symbols (J. E. Cirlot, New York: Philosophical Library, 1983 rpt., 1962)

The Jester--sacrificial victim, Puck, expression of duality, suffering and sacrifice, transition (162-63).

The Journey--"From the spiritual point of view, the journey is never merely a passage through space, but rather an expression of the urgent desire for discovery and change that underlies the actual movement and experience of travelling. Hence, to study, to inquire, to seek or to live with intensity through new and profound experiences are all modes of travelling or... spiritual and symbolic equivalents of the journey. Heroes are always travellers, in that they are restless.... Crossing a ford marks the decisive stage in the passage from one state to another. There is a connexion between the symbolism of the journey, in its cosmic sense, and the symbolism of the essential landscape of megalithic cults (or that seen by the shamans in their visions)... the true Journey is neither acquience nor escape--it is evolution..." (164-65).

String (or Cord)--"All types of string, cord or rope are forms of binding, and this forms the basis of their symbolic meaning.... The Jabala-Upanishad makes it clear that the sacred cord is the external symbol of the Sutratma, or the spiritual thread binding together all things in existence..." (316).

Dog--faithfulness, valor, "companion of the dead on their 'Night Sea-Crossing'.... A dog devoured by a wolf represents the purification of gold by means of antimony" (84).

Abyss--depth, inferiority. "Most ancient or primitive peoples have at one time or another identified certain breaks in the earth's surface or marine depths with the abyss. Among the Celts and other peoples, the abyss was inside mountains; in Ireland, Japan and the South Sea islands, it was at the bottom of seas and lakes; among Mediterranean peoples it was just beyond the horizon; for the Australian aborigines, the Milky Way is the abyss par excellence. The abyss is usually identified with the 'land of the dead,' the underworld, and is hence, though not always, associated with the Great Mother and earth-god cults. The association between the nether world and the bottom of seas or lakes explains many aspects of legends in which palaces or beings emerge from an abyss of water. After King Arthur's death, his sword, thrown into the lake by his command, is caught as

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Five Symbols (cont.)

it falls and, before being drawn down to the bottom, flourished by a hand which emerges from the waters" (2-3).

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Tarot and the Self by Tarostar

Over and again, I hear people say they read the cards for their friends and clients, but do not seem to be able to read for themselves. My question is, "Why not?"

There is no rule saying the Tarot would not give an oracle to the Reader him/herself. That is part of the occult myth so many persons labor under, saying one may not use Magic to help self.

Balderdash! Pure and simple.

How that propaganda ever got started, I'll never know, but it is an attempt by those who make their livings teaching 'classes," giving readings and operating 'case work' out of their shops. You know the types--"Give me $500.00 to burn the candles for you...."

It keeps people humble and dependent on the Practitioner/Reader. They fall for the suave line of gab and are wowed by the so-called "authority" of the teacher/Master/Guru/Magus. If one cannot read for the Self, I would not want that one reading for me. An assurance of expertise would be missing. A reader, to be worth his/her salt, ought to be able to be objective about the self and step aside from his/her emotional investment in personal situations and see the self as a third person asking the Oracle of the Tarot a question.

It is not as difficult as it may seem. The crux of the matter is that Readers see the Tarot being blunt with other Querents and fear the plain truth as laid out by the cards. We do not like to discuss our personal selves with those who may not agree with us. If your present chosen path leads to a muck up, the Tarot will say so rather unflatteringly. Why? The reader ought to have a more refined spiritual vessel and mind than the general public. When such is not displayed, the Tarot will jolt one back to reality. Be that as it may, the usual card spreads are not correct for a reader to use in a self-evaluation. Perhaps that is why the Tarot seems distant to readers spreading for themselves.

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Tarot and the Self (cont.) by Tarostar

This arcanum, called the Magic Quadrate, is most efficient for a personal self reading:

Separate the deck--Major and Minor Arcana.
Shuffle and cut the Major Arcana. Shuffle and cut the Minor.
Lay out nine cards according to this pattern:

8 1 6
3 5 7
4 9 2

Card 1 is drawn from the Major. Two, Three, and Four from the Minor. Card 5 from the Major. Six, seven, eight from the minor. Nine from the Major. Cards 1, 5, and 9 represent the principle influences coming to bear. Eight, Six, Three, Seven, Four, and Two are the secondary and contributory influences affecting the question. Eight, three, and four are the negatives. Six, Seven, and Two are the positives.

With the above style of spread, a Reader can gain an insight into his/her own self, as seen by the Oracle of the Tarot. No more crying that the Tarot won't work for the reader.

Ed. note (jeannie): For years, I would not read for myself (and still do not for my immediate family) because I kept getting the same cards over and over again. Whenever these cards appeared in a reading for someone else, however, it simply meant to try again. Finally, I switched to a new deck. It worked. I tried old faithful. It didn't work. I think the point here is, if you are having difficulty reading for yourself, experiment around (with proven forms sometimes helps) until you find something that works. Even though I can now read for myself, I still like to have someone else read for me occasionally--particularly if I'm having trouble "seeing" something important.

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For the Birds from Rhea

Ever think about the fact that birds love fresh fruit? If you've ever heard a farmer complain about them pecking at his fruit trees, you would remember. But do you ever think to toss out bits of fresh fruits for the feathered folk? When you peel that apple, peach or pear, or have a few grapes or other fresh goodies left over, toss them out for the birds!

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Star Gazer by Lady Fauna

The pace is not so hectic from May 16th through June 15th and I'm sure you're as ready for that break as I am. For those of you who plan on entering the Pagan Studies Contest, this will be a particularly good time for finishing your project and getting it in the mail. Ahtough life is somewhat calmer in this period, there is still plenty to enjoy (exercise your imagination), lots of energy, and a few changes. It is a good period for studying, history, removing prejudices, sitting quietly, and, of course, meditating on the Goddess.

May 16th--take a bottle of French wine to Lookout Point with someone special. Burn red candles.

May 17th--An Italian dish served in the light of the same red candles.

May 18th--Take care of paperwork and study. Plant irises. Burn gold candles. Coffee. Apollo meditations.

May 19th--Meditate on Diana. Eat Greek olives.

May 20th--Garden-planting day. Excellent for planting cukes, flowers, pumpkins.

May 21st--Music and poetry having to do with Hermes. Chinese food, ginseng tea, blue candles.

May 22nd--Hum Beatle tunes on your way to your favorite fishing hole.

May 23rd--Full Moon. Another fishing trip? Plant herbs. Any difficult work goes smoother today. Organization. Commitments to self-improvement. Folks in Portland, Milwaukee, Washington, and Baltimore have a particularly memorable day.

May 24th--Folks in Australia may want to celebrate FM early in this day.

May 25th--Harvest crops and herbs.

May 26th--Good for elimination of dental problems. News from the Middle East.

May 27th--Bake a cake and break a habit.

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Star Gazer (cont.) by Lady Fauna

May 28th--Stake plants. Light blue candles if you find you are edgy.

May 29th--Cut grass and do the weeding.

May 30th--Mend fences, cut hay, then be lazy.

May 31st--Do some pruning, be lazy, watch spending.

June 1st--Take a long nap in the shade.

June 2nd--Harvest herbs and root vegetables. Read from Jason and the Golden Fleece.

June 3rd--At teatime, German chocolate, English tea, pink candles.

June 4th--Plant yellow onions, ginseng, dandelions (if you need to). Read about Europa. Yellow candles.

