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Life After Death—Fourth
Girl who Died In The Philippines
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THEY GO HAND IN

Just Fun and Games?

by

Sylvia A. Storms

A group of thirteen people dressed in long black robes meet secretly in an abandoned building. Their faces are chalked white with large black circles painted around their eyes. They dance furiously and chant rhymes in unison by the eerie light of a host of flickering candles. After a time, they fall exhausted to the ground, their eyes glazed.

They are a "coven" of twelve witches with a high priest, and they are beginning a ceremony that will end in such debauching revels and lewd practices as to be unmentionable.

In another place at about the same time, another group of people sit in front of a table, covered with a purple velvet altar cloth and lit with candles. Over the "altar" hangs a cross upside down and a picture of the devil, half-human, half-beast. A high priest stands by the table dressed in bishop's robes. On his person he wears an inverted cross. He throws a larger cross to the floor.

"Shemhamforash!" he shouts, as he spits upon the cross with an obscene gesture. "Hail, Satan!"

Thus begins a sickening and blasphemous ritual, as the Devil worshippers repeat the Lord's Prayer backwards and make mockery of the ordinances of the church.

In yet another place, a group of

people sit around a table in a dim light. Their hands are placed in such a way upon the table that their fingers touch in an unbroken circle. Their attention is focused upon a "medium" who has gone into a trance as she attempts to make contact with a departed soul in the spirit world. A rush of air is felt and the table rises a few inches off the floor. The medium begins to speak in an unnatural voice, as the spirit gives a message through her to one of the assembled persons.

Do these scenes appear to you to be "innocent fun and games?" Yet this is what some people claim when they are asked why they attend seances, study magic spells, or check their horoscopes! The Christian should be made aware that to dabble in the occult is extremely dangerous!

In the past one hundred years, the United States and other countries (particularly England) have witnessed an alarming rise in the occult. Magazines and newspapers run horoscopes and numerology columns. Their pages are filled with articles about psychic phenomena—haunted houses, reincarnation, witchcraft, and extrasensory perception (ESP). There are ads for spiritual advisors, palmistry, occult supplies, and books on spells, potions, and rituals.

Bookstores and libraries are being besieged with requests for material on the black arts. Librarians claim they cannot keep up with the demands for such books. The occult business is booming!

"Club Offers the Services of 242 Psychics, Witches & Astrologers to Its 3,000 Members," boasts one occult organization in a prominent newspaper. Its members come from all walks of life, from truck drivers to secretaries to Wall Street executives.

"To boost business," reads another article, "a major airlines is taking advantage of the psychic kick Americans are on by promoting a series of two-week psychic tours of London." The airlines will give its customers "a chance to talk with the dead at seances, take part in psychic readings, and make various side trips into the occult."

Astrologists, numerologists, and other *seers* are making millions of dollars playing the "game." For a handsome fee, they will plot your destiny or advise you on any matter. Some will predict the outcome of the next presidential election or tell you the exact date the world will end!

Why are housewives, business executives, and other Americans becoming so obsessed with the occult? Is it really "just for kicks" as some suggest? Or is there a terrible fear of the future and what is "beyond?" How does it all begin? What are the results?

"It was all quite innocent," said one teenage girl. "I was bored and unhappy. Then someone told me that I had telepathic powers. I became fascinated with ESP, witchcraft, and the likes. It wasn't long until I was hooked. I wanted power. But when I got it, I was terrified."

This young lady almost lost her mind before she found release through Jesus Christ.

A group of students in a Christian college decided to experiment with a Ouija board "just for fun" and entertainment. They fashioned a homemade board and printed the letters of the alphabet, numerals from 0 to 9, and the words "yes" and "no". They used a common kitchen glass as a pointer. What started out as a game almost ended with disastrous results.

The board quickly answered all ques-

tions. It forecast several incidents that actually came to pass—an accident and a death—and it revealed information known only to the questioner. As the students experimented more with the board, they asked questions about Jesus Christ and salvation. One questioner deliberately tried to ridicule the power behind the board. He was immediately picked up from the floor by an invisible force, suspended for a moment, and then thrown violently across the room and into a wall!

Too often Christians and others are prone to be skeptical about the existence of spirits and demons. But they *do* exist and they are responsible to Satan for deceiving curious humans. Such is the case with the well-known clergyman who was convinced that he was communicating with his dead son!

Can a Christian be made subject to these occult powers? Some authorities believe they can! Dabbling in the occult and even reading books on the black arts can bring much distress. Anyone who wishes to learn should consult only books written by evangelical Bible scholars for their information.

In preparing for this article, I attempted to contact three persons who had been involved in the occult. One was a teenage girl who had dabbled in the occult, another was a fifteen-year-old youth who had been a witch unbeknowns to his family for several months, and the other was a friend-of-a-friend who had thoroughly investigated and researched Satanism. All three refused to discuss their experiences.

The two young people had gone through such sickening rituals that they just couldn't speak of them! The adult was obviously suspicious of me, believing that I was somehow a Satanist who was attempting to involve her in black

magic. I learned later that she had had some frightening experiences and had received numerous telephone calls from questionable sources.

Christians should take seriously the warnings in the Scripture. People who dabble in the black arts are "abominations" to the Lord (cf Deut. 18:10-12 and Lev. 19:31). Beware of the "innocent games" of the world; for to experiment with the occult is to invite disaster and the wrath of God! **End**



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