

LETTER TO NORMAN

Thank you for your letter which I read with very great interest. I take it that you write in symbols, and your descriptions of Two Kings, and Two Queens are purely symbolic, since we have something very similar in my own branch of the Craft.

I was worried because of the outburst of symbols. My own conclusion is that you were probably still suffering from the after affects of night-shade wine, but even so I didn't want to push the issue at that point. You should really be careful, since all dream drugs can have a very dangerous side as well as a marvelous sensational side. There is a place in the other world (if place is the right way to describe it) which is literally chaos, and can destroy the human mind. In the past they had very careful directions and sign posts to help the congregation over the difficult way. Today much of those directions have been lost.

I read your remarks upon the practices you follow with interest, and perceive in them a conglomeration of various ideas that are not strictly of the Faith I know. The animals you speak of I do possess a very considerable knowledge about, and I can assure you that a rat, as distinct from a mouse is the last shape to be assumed by Long Compton, any more than an alder rod would be used in a ritual devoted to the Mother of the Waters. Trees, like animals have a use and a meaning - and combined with a maze pattern of the right sort and understanding, form a series of compound images that produce necessary effects. Taliesin was too fond of relying upon Toad, and the Taniast have lost because of this. Glorious dreams may be valid, but unless they have a reason for 'becoming', they are of little use except in convincing the devotee of the beauty or horror locked away in his own unconscious.

We have been pretty busy recently, organizing a magical group along the Seven and One basis, as opposed to the old rural Twelve and One. The Clan seem to be responding, and our ancestors are appearing to give their approval, that is the only approval that counts for us. The Hallows of the Covenant went off all right, had to cover up somethings since strangers were present, but we got through a few results. Sorry about not bringing you along, but since it was already overbalanced with outsiders, there was not very much else we could do. We could not have helped you under those circumstances at all. The summoning of the Hound and the Raven had to be done symbolically as it was, and there were only four of us who knew what we were about. Still one of the outsiders said she had a vision of the Old Queen, and Old Tubal was definitely there. Not a bad night out all in all

We have been experimenting with the balanite and ash, and find that even without certain aids, it works remarkably well combined with a witches cradle. As far as we can see it has two effects One is the activating of the power in a human body, and the other is moving a center of power from one point to another. The thing that did strike us as interesting was that even without the cone of power being present from the ring, it works as an activator. It evidently affects the nerve and mind power that has it's center just over the front of the head. The Indians call this a "Chakra", and it is supposed to spiral either left or right according to the sex. In sick people it looks like a closed flower, and in a psychic it looks like a votrex moving round. I have felt and seen this effect at times, so it is true I think. Now from what we gather, when you move the cleft stick down, it also affects the other

centers on the body, such as the one just under the heart and above the sexual organs. In other words it is a far more advanced method than that used by the ceremonial magicians who do all this by breathing.

Presumably combined with a witches cradle, it helps the spirit to leave the body, anyway this is what we did with it. Also working in a ring, once the power has been raised, it joins the directional power of the Maid or Master to the power of the group, and since the Maid has been instructed to go in a certain direction, the whole group will follow and anything that happens must be shared by the group. It is very interesting.

Now the idea of using it over water, bound to a wet tree such as a willow is interesting also, since it is forming a perfect link for the power to flow from heaven to earth, or earth to heaven according to which way the ring is being turned. As you already know, power must form a complete chain otherwise it will not work, since witch magic is like witch Gods, it is from the highest to the lowest, from the lowest to the highest. All is One, and one is all..... Thank you Norman for teaching us so much.

Obviously I cannot leave the matter like that, so here is a piece of knowledge that will help you, and which will explain about the Castles and Kingdoms. I have enclosed it, and I hope you will understand it, since it is really a map of the other worlds, you are welcome to use our names, or use the ones that you know personally. But I will guarantee that this works, if it is combined with things that both you and I know, but will not write down....cords,....smoke.....tapers...etc, etc.

Flags, Flax and Fodder,

Robert Cochrane

LETTER TO NORMAN

Many thanks for your kind letter, and the very good advice in it - however it is not what people said, but what they have done, which has hurt. John has also betrayed his trust - and spoken the name of a hereditary member to the Gardnerian's - who seeing that it is Taliesin, are now intent upon making trouble for him. As such when the Clans people get to hear about it, John will be put under the Ban - that I am sure of - and you know as well as I do, there is terror and death in that. The thing with Audrey and myself goes much deeper - but as you said - I should not get involved. Still enough of my troubles, and thank you for your attentions and prayers.

I am pleased to read that you know something of the old High Magic, not many do, although many claim to. Can you cast the Mound and the Skull? In fact thinking about it, I am more than pleased, since you are the first person I have met for many a long day who knows something about the Craft.

The mystery you speak of is that of the Broom. It is the basic magical and mystical practice, and corresponds with the exercise of the qabbalistic middle pillar. Unlike the principle and mystery of St. John though, the principle of Fire is removed, and that of Air put in its place. This practiced every day is the path way to the Seven Gates of perception - Now what is it all about. Firstly then we must begin with the fundamental practice of the Faith - the correct way to approach an altar.