June 5th--Work on fences and plant onions.

June 6th--Onion soup.

June 7th--Cut grass, weed. Read about Castor and Pollux.

June 8th--Harvest herbs and roots.

June 9th--A good day to plant green beans, lettuce, peppers. Burn green candles.

June 10th--Art particularly helpful in sympathetic magic regarding diplomacy. Good fishing day.

June 11th--Shopping for clothes brings variety to your wardrobe. Another good fishing day, with barley soup to go with the catch of the day.

June 12th--Read about Hercules.

June 13th--Slip away early for pleasure before your business trip, taking a loved one with you. Red candles.

June 14th--Transact business, read about Themsis, burn gold candles.

June 15th--Harvest what you've planted.

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Ladybugs from Burpee

Ed note (jeannie): We got a quart of ladybugs from Burpee this year to help with the aphids on our tomatoes and flowers. Thought we'd pass on this info enclosed with the shipment.

LADYBUGS (Hippodamia convergens) are the most widely known group of beneficial insects. They are gathered in the foothills and shipped for release in fields, orchards, greenhouses and gardens to attack destructive pest insects. They devour many times their own weight and prefer a limitless menu of aphids. They also attack fruit scales, tree lice, leafhoppers, thrips and the eggs and larvae of many other harmful insects.

One-half pint (approximately 4,500) of ladybugs is sufficient for gardens and greenhouses up to 50 X 100 feet, and one quart (approximately 18,000) up to 100 X 150 feet.

Ladybugs will not feed on any vegetation. They feed only on leaf chewing or sap sucking insects. They have but few enemies because of their bitter taste, which is their protection against other insects and birds. Poisonous spray is the worst enemy to our "Ladies."

As with other beneficial insects, Ladybugs are difficult to see when they are at work. The results of their efforts can be seen by the reduction of the pest population.

When your order of Ladybugs arrives, put the sack in a cool place (refrigerator) until late evening or early morning. Do not release the Ladybugs during the heat of the day or while the sun is shining.

Release the Ladybugs when the plants have become partially enfoliated (provides coverage) and some pest insects are present (providing food). Do not release too many Ladybugs at one time. Try to maintain a balance of a few pests for food and enough Ladybugs to keep them in check. This management of both the good and the bad insects is the way to achieve biological control of insects.

Sprinkle or irrigate area before releasing the Ladybugs so they will have a drink of water after their journey. The Ladybugs are shipped in a cotton sack and they can also be watered by sprinkling the sack with water.

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Ladybugs (cont.) from Burpee

For your bushes, shade trees, greenhouses or gardens, the best method is to keep on hand a small bag of Ladybugs. They may be stored in your refrigerator up to two weeks. DO NOT FREEZE. Release a few at a time twice a week during the season when leaves are young, tender and attractive to pest insects. About a tablespoon on each shrub and a handful on each tree should keep them free from pest damage. Retie the bag and place in refrigerator until all Ladybugs are used. For a quick clean-up of a very heavy infestation, release all the Ladybugs in the bag at one time.

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News from Long Beach from AP

Psychics who converged on City Hall to protest restrictive licensing rules ran into an unforeseen problem--the City Council meeting they planned to picket had been canceled.

But the numerologists, astrologers and other clairvoyants of the Coalition of Sensitives demonstrated anyhow. They predicted a short future for city rules that order them to ply their trade in a downtown area crowded with pornographic movie houses and adult bookstores.

"Long Beach will be our test case," said Clarissa Ingabetsen, spokeswoman for the group of about twenty. "Then we're going after some other cities. Things are very bad in (neighboring) Orange County."

Ingabetsen said she foresees local laws restricting predicting will run afoul of a 1985 State Supreme Court decision that regards such activities as constitutionally protected free speech.

The demonstrators also objected to the city requirements that they pay a $600 annual license fee, put up a $2,000 insurance bond and get a permit that requires a public hearing before setting up shop. More prosaic businesses, they complained, are not so burdened.

"I only have to pay $60 in Los Angeles," for a license, said Ed Helin, who does his predicting in the San Fernando Valley. Helin, a numerologist and astrologer, had figured the day an auspicious one for the protest.

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Long Beach (cont.) from AP

"Mercury is retrograde today, and since it's the planet of learning, people are likely to remember what they see on our signs."

The planets may have been in place, but the council wasn't, canceling its meeting when four of the nine members were out of town.

A Long Beach deputy city attorney, Bill Keiser, said the business restrictions had the support of law.

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Erichtho Of The Corpses by Tarostar

Long ago, when Rome's Republic was dying,
In the Civil Wars, when arrows were flying,
Lived a female Necromancer of wide-spread fame,
Who could raise the Spirits and the Future proclaim.
Erichtho she was called, a Thessalian Witch
With stringy hair, gnarled face and eyes like pitch.
The Romans were a superstitious lot
Who loved dark magics for plan or plot.
Sextus, son of Pompey, wished to know his father's fate,
And had recourse to Erichtho one night very late.
They scoured the battlefield for a corpse intact
To use in a disgusting ritual act.
She mixed a noxious brew to foam and froth
And laid out the corpse in a deadman's cloth.
Feeding it this bubbly potion,
She used incantations of Hecate's devotion. The corpse revived and sat up to speak
And spewed forth its portends in a deathly shriek.
As Erichtho questioned of Great Pompey's augurize
It spoke of his treacherous and defaming demise.
"Great Pompey shall fall in an Egyptian snare,
And to his enemies will all be laid bare.
His head shall be severed and placed on a pole
And flung before Caesar on the ground to roll."
The corpse went silent and laid down in death
As Erichtho extracted its vaporous breath.
She burned it in fire to cleanse all away.
Sextus was troubled and had naught to say.
Erichtho broke the silence most grave:
"Thy father's death thou canst not save.
For the time of Caesar is ready at hand

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Erichtho of the Corpses (cont.) by Tarostar

And the wars will cease throughout the land.
Let destiny fall as it is foreseen,
It would be dire to intervene.
This Sorceress can but summon to thee
That which the Gods ordain to be."

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Celtic Evocations by Charles Arnold

To the Goddess:

White clad Mother, holder of the cauldron, giver of birth
Your children call unto You to join them.
We seek Your guidance, Your knowledge, Your love,
We call unto You to join us.

Mother, bringer of life and pain, joy and grief,
Show us Your way; hold us in Your hands.
Before time, beyond time;
With love, with awe, with honour and with acceptance
We welcome Your presence among us this night.

To the God:

Grey clad father, releaser of the pack, returner of souls
Your children call unto You to join them.
We seek Your strength, Your sight, Your justice,
We call unto You to join us.

Father, reliever of life and pain, joy and grief,
Show us Your way, hold us in Your hands.
Before time, beyond time;
With love, with awe, with honour and with acceptance
We welcome Your presence among us this night.

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While cross-examining the witness, the lawyer asked,
"Occupation?"
"Housewife," replied the woman.
"Your husband's occupation?"
"Manufacturer."
"Children?"
"No. Ladies' shoes."

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Untitled Poem by Ceridwen

If someone lies to me
With a long story that is really a personal quest
They share their deepest wishes,
And the highest flight of their imagination
And make magic.
And say ride with me!
I am honored!

If someone lies to me
Because they cannot face their own shadows,
This is good,
Because, from within, they know they have shadows,
They just aren't ready to light them.
Having my own shadows,
I understand.

If someone lies to me
Because they think me a fool,
I laugh,
I am a fool.

