

"A change in consciousness is certainly required, but when magic is really magic it involves changing the world as well as the interior person doing the magic. Most of the people who emphasize that magic is . . . a system for spiritual development or changing consciousness . . . are people who for one political reason or another do not dare to suggest that magic can be a way of actually changing the physical world due to the control of psychic energies. It's much safer . . ."

Isaac Bonewits, quoted in Drawing Down the Moon

### I. A Hard Rain

Magicians, like everyone else, have a responsibility to protect the existence of intelligent life on this planet. If psychological integration is the only benefit that can be expected from the study of magic, then the only important service that magicians can perform for the culture is to provide it with life-affirming symbols, as Dr. Melton has suggested.

This paper, however, is written from the point of view of a thaumaturgist, someone who thinks that magic can act directly on the world.

### II. Till the New Sun Comes

When considering the courses open to a politically aware magician who intends to change the world, these may be divided into actions that may be taken by a lone individual working in private, actions that may be taken by a cabal, and actions that may be taken by directing the energies of a crowd. They may be further divided into workings to discover the nature of the problem and the scope of possible solutions, workings to strengthen forces friendly to the solution, and workings to sow confusion amongst the enemy. Finally they may be divided into workings for an immediate result, workings for a holding action while other forces marshal, and workings that have a small but cumulative effect over a long period of time.

### III. It Falls Alike on the Just and the Unjust

As Bonewits says, many occultists have forsworn political activism for the sake of self-protection. This caution is entirely warranted. Governments always seek to acquire a monopoly of force. If private individuals are suspected of interfering with the government through occult means, the response is frequently a crackdown on occultists. Soothsayers in ancient Rome were consulted so often by plotters against the Emperor that foretelling the date of the Emperor's death was made a capital crime, and finally all private fortunetelling was banned.

When magicians are suspected of conspiring, their situation is difficult. It is impossible to defend oneself from a conspiracy charge by denying that one performed particular acts. The only effective defense is to put a large social distance between oneself and the entire group suspected of harboring conspirators. The British witchcraft trials of the seventeenth century came about mostly because the alleged witches

were identified with the Catholic faction. Let at the same time alchemists, fortunetellers and healers of all kinds made money and were respectable.

Modern American society tends to tolerate clean, spiritual occultists and harass earthy, physical occultists (if it has a beat, it's Black.) In general, though, neither the public nor the Feds care about making distinctions. If one of us presents a threat, we all do. The acceptance of Newtonian physics brought occultism two centuries of relative freedom based on the fact that no one took it seriously. But today it is common for police departments to consult psychics in missing persons cases and respected scientists quote Krishnamurti. The intellectual weather is changing once again. More or less conspicuous involvement in the issues of the day will only slightly hasten or retard the time when the authorities take a critical interest in what we are up to.

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#### IV. They Did It with Mirrors

The ethical considerations upon political magic are the same as those for any other magical action: What effect will it have on the world? What effect will it have on my brothers and sisters in the art? What effect will it have on myself?

Whether one's means are magical or mundane, interfering with a complicated and poorly understood system always raises the possibility that one's actions will have unintended effects. History of mass-based weather magic in California: two years of drought followed by two years of floods. Get rid of one bastard and you may be saddled with a worse one (the Presidential life insurance policy). The prudent approach is to make correctable mistakes, avoid creating enemies unnecessarily, and reserve drastic actions for genuine emergencies. Can anything useful be done about a problem like arms control, where crucial decisions are made by shadowy people in foreign countries behind closed doors? Is there a more pointed tactic than prayers for peace or "raising the consciousness level of the planet"? A few suggestions follow.

If one admires a particular organization, one might quietly work it a money spell. If an investigative reporter's stories are being suppressed, a Mercurial invocation to open up the media would be appropriate. What would the world look like in 1984 if someone had thought to do protective spells for Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy? If one is convinced that a particular villain must be driven from office, manifesting a sex scandal (the way the witches at Diablo Canyon manifested a pair of reversed blueprints) will dishearten his supporters also. If an impasse might be unblocked by a technological discovery, set one up on the astral. Scry to uncover important supporters and opponents, who may then be wooed or pressured by mundane methods.

