

“You can take Salem out of the country,
but you can't take the country out of Salem.”
–Radio and TV Commercial Jingle, Salem Cigarettes

Chapter 1

The Medium as Medium: Witchcraft, Women, and Law

*How Witchcraft Measures Law, Human Rights, Sex, and Drugs
and Makes for Great Cocktail Party Conversation*

**Law, Coven, Cult, and Consciousness,
“The Inquisition: The Holocaust of Witches”
The Witch Manifesto, The Hammer of Witches,
Celtic Fairies, Halloween, Hags, Werewolves, Virgin Sacrifice,
Hitler and Jewish Magic, Astrology, Shape-Shifting, and
W.I.T.C.H. (Women’s Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell)**

Popular witchcraft is a strange country. Bounded on the left by science and on the right by religion, this “Mesopotamia of the Mind” lies somewhere between the flowing together of two great rivers: one a natural stream, the other a man-made canal. According to Egyptologist Margaret Murray’s theory, *Wicca*, or the Old Religion—the religion of nature and human nature—pre-dated Judeo-Christianity. The other witchcraft, a latter-day media phenomenon, has long since been channeled by the alternately commercial and hysterical tides of western culture.

Left to itself, witchcraft could have maintained a quiet flow as supportive to the Christian mainstream as Merlin was to Camelot. Can society educate away its fears? Damned by laws, however, witchery has always risen boiling to civilization’s floodgates. Can society legislate away its fears? The establishment, controlling nature with technology and suppressing dissent with politics, uses the legal system to repress witchcraft which it sees as too powerful and threatening. “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.” So says *I Samuel* xv.14. Witchery, more often than not, has led the charge of human rights and social revolution: without witches, no feminism, no gay liberation, no civil rights for racial equality.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of demonology. The archetypal biblical story of rebellion features the Archangel Lucifer whose name means “Light-Bearer.” Fighting God, Lucifer fell from heaven to hell to wander the earth as the wild one—the new Satan—in search of souls. The brightest becomes the darkest. The conservative state ethic of western culture—rarely separated from muddled-class churches—has long seen the need to write laws protecting the *status-quo* from the threatening freedoms of the progressive human rights movements, including the various occult liberation fronts.

Babylonian King Hammurabi in 1900 B. C. legislated against witchcraft and image worship because too many of his tribes had too many exorcists telling people too many things that contradicted Hammurabi’s political control. The outlaw status of seers and witches can be seen by connecting the dots from the ancient Bible to the most modern state laws, all of them influenced by the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church which, reported in an update by

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Newsweek, is the oldest functioning legal system in the world. Mosaic Law, written for a middle-eastern ethic that originally had no Devil, said: “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” *Exodus* xxii.18. In Christianity, magic and mysticism are called *Gnosticism*, and in Judaism, *Kabbalah*. Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism each handle the mystical esoterica behind their standard creeds with, respectively, Sufism, Tantrism, and Dark Zen.

The Bible is a written collection of oral folk tales from a popular culture of 4,000 to 2,000 years ago that had an opinion on absolutely everything. It is the traditional weapon of choice used by literalists to support their review-proof opinions. Always quoted as the ultimate argument from authority, the Bible is a gun. Often it is aimed at thinkers, scientists, occultists, women, homosexuals, and dark-skinned races. The Bible is a catch-22 that, in its circular argument, fails Logic 101: “Believe the Bible because the Bible says you must believe the Bible.” The Old Testament is the folklore of primitives wandering the flat-earth of the ancient desert. The New Testament contains the monotheistic stories and letters popular in the polytheistic Roman Empire, yet it has power. It threatens contemporary people who cannot shake the superstition that the Bible is some kind of magic book. Waving a Bible at a Christian is like holding up a crucifix to a vampire: both crumble before the symbol.

History tells how this conditioning became the superstition that “the Bible will get you if you don’t watch out.” Scriptural quotations have been invoked for centuries to control people, to judge people, to convict people, and to kill people. Thus the Bible, like a loaded handgun, scares people. And why not? For centuries, for instance, in cases of occultism, Bible quotes have been offered in evidence at more than one witch trial, and have bent lawmakers’ attitudes toward the occult from ancient law to contemporary law.

The Bible is based on the fundamental belief in God and angels as well as in Satan and devils, and in all of these spirits must Jews, Catholics, and Protestants believe.

Once upon a time, in the Bible stories of sex and violence, a no-doubt priapic Satan dressed in black leather boldly bragged that all the kingdoms of the world were his to give when he tempted Jesus Christ to kneel in Satanic worship.

“Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and the Devil said to Him, ‘All these will I give You, if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Begone Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.’ Then the Devil left Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered to Him.” *Gospel according to Matthew* 4:8-11.

In the polar battle between good and evil, “Witch, be warned and beware!” In the anti-witch hysteria between the years 1500 to 1900 more than 250,000 people were tried, tortured, and killed. This is the “Withering of the Witch” according to an assortment of biblical laws that are so unnerving, it may be helpful to remember that in the classic American opera, *Porgy and Bess* (1934), lyricist DuBose Heyward has a Black preacher sing the warning that what one reads in the Bible, “It Ain’t Necessarily So.”

Leviticus xix.26: “Neither shall ye use enchantment nor observe dreams.”

Leviticus xix.31: “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus xx.6: “And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to