If someone lies to me
To deceive me
I, wanting to believe them, do.
But I cry.

If someone lies to me
To do me harm,
I give them a gift,
Indifference.

If someone lies to me
Because they think I cannot understand the truth,
I hurt.
For I see truth even in lies.

If someone lies to me
Out of ignorance,
I accept
For I too, am learning.

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If you don't want to battle the competition, pick the hardest job.

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The World Is Too Much With Us by William Wordsworth

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
The sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not.--Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.
(1807)

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Theban Alphabet Revisited by Rik

Throughout history, esoteric societies and mystery religions have attempted to keep their secrets from the mundane. There are two main methods in which this is done, oral teachings and, when written records are necessary, the secret code.

Codes can be simple as in the simple cipher code of the Golden Dawn where a=⊙ ,b=⊖, c=⊖, and so on, or it can be a form of shorthand as in ∅, Magick Circle, or they can be extremely complex as in the code used by Shakespeare where two different type faces were used to give the first part of the key to the code.

Witches, however, prefer the cipher code where each letter is replaced by a different symbol often chosed at random. These codes are simple to learn and even simpler to decode once a simple frequency chart is established.

Of the various Wiccan alphabets, the most popular one is Theban. This alphabet adapts well to English whereas the various Runic alphabets run a close second with their sounds of ch, sh, ng, ea and so on. Many of the other magickal alphabets transliterate poorly for reasons that shall be covered later.

Since Theban is so commonly used, one may wonder from where does it derive? The most famous record of Theban is The

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Theban Alphabet Revisited (cont.) by Rik

Magus by Francis Barrett published in 1801. Here Barrett lists a number of magickal alphabets: Trithemes, Angelic, Passing the River and Magi, and of course, Theban. Did the author invent them or were they copied from earlier sources?

Transliterating the alphabets into English, we find that most of them become: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T V X Y Z Ph Th Ts but no U or W. This is the Hebrew alphabet. Yet Theban is the only one listed by Barrett that transliterates differently into: A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V X Y Z with no J U or W. In other words, the old Latin alphabet. In later centuries J, U and W were added to fit into the Germanic languages.

When we transliterate other languages we find the following. Egyptian was a very complicated language where a symbol could mean a tangible object or a philosophical concept (the male genitals T combined with the female genitals O to form the Ankh which means life) or a sound (a crawling snake to mean D). Thus it becomes difficult for the novice to determine if this inscription means, "The duck wants to sit down" or "No swimming in the Nile" or "George". If you transliterate only the letter sounds, you end up with: B C D F G H J K M N P Q R S T W--no relation to Theban so Theban does not derive from the ancient Egyptian Priests.

How about the Druids? The two Druidic alphabets I possess transliterate into: A B C D E F G J L M N O P R S T U. Again no relation.

Ogham, the Celtic alphabet becomes: A B C D E F G H I L M N O Q R S T U Ae Ea Ia Ng St. Even farther away from Theban.

Futhorc, the Germanic Runes, even when combined, becomes: A B C D E F G H I K L M N O R S T U V W Y Ae Ea Ng Ch Oa Th. Some similarities to Ogham but not to Theban.

The Asian alphabets are even further off being primarily picturographic instead of syllabic. There is also little relation to the Greek and Russian alphabets. In Ceremonial Magick, you find that the alphabets used are Hebrew derived and so are not related to Theban.

In fact, the only alphabet known that fits Theban (if you mention Atlantic, I want independant Archaeological evidence

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Theban Alphabet Revisited (cont.) by Rik

of their language) is the Roman alphabet. Here there is an exact one to one relation between Latin and Theban right down to the lack of J, U and W. The reason for this is because in Latin Julius Caesar was spelled and pronounced Iulius, way was via and there simply were no such sounds in the whole language. When Latin is translated into English, the translator automatically change the V to V,U or W and they change the I to I and J.

Thus we can be certain that Theban came from old Rome, simply because had it been invented by a Ceremonial Magickian or by Barrett. They would have used Hebrew as a base simply because it was more comfortable and "magickal". If there are any earlier sources for Theban, please let me know.

Part II next month

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Thoughts on the Magickal Process by Morrigan & Lord Tristan

To perform effective magick, three necessities must be present: the need, the emotion, and the knowledge.

There is a magical principle that what you put into magick is exactly what you will get back three-fold. If you perform beneficial magic--that you will receive. The negative magician, however, shall receive negativity, and eventually it will destroy its wielder. It is the positive and negative aspects of magick that make it, its user, Divine. Negative magick has always had its adherents. There are those who are seduced by it, blinded by the very temporary power it offers them, and who cannot see the light until it is too late.

Magick performed for yourself, as long as it harms no other, is not selfish, for it betters the world. If you are healthy, happy and financially sound you can help others, just as you must first love yourself before you can love others or expect others to love you.

Before a magickal operation is done, divination should be done to ensure that the need is there, the emotion is sufficient, and that the knowledge is certain and correct. If you don't like what you see, take action to change your life, rather that interfering with another's, before the future becomes the present.

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Thoughts on the Magickal Process (cont.) by Morrigan and Lord Tristan

It is said that magick was the first religion, and that if you purposefully and lovingly utilize the forces of Nature to cause beneficial changes, you also become one with those forces. It is these powers of Nature which we are able to utilize that have personified as Gods and Goddesses. Attuning with them is a spiritual experience and is the basis of religion.

One of the most common ancient beliefs expressed in philosophies and religions is that the soul, or individualized portion of the Cosmic, Unknowable God, was attracted to the sensations and experiences to be found in the animal nature, and became trapped there. It formed an identity with the animal nature and forgot its true origin and power. The Egyptians taught that the body was a prison for the soul but that the soul was not condemned to eternal banishment and imprisonment. The father of the World permits its (the soul's) chains to be broken, and has provided in the course of Nature the means of its escape.

All occult and esoteric truths are based upon the struggle of humans to accept their animality; this animality being Divine for us. A cat accepts its Divinity by becoming feline, a dog by becoming canine. We become humane, animality rising to its most developed nature. This is the effort to bring the thinking and feeling qualities into accord with the harmonious pattern which is our heritage.

The Egyptians taught, also, that the Father, or the Spirit, or the Horned God, was the generative power; the Mother, or the Form, or the Goddess, was the conceptive power; the issue, or the product, or the magick, of their union was the child, or mankind.

In other words, every thing that is results from the union of positively and negatively charged forces. The negative force, or Mother principle, is that which is acted upon. In the humane, it becomes the feelings (female, magnetic principle) which gives form to the idea (male, electric principle). But whether the substance which takes the idea is for a statue, a garment, an act of healing, or a piece of magick, the manifestation is from the surrender of the negative force to the positive. The negative aspect must yield and permit itself to be used, and then mold its properties into the form of the positive pattern.

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Thoughts on the Magickal Process (cont.) by Morrigan and Lord Tristan

There can be no harvest without seed in the soil, no child without the union of male and female, no anything without this combination of positive and negative forces. Feeling must be fertilized by idea or image to bring about result. And herein lies the magick, both of the individual and of all Nature.

This may explain why many prayers, affirmations, and pieces of magick seem to fail. They remain bachelors. The idea has no mate to give birth to the desired offspring--mental pictures which have not stirred up feelings into productivity.

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The Lady by Ogaea

The Lady's Hands....
all the great strength she needs
is in them,
all the patience and experience;
all her celebration quickens them.

