

Magic, Miracles And You:

A Temcat study

Popularity of Magic

Magic seems to be a word that draws the interest of people just by mentioning it. This is especially true of our children and young people. The word seems to instantly convey to them excitement, wonder, fun, and happiness; it is romantic, and highly desirable. But are we wise in indulging this attitude? Is this veritable deluge of Fantasy and 'Magic' these days really as harmless or innocent as most people like to believe?

Now we all know that many things with a perfectly natural explanation seem like magic to people who have never seen or heard of them before- i.e. a isolated tribal person being confronted with technology, but we are not referring to that here; in this discussion, we mean to deal with the concept that certain objects, words, potions, hand motions etc. can cause certain unexplainable, unnatural powerful happenings to take place automatically when the 'magician' practices his 'arts'.

History of Magic

Where was the first 'Magic' talked about in our world? Why it was when the serpent talked and revealed to Eve, the mother of us all, the 'magic powers' to be found in a certain 'magic fruit' that was on the 'magic tree'. Why even the name of that tree seemed to sparkle with interest and wonderful promise of secrets to be explored: "The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil".

Eve could not doubt the evidence of her senses- here right before her eyes she sees a talking snake; obviously magic of the highest and best kind. He assures her that the 'Magic' in him is to be found in that wonderful magical fruit. The very suggestion of some hidden mystical power that she knew nothing about was extremely tantalizing to our first mother, and is it any less so with us today?

I want to ask a blunt question right here; was there any special power in that fruit? Now some people who really know nothing of the ways of God, still try to echo the serpent's lie and say, yes, there was power in the fruit and it was good that Eve and later her husband Adam ate it, otherwise the human race would never have developed in mind or understanding, and that the serpent was our friend to break us out of the grasp of a selfish, overbearing God.

But the truth of the matter is that Adam and Eve were created by a loving God with the ability to learn and develop forever, there was no limit to the heights of attainment they could reach, but first they had to be tested to prove whether they would remain true to God. The easiest test was given them, just stay away from one tree, they had hundreds, yea thousands, but God just said obey me and don't eat of this one tree. There was no 'magic' in this fruit. There was no special virtue in the tree. Who made the serpent speak? It was Satan who spoke through the attractive beast. There was no 'magic' in either the serpent or the fruit. What were we dealing with here? Merely a question of 'Who is God in your life? Who are you going to believe and obey?

When Eve ate the fruit, she felt an excitement, she seemed to be reaching a higher plain of existence, and she became 'enlightened' as the Eastern Gurus and 'masters' would tell you. But what was it really? It was the combination of the hypnotic suggestion of Satan on her mind, and the effect he could produce by playing on her nervous system and mind once she had, through her disobedience removed

herself from the sheltering protection of God. God does not play games with the minds, emotions and nervous systems of His subjects; Satan does, big time! This is his stock in trade. Where God deals in reality, truth, practical things of everyday living; Satan deals with fantasy, the unreal, the intangible, and the nebulous. His whole repertoire is feelings, impulses, emotions, imagination; he tells you a lie and then gets you to believe it by playing with your feelings and senses in ways that you think are legitimate but are really only trickery.

What Eve felt was false feelings Satan placed on her and also the strange alluring influence of evil, the sort of excitement that comes with rebellion; vague and unexplainable, but deadly if yielded to. There was no 'Magic' only a lie and hypnotic mind control from Satan.

Why do we want Magic?

I have to tell you that sadly, the desire for 'magic' didn't end with Eve and her sad disillusionment. No, indeed; every generation has had those seeking for 'hidden secrets' believing that some special signs, symbols, or words could set off automatic reactions causing powerful and wonderful results. Or that certain mixtures of substances drank or eaten would cause great power or other changes; or that nature had hidden resources of power in stones, trees, or fountains that would cause sudden and wonderful things for those with the special knowledge of how to use them.

There have always been people who found it useful to give to others the idea that they had knowledge of strange and mystical arts and thus excite the fear and admiration of the ordinary man; sort of the world's earliest 'con game'. But let's face it, if nothing ever happened to reinforce this false concept, surely it would have died out amongst mankind, but it seems to have grown stronger with each generation and in spite of ours being a so-called 'scientific' era the concept of Magic is stronger today than perhaps ever before.

Is Magic 'Real'?