Have you ever watched cattle? The way one cow will always turn her back upon you and regard you over her shoulder? This then is the correct way to approach an altar. The cow is using 'kundelini' to analyse you, to sense out what you are, and whether you are dangerous, and she uses her spinal column as a sensory device - in much the same way as water diviners use a wand to sense water. Now the practice of kundelini, is as you know, the transmutation of sexual energy. So this is where the broom comes in - in the sense that this transmutes the energy of the sexual impulse into the higher grade energy of sensation, feeling and thought. Physically one perambulates a given number of times around the seven sided ring such as seven to call upon the seven stars. One stops in the exact center of the ring, and has the back to the altar, balancing upon the right foot, with the left foot pointing out., and looking over your shoulder at the altar - so that the spinal column forms a spiral - which incidentally you have already performed in your turning about the ring. At this point of balance - one begins the first principle of the broom - which equates to that of the qabbalistic Malkuth. Before the altar is greeted though, one prepares the ring by imagining a bright star very far away, and above your head. From this star should fall waves of light, and one should imagine that it is getting nearer - or rather you are getting nearer to it. The light should enter your body through the right shoulder, and work in a spiral downwards, and emit through the left foot upon stopping to greet the altar. As such the ring, which has been censed and purged by whatever method you use, is charged, and this in its turn becomes a well of wisdom - of the water of Life. You like the trout spiral in this pool, and then by sheer poetry which should be spontaneous and inspired - take this sacred fluid and direct it via the right foot about your body in a anti-clockwise spiral until it reaches the base of the spine - Malkuth - which is earth, and corresponds to the anus and the genital area surrounding it. This is the foundation, and the seat of all transmutation, since the area of skin between the anus and the sexual organs is that which holds the super-physical power. Hence broom stick riding, since in the past they rode a staff in order

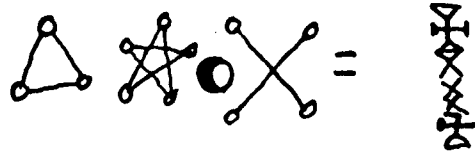
to activate that small area of sensation - and then transmuted it by mental power to the ascending snake. [Editors note: the broomstick was anointed with flying ointment] I will demonstrate the techniques of the broom when we meet - and if you can get Jill and her mother along since I have a distinct respect for Jill's psychism - I will show you how to approach the Holy Ones - that is the Deities who rule us. In this exercise, and once it is fully carried out and understood - the final stages is that when a sensation of being near a great bell is felt, and your mind and body appears to tremble with the vibrations. It is at this point that you utter the prayer for whatever you are requiring - but always remember Norman - no man has power within himself, we are all but expressions of Godhead. This belief that tricks, or techniques bring power is a blasphemy since the magician is nothing but a channel for the forces he raises by prayer - and prayer and faith are the greatest secret of them all. To be a channel to the force of Godhead is all we can ever hope to attain. Obviously you are well aware of this - but having told others - I always add this as a precaution, since some people think that power comes from within.

The ritual you speak of is pretty basic, although we begin with movement - for that is the correct way to greet an altar, and end with sitting still. To run about brings an emotional release that should for purity sake be sexually released in its final stages - but for the big prizes one meets before the Knot the number of days devoted to the Goddess awakened, and then upon the knot, invokes the Goddess through 'The dark of night and the evening star meeting together', which as you should know is brought about in the beginning by "in an uneasy chair above Caer Ochren."

"Spinning without motion between three Elements" this was the way it was in Long Compton, Shropshire, Lancashire and the Isle of Man, and since one of my informants is now a very old man, who has been in it all his life - and understands both the Broom and the Sword - I should think it has been traditional for many centuries. I agree though about movement - but as you know movement of any spectacular sort is nearly impossible once "Bell tone" has been reached, since by then you are verging up on the other world and preparing to enter beneath the hall of the King. Forgive me for saying so but you seem to be confused slightly as to the actual making of power - this of course is not suggesting that you have failed in discovering power, but that you have discovered it instinctively - which will work for you, but for nobody else. The Star of David is of course the basic explanation of the Sword and Broom - do you know how to apply this principle, or have you followed your instincts? As such it forms a cross pattern at the base of the throat and forehead - and is extremely difficult to operate, since it is a point of perfect balance of two totally different yet complimentary forces - and the Noble Ones are loth to help, since once it is mastered, it gives incredible power to the master - but in the search for it, one can so easily be destroyed, for it is the genuine philosophers work and Stone, and twice in my life I have grasped it, only to lose it again.