And the Lady's eyes!
Her vision is so long it is a gallery
of perfect love and perfect trust.
She looks at circles through the circles,
from hills she sees the farther hills.

The sun rises in her eyes.
at her touch, things become real.
her gaze upon them, leaves are green
and people prism the sun to rainbows.

And if only the Lady's hands
could touch their hearts,
and if only they would meet the Lady's eyes,
the celebrations would
not numb them,
and they could see the sunrise too.

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If the pyramids had been built under today's planning procedures, can you imagine the paperwork?--LA Time Syndicate

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Sangraal by Stan

We were the only two at the table at the sidewalk cafe, which was unusual, because it was a perfect April evening. Cool enough a sweater felt good, yet not so cool that one would have been uncomfortable without one.

Father Alpheus and I have had our little tete a tete two or three times a week for several years. I had just begun to realize the teratology of his discourse, using the word in its sense of wonderful, unbelievable things.

Tonight we talked of religion and the reality of Jesus, as we often did. "But," I expostulated, "How can you be so sure? You have only the bible to substantiate your belief."

"Ah but non," he replied, "I have much more than that, I have proof positive."

"No man can have proof positive, there is only the bible to give you conviction. Speaking of the bible, let us start at the beginning, always a good place to start. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The second day he created the green grass and the vegetation, on the third day he set the sun and the moon and the stars in the sky. Wouldn't it have been better to have set the sun in the sky first? Then the plants could make chlorophyll. and, Pere, please to explain to me how the stars were shining on the fourth day when it takes the light many, many years to get to earth. Genesis 1 tells us on the fifth day, God created the animals and the fowl of the earth. But Genesis 2 would have me believe he created them on the sixth day and brought them to Adam to be named. Genesis 1 tells us man was made of the dust of the ground but in Genesis 2 we find he was made in the image of God. In one version man is made in his image, in the second, likeness is obtained by learning of good and evil. Since God is omniscient, did he know the outcome before he placed man in the garden of eden? Has a serpent ever spoke in fluent Hebrew as was spoken to Eve in the garden? Genesis 1 avows man and women were made together, in Genesis 2 woman was made after man from his rib. What are we to believe, Mon Ami? We are men of reason, is it not so?"

"Oui, it is just so, but you will see for yourself what I know to be true."

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Sangraal (cont.) by Stan

"Must I die to come face to face with God?"

"The bible tells us,'No man hath seen the face of God'."

"Not so again, my dear friend. Moses reputedly came face to face with God. The bible says,'all men must die,' but Elijah was caught in a whirlwind directly to heaven and did not suffer death."

"Truth, truth, we both speak of truth, but you talk of the book of the Jews. I speak of the reality of Jesus."

"A little more port? In Mathew 5:16 we are told good works should be seen."

"It may be as you say, but surely Mt 6:14 says, 'Do good works secretly.'"

"Mon ami, for indeed we are friends, I await your proof."

"Indeed, friends we are, but does the good book say,'Seek and ye shall find'?"

Perhaps it does, but for sure in Lk 13:24 it says, 'Many will seek but few shall find.' How can we ever reach a conclusion when the whole bible is a mass of contradictions and false statements?"

"But, my friend, I spoke not of the reliability of the bible. I spoke of the reality of the son of David through Solomon."

"Again. The book says in Lk 3:31 that he was a descendant of Solomon through Nathan."

"It does indeed say that, however, we spoke earlier of the quest for truth. The hour grows late, the air has taken on a chill as the sun journeys to bring a new dawn to another land. We shall meet again next week. Before I say, 'Au revoir,' ponder upon my name, Father Aalpheus. Not from Kubla Khan did I take it, albeit I have great love for Coleridge, but rather from the Greek and Arcadia. It means first or source. It come from the root word alpha. It denotes an underground stream, a blending of many rivulets. I, myself come from the area of France known as the Rennes le Chateau. Yes, ponder this, bon ami, until we meet again-- bon jour."

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Sangraal (cont.) by Stan

When we next met, the weather had turned chilly and a fire in the study was most welcome. Although I did not know it, this was to be the last time I was to see Father Alpheus.

Having ensconced ourselves in a comfortable chair, we both sat back and enjoyed the silence, as only friends are capable of doing. Finally, Father Alpheus spoke. "Remember our discussion on the reality of Jesus? You, dear friend, would continuously point out the inconsistencies and fallacies to be found in the bible. I could not make you understand that your argument was not germane to the point I was trying to make, namely the reality of Jesus. Perhaps I should have said Jesus the man, for Jesus never was, nor did he become a god. If he was crucified, he was not a god, for a god is immortal by definition. But he was not crucified."

I must admit, this caused me no end of astonishment. "But, Father, you are a man of the cloth, a priest of the holy church of Rome. I do not understand."

"I know you do not, my son. For all of your four degrees on your library shelf, you can be foolish sometimes." This was spoken without a trace of rancor in a voice that bespoke fond confidentiality. "You have studied the Napoleonic wars in school, have you not? But of course! Do you recall that Napoleon had nearly all of the documents in the Vatican brought to Paris? Yes, this you know. But, do you know what was in those documents? Some were returned, some were not. But let us back up a little bit. You are a learned man, as learned men go in your country. You know of Chartres and the chain of cathedrals across France. But do you know where the money came from to build them and who caused them to be built? The cathedral of Chartres was built over a spring sacred to people many, many years B.C.E. Many pagan symbols and sigils were built into the old cathedrals. They were really a confluence of hermetics, the cabala, gnosticism and ancient Pagan beliefs. The mother and child so often seen was not Mary and the infant Jesus. Not at all. It is Magdalen, the wife of Jesus and their son. A son who was to live in France and carry the royal bloodline down the centuries. For Jesus, while not divine, certainly was of royal blood line. Have you ever thought about why many of the forms are in direct conflict with the papacy? The papacy certainly knows the esoterica behind every inscription. As a tourist you will see many inscriptions. Written in latin, only a scholar can read them. And of these, only a few know

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Sangraal (cont.) by Stan

they are anagrams and what they say. Here is an example, AND IN ARCADIA I. A little thought gives us, I TEGO ARCANA DEI. In english, Begone, I conceal the secrets of God. For a little more full account of others, I suggest you read that most excellent book, Holy Blood Holy Grail by Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln. They point out that the money to build the cathedrals came from the holy land during the crusades. But they point out something more important than all the gold in all of the temples. They name the group that have the facts. Jesus never was crucified, he was married, presumably to the Magdalen, had children, and that he was of the royal lineage. This lineage was carried down through the kings of Europe and the blood line continues even now. A hint of this was known to a American, Robert Welch. He talked of the conspiracy, of the Council of Foreign Relations, of the Illuminati, even of the Skull and Cross Bones Club, but he never mentioned the Prieeure' de Sion. Perhaps that is why he lived well into his nineties.

Well, mon ami, I must say, not au revoir, but Good bye. Tomorrow I leave on Air France for Lorraine. If you are inclined to pursue this matter further, I beg you to consider the case of M. Paoli. He, too, knew deeply of these matters. He was shot as a spy by the Israelis."

The morning news told of an Air France 747 that had exploded over the Atlantic, cause unknown. Some attributed it the work of Col. Qadaddi, others claimed the Israelis did it to entangle the United States in a war with Libia, that Israel might control the rich oil lands...