Whose interest is served by this concept? Why the very one who introduced it to start with, Satan. It is an easy thing for him through manipulation of mind and body and using of his powers and the powers of his demons to make it appear that 'Magic' really works. By the way, Satan and his demons don't have any real 'magic' either; they just use trickery, hypnotism and their own vast knowledge of natural laws to make it appear that automatic magical results come from potions, words, talismans or magic items.

What really is Magic supposed to be anyway? The dictionary says; "the feigned art of influencing the course of nature or future events by occult means; sorcery; charms." Even here it is said to be 'feigned', that is, it is untrue, but still we humans keep seeking, and hoping and buying the devil's lies, feeling sure that somewhere, sometime, we will stumble on the real thing and it will be ours to rule the universe with. What did Satan tell Eve? "Ye shall be as gods"

The desire for magic is just the rebellious desire to take over the place of God that originated in Lucifer. We all have desires to 'get our own way' no matter how we do it. That is natural to the carnal nature.

Magicians' Mystique

Magicians have held the respect and fear of people down through history from the earliest times. Whether it is people really believing they have the powers claimed, or just watching for entertainment,

and trying to figure out 'how they do it', the magician creates an almost instinctive awe in humans old or young.

In primitive societies, those who practice witchcraft or magic hold the people in an icy grasp of fear and manipulation. With the growing popularity of New Age occult practices, people exalt these 'witch men' and Shamans, but if you ask those older folk among the native peoples, who recall the stories told to them by their grandparents, they will warn you that it was no fun to have to live in terror of offending these witch-men or the evil spirits they served. Struggling tribes, people who had a hard enough time just to survive, especially at certain times of the year, would be forced to burn food offerings to these vengeful spirits or to avoid the very places where food could be easily obtained because of 'Taboos'. It is never 'fun' to be held captive by wicked spirits and those who serve them.

Let's take a look at a common 'trick' we associate with magicians, pulling a live rabbit out of an empty hat. If this were really true, what would it tell you? Why it would say that the magician has the power to create something out of nothing, and not only something, but a living something! He has the power to create life. Anyone who tries to make it appear that he has these powers, whether 'just for fun' or for real, is setting himself up as either a god himself or having some way of controlling God to get what he wants from Him. Such an idea is alien to True Christianity and so has no part with those who claim to belong to Jesus. Man cannot create something out of nothing, and he certainly can't create life. Satan can't either. He is a created being himself and as such is limited and dependent on God to even exist.

Magic and Luck'

One of the branches of 'magic' is so much present with us that it is hard to get it out of our habits and language. This is the concept of 'luck'. We say 'you're lucky!' or 'he had some bad luck'. From our earliest years we pick up the idea that certain things are 'lucky', such as four-leaf clovers and rabbits feet. We hear of lucky pennies, keeping your fingers crossed and not breaking mirrors. Superstition dove-tails into luck so that you can't tell where one leaves off and the other begins; don't go under a ladder, step on a crack, spill the salt, black cats (Lucky in the east, unlucky in the west) and so on. It all has its roots in the idea of somehow being able in mystical ways to affect the running of the universe in good or harmful ways. It has roots in ancient Taboos from the witch men of old and also the capriciousness of the pagan devil gods. The cross, not originally a symbol of Christianity, is actually the sign of the sun god, and so putting crosses on things, crossing the fingers etc. is used to gain power by somehow placating the sun god

It is important for us as true followers of the Living God of heaven, to leave behind us all of these 'luck' ideas. If something joyful happens to us we must praise God, not say, 'Oh, I guess I was lucky', that is insulting to God. Nothing happens in the Christian's life by accident; once we have been truly born again and are letting Him lead us and guide us, these ideas of blind chance, luck and fortune should no longer be held by us, nor should it be found in our conversation. We learn to speak of our blessings and God's providences in our lives; chance and luck has no part. It is only when you start watching out for these expressions that you really come to see just how interwoven with our habits 'luck' concepts are.

Most of the 'business' of fortune tellers, witches and other occult practitioners is in dealing with making 'lucky' talismans, numbers, potions, or in some way advising people to allow them to have 'luck'. Do these things ever work? Yes, Satan can, if it suits his purpose, give information that can cause people to win in games or betting, he can affect dice and all sorts of things, but remember, his ultimate

purpose is *Always* to deceive, enslave, and eventually destroy. The cheese on the mousetrap may taste good to the mouse, but it isn't there for the mouse's well being.

What is the Secret Power behind Magic?

So what is the power behind magic? Well some of it is just an illusion, but remember to create an illusion that something is real when it is not, is a deception, a lie and so no illusionist can truly serve God in fact. But there are 'supernatural' things that happen, that can't be denied. So what makes them happen?