These acts are within the vocabulary of acceptable political action in America, and therefore will not bring serious trouble on oneself, one's group, or the occult community should they become known.

One ought not give one's foes heart attacks or car crashes, unless one has the self-discipline to act alone and keep silent forever. Apart from the personal karmic considerations, it gives the witches a bad name. The American people don't like sneak attacks; California voters recently imposed the death penalty on murder by poison or ambush.

Two of my colleagues have suggested more advanced ways to work on serious planetary problems without acquiring karma. One is to approach clairsentiently the particular Guardian (or Angel, or Chief) that has taken on responsibility for some earthly realm, and consult it for directions. Another, if one believes that current problems are beyond ordinary human solution, is to speed the incarnation of avatars. A method described in the Hindu scriptures is to provide the awaited deity with a robe, a throne, a resting place, and so on, and do one's devotions there.

On "Everyone's talking about the weather."

In a true understatement equivalating to weather discussions-  
Isaac Bonewits got it right!

History has ensured that many a magickal/pagan community accept  
that the dominant philosophy of states have equated:

:you are wrong=you are dangerous=you must be destroyed=  
keep Silent!

But dominant philosophies only remain dominant because by dis-  
tancing ourselves from the reality of suppression, we accept by  
default, the right of the 'state' to enforce its co-ercive prop-  
aganda over us. It is not enough in this new age for the  
individual to seek personal self-illumination. As humans we are  
part of a wider society and an even wider world to live in. We  
cannot escape the fact that one is interdependent on the other  
two.

So. when we see a black man being lynched by the KKK, we see a  
witch burning before the witchfinder general. When we remember  
the massacre at My Lai, we remember the massacre at Salem. There  
is no difference. We sometimes forget that there is only one race:  
The Human Race. It has never been in the interest of the state to  
give anyone freedom, we have therefore only our chains to lose.

To invoke mercury for the media, to predict the result of an  
election, to make a good luck charm does not mean we've done our  
bit for the world. It is the mundane that keeps magick in the  
closet of ignorance and parlour tricks. The fear that prevents  
us from not taking responsibility for our actions, ensures that

we wear the clothes of assimilation that accepts, melds into and finally becomes the status quo. Those Californians that invoked floods and drought have to take responsibility that they may have got it wrong. The intended effect of the witches in Britain in 1941 kept Hitler at bay for a while - thank goodness!

Whether we work alone, in groups or out there, on the front line- our ultimate responsibility as part of the new age, is to make a fundamental change towards a better world; and thereby change that status quo seeking to conspire against many, not the few!

To most occultists, political action is as alienating as the state that condemns us as evil. Occultists despise revolutionaries as much as revolutionaries despise the occult, with it's belief in magickal change and not material change. But whether we believe in a utopia before capital or an Atlantean Golden Age - we are still seeking the same goal. The choices between the left path or the right path are not just good/evil, man/woman, black/white but also choices between magick/politics, revolution/evoltuion, left wing/right wing. Just as there is a middle pillar- a VITRIOL of Andro-Gyn-ander, there may well be a blaance between politics and magick - creating a dynamic tension that could move planets, 1st alone mountains.

Any magickal WILL clear in its goal, sure in its methods will cope with any opposition barring its path - uncontrollable entities or supreme court decisions. Group initiations will ensure that we are no longer alone to take the brunt of it. Brecht got it right (as well) when he wrote:..."and when they came for me, there was no left to defend me" (paraphrased). The only factor that has really held the magickian back from their path has been courage - courage to take another step forwards, to view things differently from the uninitiated, to reach and touch the stars, to change reality by this great and mighty art of magickal conjuration. Not might is right, but might for right. I refuse to sit down and wait for a better world, I refuse to wait and see if some Secret Chief makes it one. I want to be a cog in that great wheel of change and know that many other cogs are right there when it turns.

Thank you, Deborah Bender, for a necessary statement. More than everyone else, Magickians have a responsibility to protect the existence of intelligent life on this planet. The responsibilities of Initiate, Adept or Priest include the obligation to be as well informed as possible, the obligation to choose the desired outcome of an event or situation, and the obligation to channel Current at maximum efficiency to obtain the outcome desired. The idea is to so direct a sequence of events that all participants therein arrive at a new wisdom-- which is the old wisdom of learning not to repeat mistakes.