I wonder

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For years the sideshow strongman had awed crowds by squeezing a lemon dry, then offering $1,000 to anybody in the audience who could get another drop out of it. Nobody paid much attention when a wispy little man in one audience dared challenge the strongman. The strongman first squeezed the lemon until it was little more than a pulp, then handed it to his frail challenger. The little man not only squeezed out another drop, but got almost a saucerful of juice. "Amazing!" the strongman conceded. "Waht kind of work to do you do?" "I'm with the IRS," the little man replied.--White Rose Motorist

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WHO HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING COMPANY WITH?

Satanism among teens described; from the Religious News Service.

"Satanism is alive and well, and the sad thing is that its growing among teen-agers," a Christian youth counselor told a seminar on "Satanism and NEOPAGANISM" recently. (ed note: my emphasis. dean)

Dr. Roger W. Burt, president of the Christian Counseling Association and Youth Encounter Homes in Los Angeles. said he has seen police reports of youth being drugged and sodomized in devil worshiping rituals.

The conference was co-sponsored by Spiritual Counterfeits Project and the Evangelical Ministries to New Religions, and was held at Berkeley's First Presbyterian Church. It is thought to be the first on satanism and neopaganism sponsored by evangelical groups.

Burt reported that on any night in wooded areas and isolated caves in the mountains surrounding Los Angeles, dozens of youths gather in covens to worship the devil. He said he often goes into the hills accompanied by a police officer to spy on and disrupt the rituals.

"There is a phenomenal growth in animal sacrifice," Burt said. "Cats, dogs and other animals are being beheaded."

Tom McFall of San Ramon said that his 17-year-old son, Kurt, may have been sacrificed in a satanic ritual and his body dumped in the San Francisco Bay. McFall said his son's beaten body was discovered washed up on the bay in September 1984.

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Thank-you note from Sylvia

Had to drop a few lines to let you know how much I appreciated your article on page 28 [April GNL] - "Prevent Germ Farming in a Crock" from the U.S.D.A. I have been using my crock for years, all the wrong ways. Sometimes when I get sick, I blame my glass of wine or cocktail. Now, I'll just bet it's because I reheat my food in the C. pot or I put in the food (meats) frozen. From now on I'll use my sense, instead of my hunger/being uneducated! Thanx again.

Bright blessings 2 U all.

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Christianizing the Roman Empire; Ramsay MacMullen, Yale: 1984. Rev. by Tarostar

This is a very significant book which I feel ought to be read by all thinking Pagans/Witches. It covers the years 100 to 400 C.E. and offers a perspective from the point of view of the pagan peoples.

Mr. MacMullen does not pose a diatribe or an invective against the Christian religion but simply states historical fact as it was seen by the pagan cultures of the Mediterranian world. That in itself is proof enough for the shams perpetrated by the early church divines in trying to discredit the pagan faith. Through the years 100 to 312 C.E., very little headway was made by the Christian movement. He shows they did not missionize as effectively as the modern church would like people to believe. The natural tolerance of the Old Gods understood and practiced by the populations of the Roman Empire simply could not get excited over strict monotheism.

At first, the early Christians would say the Gods do not exist. That made them unpatriotic subversives to the idea of Gods who upheld the stability of the state. Because of negative reaction to that, the Christians changed their tune and said the Gods do exist, but are Daimones.

They put on, at least in their writings for themselves, staged confrontations with the daimones to drive them out and show the power of the Christian God. Pagans thought of them as psychic phonies working wonders in the marketplace to impress the rabble. They just could not take them seriously. However, that is where the Christian tradition of exorcism was established--by creating a war in Heaven between their God and all other forms of belief. Modern theologians do not like to discuss those years and find them uncomfortable and embarrassing.

There were no scriptures, as the church has them today. There were only the Christian apologists in their tracts to be read by other Christians. The Pagans simply did not read Christian writers at all.

Intellectuals were not attracted by the Christian movement and the Christian teachers avoided open discussion with educated Pagans. The imperial government lavished money on whichever cult was favored by the emperor. That was standard

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Book Review (cont.) by Tarostar

practice and did not advocate the supremacy of one God or Gods over the others.

Constantine in 312 C.E. publically approved of the Christian Church so money from the state coffers went to the small but vociferous Christian religion. Between the years 312 and 400 C.E., government offices, military commands and lucrative financial contracts were given out only to Christians. With imperial favor, one could only advance in life if one were a member of the emperor's favorite cult.

Such brought scads of opportunity seekers who were only nominally converts. Still, Christianity was only a minority in the empire. It was an urban movement and did not take root among the majority in the rural areas. Because of that, the Church began conversion by coercion, using imperial troops to close temples and force acceptance of Christianity. It was imposed from the top down and never grew from the bottom up as the church would like people to think.

That is why Christianity must have and maintain association with the powers that be in the state, otherwise it is just not taken seriously. Without appeal to government, it would not exist. That is what makes it dangerous.

All in all, I recommend this book highly to any serious student of Pagan culture and history.

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A friend of mine delivers mail on a long and difficult route. "People can be so thoughtless," she told me recently. "Sometimes they are waiting at the mailbox when I get there and grumble at times as if it were my fault when they don't receive the letter they were waiting for. Sometimes I feel as if they don't look at me as a fellow human being.

"The other day the weather was terrible. Ice covered everything. I was hoping few flags would be up so I wouldn't have to stop and open my window more than necessary. As I came down a long steep hill I thought, 'I might have known. Those people always have their flag up.' An icy blast hit me as I rolled down my window. But when I opened the mailbox, instead of a letter, there was a hot cup of coffee, complete with small packets of sugar and cream."--Sharon Walker

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From the Pallas Society

The Pallas Society invites you to help end hunger in America. Be part of a historic and magickal event Sunday, May 25, 1986. There is no cost to participate in this important event, but donations are requested and here's what you get: $15 donation--official "Hands Across America" certificate of participation and official T-shirt. $25 donation--certificate, T-shirt, official visor and lapel pin (please wait 6 weeks for delivery). For more info write to The Pallas Society, POB 4983, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4983.

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From Belinda

Dear Lady Mariah: Greetings, and Blessed Be. I respectfully request the opportunity to make a public reply to your letter (GNL, April 1986). Let it be well known that this opinion is solely my own and is not that of cumulative members of the Pagan Parents' League (PPL).

I am uncertain as to whether the situation mentioned by you is the same situation to which I shall refer, so if I am mistaken, please accept my apologies and let me know of my error.

When I read the first paragraph in your letter--"I am writing about the person that wrote to the GNL about prisoners needing help from pagan areas..." I get the indication that it was not understood that the "person" who wrote asking for "help from pagan areas" is a Craft person, one of our Brothers.

I agree with you in the belief that no one, not even we Pagans, should promise assistance to any-and-all requestors. We might then find ourselves naively helping the KKK, Mr. Falwell, and Folks for Nukes.

But The Spirit Within News is a newsletter put out by Craft folk for Craft folk and any other interested parties. Its headquarters is indeed in a State prison; its editor, an inmate; so, too, most of its staff and some of its contributors. Generally speaking, I, like you, my Lady, "do not like people that break (the) laws (of the land)..." but I cannot fairly state that I do not like all prisoners (or all Christians, or all Blacks, or all Police Officers, or all of any category of people). I must judge each person on his or

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From Belinda (cont.)

her own merits. I may not like what a person does, but I may like a person as an individual. This is very uncomfortable, at times; but it is my chosen path. To elaborate, I may not like what these men have done which got them arrested and into prison in the first place, but I may like (or dislike) them as I choose, as individuals, after I "meet" them.