Well the answer is 'who' makes them happen. First I want to assure you that it isn't God, as He will never use trickery or deceit and He works in harmony with the laws of nature He established. (More about that later) The way it is done is through Satan and the fallen angels. It is easy for him to create these 'psychic phenomenon'; he can make something fly through the air by simply carrying it, you can't see him and it looks like it flies by 'magic'. He can appear in any shape or form and can impersonate the dead or even imaginary beings; the 'gods' and 'goddesses' of paganism are Satan and his angels doing their performances to deceive. He can make you think you see things that you really don't through hypnotism and can even cause a group to all 'see' something when there is nothing there but the hypnotic power of these fallen angels. There is no mystery behind magic. Only a very cruel and determined set of invisible (when they want to be) beings that are hell-bent on hurting and destroying everything they can, so as to hurt Jesus, the real Creator, whom they hate.

They work in various ways, depending on the people they are seeking to deceive. With isolated, primitive people they just come out more openly with their evil games, and to some of these it is just business as usual to have to placate evil demon spirits and live in fear of taboos, curses and even see demons working and appearing on a daily basis. We may laugh at the superstitious minds of people who avoid certain 'Taboos' but if one is not under the protection of God and the heavenly angels, Satan and his demons can harm or even kill those who disobey or offend the witch-men.

Now in our society where we have gotten to think we are so smart, they mostly like to lead us to think that it is some knowledge or power we ourselves are learning to use, or something generated by our brain. They deceive us into thinking that we have a special talent to perform the occult action, whatever it is, and so they boost us up with pride and enslave us just as badly as the most primitive savage. Most practitioners of the occult and psychic realm got their start when someone they went to see in that field told them, "You have special powers and you owe it to society to develop them." What a flattering concept! And only too often successful.

In martial arts and yoga the idea is implanted that there is no limit to how much one can develop his abilities, and people going into these, start off by natural skills, improving them by practice and hard work, but at some point the occult becomes mixed in and all these 'advanced masters' will emphasize that physical practice is not as important for development as is meditation. What does this tell you? That the advanced skills in these fields are more occult than natural and the powers are in the demon spirits, not the person.

One of the things to realize is that the more Satan does for a person, the more he enslaves him and holds him in terror. You can never get on the 'good side' of Satan; he doesn't have one! People have served him faithfully and obediently only to be rewarded by being miserably destroyed as soon as the spirits were tired of them. I read of one man who dedicated his life to setting up a training institute

under direction from spirits and as he was climbing one day a boulder fell up the mountain and crushed him. There's no loyalty in the fallen angels. But God is always dependable, always faithful and of great compassion and tender mercy. From the womb to old age He cherishes those who follow Him.

What is the Purpose of 'Magic'?

Well we just basically exposed that the purpose of all 'magic' is to deceive. To either lead men to trust in Satan and his fallen angels to help them, (familiar spirits) or to lead men to think that somehow man holds the secret to the powerful resources of the universe through 'magic' formulas, etc. or that he has within him some power that he just needs to develop and he will be able to do whatever he wants. All such desires on the part of man just cement him in more and more with the unreasonable rebellion of Lucifer, who wanted to exalt himself above God. There's a hefty dose of selfishness and laziness connected with it too that helps it along.

What about the 'wonderful properties' of the Human Mind?

Most of those who claim 'magic' powers, whether in martial arts, New Age, Eastern Mystics, alternative medicine modalities, 'faith healing' and on and on, claim that the power is inherit in the human mind to tap into the universe and to cause what ever it wants to become reality. There are a hundred ways they have of explaining it. They get all poetic about the fact that science says that we don't use all of our mind, just 2% or some such thing, (science probably doesn't) and just how they decide this wonderful thing is unknown, so then they think that all these wonderful powers are just lying there unused and we just have to learn how to 'tap in to them' and we can all be gods. Sound familiar? "Ye shall be as gods". And if we did all have these powers, what a mess things would be in! Talk about 'star wars!'

No, there are not any hidden powers in man's mind; it is just the deception of the evil angels playing their parlor tricks making people believe what is not true. There is just one marvelous power that our minds do have. It is a power that Jesus died to give us. It is the power to choose whom we will serve. This is an immense power indeed as it can choose to serve God and He will then provide everything needed to bring this about. The whole purpose of our lives revolves around making that choice, repent and be 'born again' and eventually have eternal life; or go your own way (which is serving Satan) and eventually die forever. It is just that simple; Choose who is going to be your God.