Really it is impossible to teach this - just as it is to teach someone how to bring the 'Morning Star and the Dead of Night together' by writing. It has to be demonstrated so that faith is created, and so a standard is wrought to work by. As for other rituals - The Cad Goduie and the Predieu Annwm by Gwion, who was a poet in the twelfth century, will act as a gateway - since in poetic form (and that means in terms of images, a matter for which you have a gift) the answers are all ruled and laid out for the eye of the seer. You will find these in that very excellent book 'The White Goddess' by Robert Graves. It costs 12/6 and is published as a paperback by Faber. In that book is indicated wisdom, and by unravelling some of the riddles - wisdom is to be found.

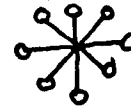
Concerning your magic mirrors....with or without the horn? Or do you mean a scrying glass. I know of two mirrors, one the Lady holds by a very old piece of wood, and the other that is between my eyes. One mirror speaks of the trees (eight in all) of the forest, the other speaks of Tides that is still to come.



My question to you as to where the witch wears her garter..... that needs an answer. However lets leave these things for the future. Perhaps we can meet some time in the new year. Perhaps your clan and mine could meet one day and discuss things. Staffordshire and Warwick don't come to Long Compton, maybe they went to another Well.

May the Hare, owl and pussy cat...

Robert



[Editors note: The ritual described is extremely powerful, and really should be done every day by each member of our coven -- however it may have destroyed Robert Cochrane. Take extreme care. I note two errors -- one, the spine should not make a spiral, since that causes an unnatural flow of kundalini and can cause insanity -- and two, all magical exercises should be preceded by intensive concentration exercises such as we use in order to give one the mental strength to withstand and control the power invoked.]

LETTER TO NORMAN

Many thanks for your calendar, and especially for the crossed owl feathers upon the back, a blessing only a witch can understand
* * * Life...Love...Wisdom, or as we're taught to say, 'Flax, flax, fodder' I return them back to you with my good will. Different traditions, but the same basis. I noticed that you wrote to us in Theban script, which I translate as "Three hundred and sixty five days of happiness," Ta, ever so.

Witch ointments presumably work if they are used upon an empty stomach and combined with one other thing, dandelion stems. The stems cause the nerves to swell and become sensitive to other drugs. It is very dangerous to apply such ointments. they were usually incorporated into drink or food...

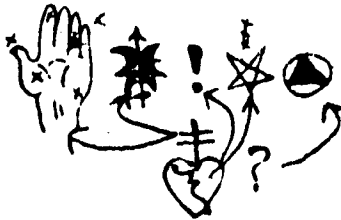
The news you gave me of a vision is of interest. You are saying in effect that I am to be awarded the sword. The Gate is that of Fire - The Serpent that of Earth, and the Rake the power that brings the two together. Water and Air is the first admission - Fire and Earth the second - Air and Spirit the last.

I agree with you about the Gods from the East, but as you know not all the Craft accepted the Eastern Gods, many still preferred the Old Ones, and continued the ancient observances. I for one do not like the Eastern Star, but prefer the Mill as did my ancestors. I must confess that I am very interested in that you mention it, since I thought the wisdom about that was almost lost, and it was only through mere chance that I heard about it. It seems to have begun at the end of the twelfth century and ended by the Craft almost being wiped out by the Church at the end of the seventeenth century I honestly believe the Old Ones of Britian did not like their people taking up with foreign gods, and I have never heard of anyone getting results from them that did practice the Eastern system and who followed the walnut and the Almond, rather than the Rowen, The Oak and the Blackthorn. Agreed that we still need to be careful, but this time even more, there are enemies within as well as without the Castle, and we do not trust anyone who cannot give the true signs today. I think that the Craft will come back, but as you say in a very different form. I was in Wales last week, and you could feel the Old Forces stirring in the mountains. I think that maybe Our Lady will come down to earth once more and we can begin all over again.

I am very sorry to hear that your girl died, I can think of no greater loss than the person one loves. In the Craft maybe, love is even deeper than it is amongst others, since the two walk such a close path together in that strange half world that only the Crafters can know or understand. The Craft is something born or something given in love, once the gift is received there is no going back, once a witch always a witch and it is there forever. I am sure that your girl often comes back to you, as only witches will, there is an old story in my family in which it is said that the witches heaven is in the setting sun, and as the old song ends

There you and I my loves,
There you and I will lie,
When the cross of ressurection is broken
And our time has come to die,
For no more is there weeping
For no more is there death
Only the golden sunset,
Only the golden rest.

Jane and I give you our word, and our thumbs, that we will help you as best we can, and however we can.



Wise and blessed be,

Robert and Jane Cochrane

P.S. Do you know any more Crafters? Any more Jack or Gills?

Your symbols read - ≡ ||| Δ are all ☆, ≡ ||| Δ ♂ can

also be ☆ ♁ this one is to me ♁ or ♁ for the top and ♁ or love for the bottom - wisdom (death + power)

and love - we say ♁ viii the others all are ♁ or

phases of the moon suitable for ♁ ♁ the ♁ ♁ are

all variations upon ♁₁ ♁₂ ♁₃ and ♁, try this one ♁, what

direction? Incidentally ♁ is a Quabbalistic symbol it means Iron or Saturn

♁ ♁ 1734