You state, "If you are in prison, I feel you have no rights. If you are a pagan, you have broken the law of karma and you have entered into the dark side of life. You said, 'barter with our newsletter, SWN,' and you are self-supporting. I feel you are using your religion to make money or receive certain tyeps of power in the world you have made for yourself." My Lady, this is a harsh declaration. Is prison the only indication that someone has broken the law (of karma)? There are many persons guilty of crimes (against nature, against society, against individuals, etc.) who will never be judged or imprisoned (here and now). But do we not all pay for previous transgressions every day? May some of us not even accept negativity in life as a learning experience, just as some of us--before incarnation--readily accept a next life of being physically or mentally handicapped, or poor, or lonely, or selfish, or bigoted, or afflicted with a disease (such as AIDS)? Your argument regarding the breaking of Karmatic Law is as groundless as Mr. Falwell and Mr. Graham's argument: break the law (of sexuality) of (their) God and you will undoubtedly get AIDS as your punishment.

Please, please understand that I am not condoning the breaking of any law(s), nor the (previous) behavior of these men (the pagans in Thomaston); nor am I condemning you for your personal feelings. You are not wrong. But neither am I. A pagan is indeed "a peace-loving person," but I am not sure about the "who upholds the laws of the land" part. Of course we shouldn't all "do (our) own laws to get whatever (we) want." (Hail, Eris! How Crowley-esque we would all be.) But there are Pagans in Greenpeace, Save the Whales, the Ecology Movement, No-nukes... even an ex-President's daughter was arrested for protesting (trespassing). Isn't that "breaking the law of the land?" How dare any of us pretend to be almighty judges of prisoners whose crimes we do not even know?

No, my Lady, I am not a bleeding heart liberal. I do not feel that criminals should be out on the streets because

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From Belinda (cont.)

their human rights are being violated. I, like you, work with police. I also work with prosecution attorneys and defendants and have come upon such horrible cases that would convince the strongest Pagan heart against the death penalty that maybe it wouldn't be such a bad idea after all. But I also know that some people, some prisoners, are trying only to be treated as other non-minority (read "Christian") prisoners are treated, not like they "actually have rights."

I agree with more of your points. "I feel that the time you are spending locked up should be spent thinking about what good you can do...." "A pagan's goodness starts within and will show without around them." Yes. And the pagan prisoners in Thomaston are doing just these things, and more. They are learning from each other and from contacts they have made through their newsletter and others like it.

"Using any religion as a weapon to get your way is doing a great injustice to the people that are involved in that religion." How true! This is just the thing these pagans are fighting against. What's fair is fair; if a Christian service (with outside clergy participating) can be held behind the grey walls of Thomaston, then so should a Pagan one! These pagans were not fighting for any rights not already afforded other prisoners... the right to worship as they saw fit. They wanted nothing that hadn't already been promised to them by the Administration.

You say, "When you ask for help from the pagan people, I feel that the true pagan can stand alone. Whatever problem a pagan has, they cannot hide among the good pagans to give them honor, power and glory they did nto earn for themselves." I am inclined to wonder if this "stand-alone" policy holds true for all Pagans... those Groves recently being persecuted by Majority Religions... those being blacklisted as "eclectic" or "nontraditionalist" by Craft folk who say the only way to the truth is their lineage... those legal support networks springing up worldwide. If it is best for us to all "stand alone," then why all the gatherings, the festivals, the contacts?

I cannot accept that we were meant to do so. Although there are solitaries of our kind, and content and happy ones at that, there are many of us who feel that man is a social animal, and that the "Good Samaritan story" can be used to advantage in our religion too, which teaches tolerance and

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From Belinda (cont.)

acceptance and respect for those different from us, or those of us who have erred and are sorry and who pay for their mistake(s).

We must use our God(dess) given intelligence, our Perfect Love and Perfect Trust doctrine, our deeply-imbedded personalized instincts on whom to trust and whom to avoid... but we must each make our own decisions, which I think, in essence, is what you said as well.

I merely worried, my Lady, that such a strongly-worded letter as yours might come across to others as the sole opinion on what is a very convoluted situation.

I thank you for taking the time to read this, and wish you Many Blessings.

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From Nile

In response to Lady Mariah's letter in the April GNL: Few if any of us are so wise that we can pronounce an act as "good" or "bad" in terms of Karma. A murder could be just the ticket to releasing Karma, and an 'act of charity' might just earn the philanthropist a mighty dose. The universal flow which determines it is not guided by our human ideas of right and wrong. One does not "break the law of Karma"... Karma just is.

The man that Lady Mariah castigates might be better served to recall the threefold law. But then Mariah herself should be reminded of it since her letter is filld with anger, spite, and self-righteousness.

I would like to believe that pagans are peace-loving, law-abiding citizens--but I suspect they are no more so than other people. They cheat on taxes, smoke grass, and run stop signs. They are human--and fallible.

Mariah suggests that Anubis-Amen-Ra is using his religion as a weapon, to make money, or to get power and glory. Does she have privy knowledge of him that has not been shared? I see nothing in his March letter to merit such accusations. Does she really mean to say that prisoners have no rights? Not to

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From Nile (cont.)

choose their own religion? Would she also deny them a right to change or to regret?

We witches are not "white" or "black." Those are the designations of outsiders. We are seekers and learners. Let's keep in mind that our judgements of others neither serve them nor give us peace of mind.

Blessed Be, Lady Mariah. I trust that your heart has more kindness than your words. The Lady and Lord smile on us all.

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From Tarostar

I would like to comment on the letter by Lady Mariah in response to the Pagan group in prison. We do not know why the person is in prison in the first place, but in this day and age it usually would be drugs, if the person was "pagan" before he ended up in the can. Generally, heavy criminal activity does not attract most Pagans/Witches, so I would assume drugs would be the reason for the incarceration. Some may feel drugs are not as serious as other forms of criminal activity, but that is a social problem not limited to the Craft. It is like that case where the Jew wanted to be allowed to war his yarmulke in addition to his military uniform in the armed forces. The court said, "No way!" There are times and places where no other Witches are anywhere around, so one may be a solo in the privacy of one's own being. That goes for the military and the state pen. One must understand fascist fundamentalists get jobs as guards and wardens in such places and a Witch/Pagan becomes a prime target for Born Again Conversion. Prisons are rampant with religious nuts of all shades and persuasions. Why want to add to the mania?

The military used to make us get haircuts on Saturday evening unless one were at the chapel with the Rabbi. So rather than get a haircut, I was a Jew every Saturday evening. No preference was the only other alternative allowed by the military if not some form of Christian or Jew. Buddhists and Muslims got all kinds of crap to convert when a rabid Chaplin came on base. They left the Jews alone. The rabbi was a Lt. Colonel so no one said a word.

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From Tarostar (cont.)

In other words, one must make do and go with the flow when one is a very small minority. Inner peace is most important. One does not need to be a visible target for some evangelist making quotas of souls for Jesus.

The Native American shamen have also had a hard row to hoe in bringing the Sweat Lodge to state prisons for their people. It can be done, but they will fight you every step of the way. Military or prison is only a passing thing. Play the game and be true to your inner light. The Old Religion does not need, nor expect, to be worn on the sleeve as is the case with some other persuasions. It is too deep for that.