A Horrible Deception

It is really a horrible thing that so many people who are really wanting to do something 'good' by developing their 'abilities' are really being influenced and finally controlled by evil angels whose purpose is to harm and destroy, and the ones that these deceived people seek to 'help' are often ensnared by demons through their influence.

What does the Bible tell us about magicians and witches?

"And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians." Exodus 9:11.

Here we see a demonstration from God to show that these great magicians who were supposed to wield such awesome power were unable to even protect their own bodies from the plagues sent on Egypt from God.

"Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days." Daniel 2:27.

Here Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar point blank that his famous magicians can't tell the King what he wants to know. They just don't have that kind of power such as God gives through His Holy Spirit to those that serve Him.

"There shall not be found among you any ...that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, (hypnotist) or a consulter with familiar spirits (Spirit medium), or a wizard, or a necromancer. (One who claims to talk to the dead) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD:" Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

God told His people not to have anything to do with any of these people who claim to have supernatural powers and work magic. God doesn't change, He no more approves of this sort of thing today, than He did then. Why, because He wants to keep something good from us? No, it is because He knows it is all a pack of lies that Satan will use to enslave and destroy us, He wants us to have the good, all the good and not the cruel evil.

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" Isaiah 8:19.

God is saying here that when people tell you to seek wizards and witches, claiming to talk to the dead, that you are to refuse and instead seek God. Why should the living seek help from the dead anyway when the Bible tells us, "The dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5.

Magic and Children

It is such a sad thing to see little children who are trusting and naïve, being told with great earnestness by parents and others that things are 'real' that are definitely not real and the adult knows it to be a lie. It is considered nice and even important for the children to be able to believe in fantasy, "After all, they are just kids, let them have some fun. Children need to believe in 'magic' and fairy stories. They enjoy it." Now let's take a good look at this; do you enjoy being lied to by a friend? Even if they tell you something that you want to believe, but later you find out it is all a lie, do you say, "Oh, I'm so glad my friend lied to me about that?" Usually the result is that you are hurt badly, you feel betrayed that one you trusted lied to you. You can never fully believe them again comfortably after that experience.

What about your children? If you encourage them to believe in that which is untrue, lying to them about fairies, mermaids, and Santa down the chimney, how are they going to believe you when you tell them how they should live right, and when you tell them about God? Please face the truth; it is no fun to be made to believe a lie. Mother Eve could tell you that.

"Oh, kids know the difference, they know its just pretend" some say. But how can they? Children are dependent on parents and teachers to teach them what is real and unreal, what is beneficial and what is harmful. No untruth is beneficial, it all has a baleful effect, warping the mind and making it harder to discern between truth and error. The whole subject of our salvation is on truth vs. error; to be warped in discernment makes it almost impossible to believe to the saving of the soul.

The very fact that children are innocent and trusting and easily fooled makes it an even more wicked thing on the part of those that know the truth to lie to them or allow them to believe in things that are not true. Oh course they believe you, and it seems happy to them but it's because they trust you are telling them the truth. Now a days this deliberate deception of the helpless and innocent is amplified a thousand fold by the reinforcement of TV, movies, video games and a whole billion dollar entertainment and toy industry that gets rich through aiding the corruption of the developing minds of our children.

Mankind has this desire to be a god, to have power, to get your own way, to rule others, to be able to get what you want with no effort on your part (Laziness) and the idea of Magic feeds this in children until it is terrible in its results. Unreality, even when it is known to be unreal, still affects the mind as the person craves for it to be real. The Bible tells us that only those who love truth will be saved, if we love fantasy and the unreal, we cannot love God as we must learn to do if we would be saved.

Fictional stories whether 'realistic' or purely fantastic all serve to warp our concepts of reality in very undesirable ways, making it hard for us to follow God and be saved. You see, people can write a story and have things happen in certain ways, but in real life, there are universal laws that won't allow something to work that way. For example; in stories, a man can drink and live immorally and abuse his body and yet be super strong and skillful; in real life, he'll be a sick slob! On TV you can see people who live and act in ridiculous ways and yet there they are in a lovely home with all the luxuries and never a hardship; in real life there will be want and unhappiness in such a situation.

Many wrong and hurtful theories had their beginnings in someone writing a novel where the concepts were shown and where they were successful; but in real life, they just don't work! Untruth and lies are never innocent.

continued in Part 2:-