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From Dionysus

As the Advocate Substitute, representing the legal interests of the "Coven of Dawn" and Spirit Within News, I would like to extend to you my thanks and our appreciation for explicitly displaying the attitude of this prison administration towards the "Coven of Dawn." However, there are two points that I would like to stress in rebuttal to Security Officer Sgt. Lady Mariahs' baseless allegations. Those points are:

1. The "law of the land" is exactly what is at issue in the "Coven's" present legal struggle; one persons' slimebag can always be anothers' freedom fighter; and

2. The "Pagans' Cry for Help" was authored as an appeal for 'spiritual' help and support; there was no request for funds made. As for the money and power "in the world you have made for yourself," if this was, in fact, the motive, these things could be attained at a less costly emotional expense and receive the approval of the administration if sought under the "Born Again Christian" banner. The personal sacrifices made to preserve the "Wiccan" group in this prison are genuine and not, as some perceive, a scam. How many of the "Pagan" followers can claim the survival of an attack by an armed zealot, inflicting twenty-one near fatal wounds on the High Priest, screaming "In Jesus' Name" upon each stab puncture? Has it become that "spiritual" and "emotional" support now must be paid for in advance or you thus become a ripoff slimebag for asking?

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From Dionysus (cont.)

In Love and Light may She, Our Lady, smile on your endeavors, and grant you health and happiness to you and yours.

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From Sue

Normally I agree with what your contributors have to say, but I really feel compelled to make some comments concerning Lady Mariah's article condemning the prison coven who called for help in securing their religious rights. She would apparently like to see the Craft community turn its back on them. I wonder how beneficial this could be.

According to Elliot Aronson, a social psychologist at the University of California at Santa Cruz and author of a very prestigious psychology textbook (The Social Animal), people who spend time in prisons seldom mend their ways and become law-abiding citizens merely by virtue of having spent time in prison. Prisons are devised to strip prisoners of all self-esteem. When this happens, prisoners usually begin to believe that they really are "slimebags." If you're already so low and insignificant as a person, why would yu care if you rip off and hurt others?

Research in the area of prison reform shows that prisoners who are paroled and had a chance at a self-actualizing process along with counselling and therapy such as education or religious fulfillment are much more likely to become reformed and stay clean outside of prison. When do you think they have time in prison to think about "what good you can do for your home town and the people you betrayed"? Prisons in this country are places of hate and fear and degradation. Members of the penal system (such as yourself) are typically very prejudiced against convicts, which only perpetuates the hate. If these convicts are going to get out someday (most convicts come up for parole eventually) doesn't it make sense to give them a sense of dignity, which then gives them a moral obligation to cease further criminal behavior?

I'm not suggesting we allow inmates every indulgence; nor am I suggesting that all inmates can be reformed. Most criminals come into the penal system with huge chips on their shoulders they got from living such wretched lives in the first place. However, if some inmates can manage to rise above and find some true meaning in our religion, I think

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From Sue (cont.)

everyone would benefit. They asked for the Craft community's help. Christians would certainly want to help. Are we so perfect and elitist that we can just turn away, using their bad karma as our excuse for inaction?

You said in your letter, "I feel that the true Pagan can stand alone." Does this mean you won't lend a hand to any Pagan in need? Or just the ones you're prejudiced against?

If you're still not convinced, read about the Stanford prison experiment (you'll find this in books on social psychology and prison reform). Okay, enough of that!

Pagans in Tucson are all going crazy right now. I heard that Uranus was retrograde or something. I feel like my head is stuck in my Uranus! Everyone seems to be going through hard times right now. I got accepted into the nursing program at the University of Arizona. I start in the fall. My husband is almost done with that program himself, so I have someone to hold my hand. Rik and I just completed another "Basics of the Old Religion"--we were approached by six people from the class for further teaching. So it might be a busy summer. Also, is anyone out there familiar with a meditation tape called "The Cosmic Indian"? I only heard it once and haven't been able to locate a copy for myself. I'd like to know who the artist(s) is and if it's still in print.

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"If it were desired to crush a man (or woman) completely, to punish him so severely that even the most hardened murderer would quail, it would only be needed to make his work absolutely pointless and absurd."

The words are those of the novelist, Fedor Dostoevski. Pointless work remains a complete absurdity. But everyone who works to make a living also works to create something or to serve others in some capacity. Their work has purpose, meaning, significance. Whether it means delivering a load of coal or baking bread or tuning a motor or pounding a typewriter, that work is vital or the particular job would not exist. All of us who work have every reason to be proud of what we do. That labor we perform keeps our homes going as well as our communities and our nation. It's something of which every worker should be proud.

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Aquarian Aid

By now everyone reading this should be aware that the peoples of the drought regions of Africa need all the help that they can get. On top of the financial aid already given, those involved with the New Age Movement are already skilled in sending another type of assistance--spiritual energy.

Aquarian Aid is simply a request for all those reading this to join together to send a unified wave of healing, growth and comfort to the continent of Africa. On Sunday, July 13th, 1986, the first anniversary of the Live Aid concert, we ask for all those who are willing, to perform the meditation described below. We ask for organized groups to do it together and for those with particular traditions and techniques to find ways of incorporating this meditation into their own formats. The meditation is designed to link Africa with the image of Gaia, the Greek Goddess of the Earth, whose name has become a symbol for the care of the Earth, for life and harmony.

If at all possible we would ask that you not only do this on the same day but as near as you can to noon your local time. Above all we would like you to spread the word among your friends and associates and if you are involved with a publication to reprint this notice therein. If enough people contribute their spiritual energies as well as continuing to donate money to BandAid and other charities, perhaps the forces of the Earth in conjunction wiht the good will fo humankind can replenish the mother continent in her time of greatest need.

All that is required for this meditation is a candle. We suggest that it be done out of doors for maximum contact with the earth's energies--in a garden, park, wood, local sacred site or the like. If you are working with others you may wish to join hands or otherwise link together during the meditation. Take a few minutes to relax and center yourself. Become aware of your contact with the Earth--feeling yourself intimately linked through your body and energy with it. Deepen that connection through a contemplation of Gaia--the living organism which is the Earth and become aware of the subtle flow between her and all living things.

Once this sense of communion with the Earth has been established, light your candle. Affirm aloud or silently that with the lighting of this candle you consciously link with your sisters and brothers throughout the world who are

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Aquarian Aid (cont.)

likewise meditating on this day. This can be done by visualizing a network of light, candle to candle, consciousness to consciousness, crisscrossing the globe. Linking first with those you know then extending the web allowing yourself to become part of this energy grid--even with those who may not be joining in but who are working to bring through these energies regardless. Visualize the Earth--a blue, white and green sphere afloat in the indigo heavens, stars all about her. See our web of light shining like the stars upon the Earth consciously joining with the energy of the planet. Once a feeling for this has been established become aware of Africa--a part of the Earth now suffering. Focus the combined energies here to bring about a healing and greening of this region. Continue this part of the meditation for as long as feels right--then draw back your concentration and be aware of the greater whole of the planetary sphere and affirm for a greening of the entire planet. Finally, focus your consciousness firmly back in the here and now and earth the contact and energies as you will.

We look forward to joining with you then. Wishing you peace, light and love: The Sirius Cabal, London.

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The typical old Westerner is extraordinarly observant. One time a stranger traveling through cow country stopped briefly at a chuck wagon, then went on. A few days later an officer of the law rode through. "Did you see a stranger around here lately?" he asked a local resident.
"Uh-huh," drawled the Westerner.
"What did he look like?"
"Well," the old fellow continued, "he was riding a horse with a white stockin' on his left hind foot, a loose shoe on the right, and an X-Bar brand. Horse was a four-year-old. Had a mangy saddle, red-and-white Navajo saddle blanket, and two Navajo conche on his bridle.
"The man was around five feet eight, wering Levis, blue shirt, and a corduroy vest. Scar on right cheek. A three-day beard; sharp eyes, kinda blue. Long nose, with the tip twisted to the left like he smelled something bad over there. Had on a J. B. Stetson hat, kind of wore out, with a woven hair band.
"I didn't get a close look at him, mind you, but that's about how he stacked up."--Thomas LaMance.

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Into Mighty Oaks Workshop

Silver Acorn Circle presents Into Might Oaks Workshop, a magical weekend devoted to healing, living, and laughter, June 6, 7, 8, in Oklahoma City. Lectures/workshops featuring Amber K, Catelaine, and Starsight. $35.00 per person, includes lodging, fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as fees to all the workshops except "From Little Acorns." "From Little Acorns" workshop is for children only and a $5.00 donation per child is requested (but not required) to cover the costs of materials. For further information, write POB 75546, Oklahoma City, OK 73147.

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A Practical Guide to Past Life Regression, Florence Wagner McClain, Llewellyn Publications, POB 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164, $6.95, soft cover. Rev. by Delana.

A Practical Guide to Past Life Regression is just that, practical. Being such, it does not go deeply into any one aspect of past life regression, but rather touches briefly on several. The information in this book is by no means new, but it does answer basic questions and is well put together with brief discussions on definitions, philosophy, technique, sample regressions, and case histories. I found it to have enough information and 'how-tos' to pique my interest and spur me onto further study on my own.

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Epitome Doctrinae Wiccanae, Tarostar, 98pp, some illustrations. Write: Ye Olde Herb Doctor, 125 N. Bruce ST, Las Vegas, NV 89101. rev. by jeannie.

This is a compendum of essays by Tarostar on various subjects of interest in the Craft such as "What is Wicca?", "The Tenets of the Faith in 13 Statements," the elements, a basic bibliography, poetry, and responses to dilemmas often encountered such as "What does a proper initiation entail?" Some of these essays will appear familiar as they have appeared in the GNL before. For those who have enjoyed Tarostar's contributions, you will certainly enjoy having this bound edition of his collected writings.

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Daydream Your Way to Success: The Miracle of Mind Power, William W. Hewitt. Llewellyn Publications, $6.95, 168pp.

Like a good technical wirter, the author starts out in Chapter 1 outlining the contents of the rest of the book. The introduction should not be overlooked. The first paragraph ends with "Sometimes a persons daydreaming is so intense and so goal-oriented that the person actually causes the goal to be achieved. This usually happens spontaneously and without deliberate intent." Sound familiar? The introduction also includes important information for the beginning hypnosis practitioner as well as valuable information about the author. For those who practice hypnosis, the routines contained in the book will be a welcome addition to your material. My favorites were the routine for improving the aura and the "Seashore Trip Routine." At seven bucks, a handy addition to your reference library.

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Second Annual Solitary Convention

August 1-3, 1986, Friday noon to Sunday noon. The voice of wild magic is calling its own: come all who are lone! We are gathering. Once in a summer we meet to share the truths we have learned in our solitude and to celebrate. Solitary troubles and joys discussion, joint creation of ritual space, the Solitary Circle, and much more! For information contact: SolCon '86, POB 122, Index, WA 98256.

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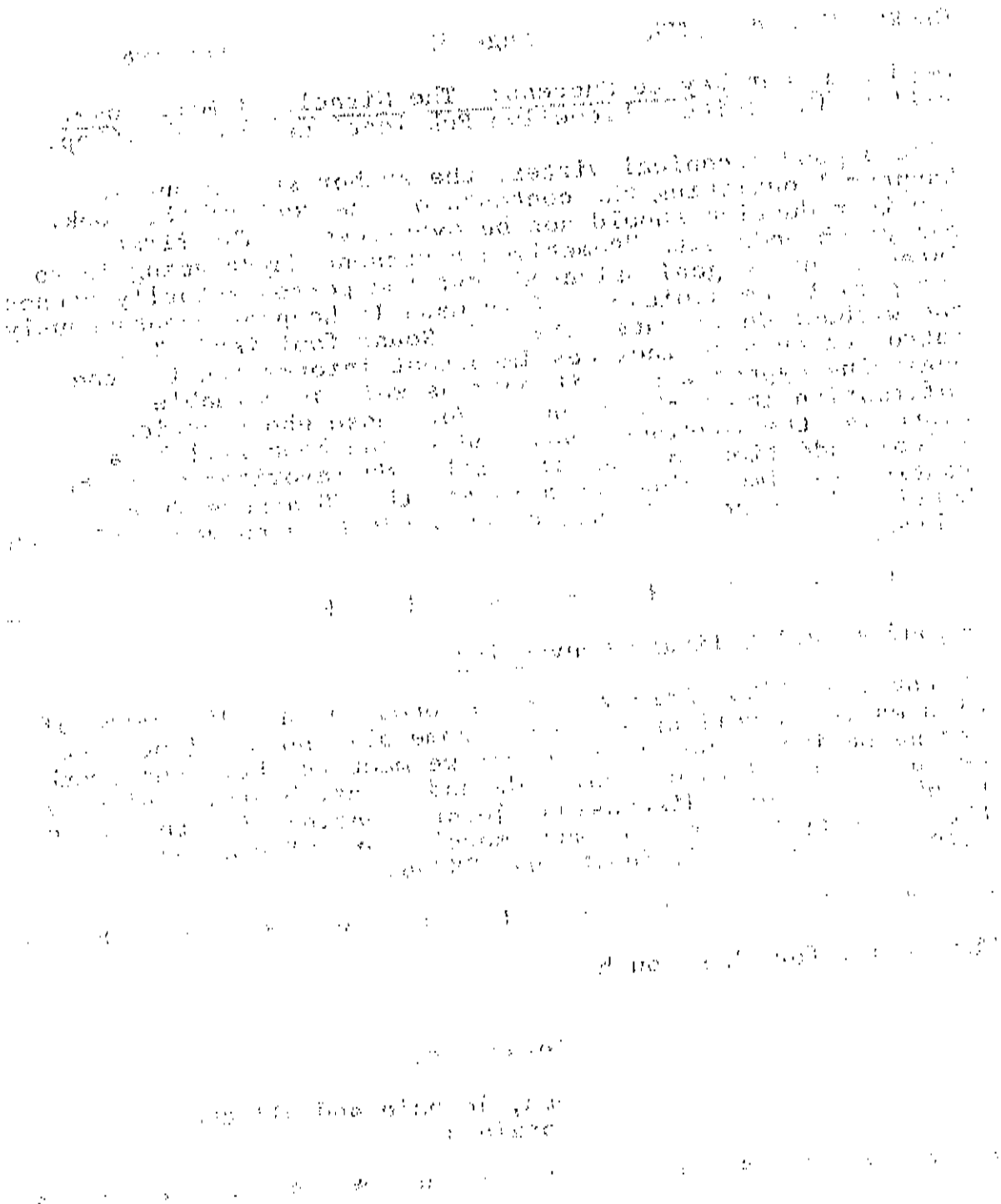
That's all for this month.

Blessed Be,

dean, jeannie and all the Georgians

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