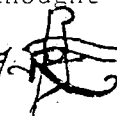
There are occultists of my acquaintance who disdain the material plane as "mere illusion", or as something unworthy of attention and prana-input. Others claim to have outgrown altar and weapons and "only work up the planes". It amazes me that Manichean dualism still finds access in the minds of those claiming Initiation today, but the anachronism persists. In this essay, you speak directly to those types of occultists.

As a further suggestion of methodologies, I've had some success in using cards from the Thoth Tarot as talismans. You spell a sentence with them, choosing nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. as your understanding of the deck leads you. (Royalty cards are good at designating persons, Trumps are great verbs or indicators of prognosis, and small cards fill in as needed.) One charges the cards Alchemically; the rite which produces the Elixir is dedicated to & concentrated upon the issue under consideration. Photographs of individuals, structures or geographical locations also make good talismans.

An interesting notion arose after reading this essay: rather than attempt to contact the Secret Chiefs, let us question seriously their existence. If there be higher Intelligences directing the affairs of humanity, let them now come forth and join us so the Work may proceed more efficiently. If there is no coming-forth, let's assume that we are in charge of directing the fate of humanity, and act accordingly.

What we see, we are responsible for. Waiting for someone else to do the necessary work is a betrayal of the oath of Initiation. Frightening as the prospect may be, the Ethics of Magick require that we act as if we were final authority in matters of change. Honesty in self-knowledge often makes us wish and hope for a superior being to take charge of things, but assuming that we're the best that the times have to offer is the only alternative to that subtle form of salvationism that encourages a belief in the Secret Chiefs. Should anyone manifest a wider grasp of reality and a more practicable approach to fostering change in humanity, I will happily lend my resources in assistance.

Meanwhile, each Magickian should study Ms. Bender's statement slowly and thoughtfully, because it is a Fair Witness to truth. Malkah is the Bride.

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I mentioned, some time back, that what we might do in Signal was to bring forth a vision, and Deborah Bender's paper speaks in that realm of possibility- clearly, concisely, a-mazingly. This response is meant personally, directly to its author, and to those others who recognised themselves in those thoughts and perceptions. Clarity of speech is a power, a logos, an evokation. One who lays out the robe for avatars, and directs proper devotion, might want to consider donning the robe oneSelf. The vision of an avatar, and what that avatar might do, may only exist in the eye of the beholder. One might BE the space in which one's vision can be created and seen. A person with both vision and verbousity might BE the space of communicated vision. As Peter Berger noted, "The subjective reality of the world hangs on the thin thread of conversation." I agree with Dr. Melton in his assertion that magic(k) changes only the practitioner. I agree with Ms. Bender, that magic(k) acts directly on the world. I see no contradiction. The argument hangs on the thin thread of who or what the Self considers itSelf to be. When Bender's words resonate in my mind (what I call my mind) so that a chain reaction occurs, where is the line between Bender's Self and the world? As Gerry Ahrens once said (and Kaeseberg said it too) "Every man and every woman is A star." One star. Shine on. Your words are the naming of the world potentially sane, potentially sur-viving (not merely not dying). Declare yourSelf; I declare You. Thanks for the tips, straight from the heart of Self. I point back in acknowledgement. Every recognition makes me larger. Over to you. 91

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THERE ARE NO RULES: Self-substantiality as Magiclfe. A return to SELF-DELUSION = -, by Zarathustra

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THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY HOUSEHOLD GODS AND WORDS ONE CAN LUG AROUND IN A KIT BAG BEFORE STICHES BREAK. 40 ADDITIONAL WORDS EXISTING, MEANING, ROUGHLY, LIFE, FORCE NEED IMMEDIATE IMPRINTING. STOP. NEVER!!! -on ORTHODOXY; as Ingrown conformity- A very conventional word/ fits gnostic tribes, as well as early christiamoslum-jewish nomads. Conservative. A family affair (see Charles Manson) Conform or leave, now. IMAGINE LIVING IN THE JUNGLE, HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM THE NEAREST WARRING NEIGHBOR. WHAT TO DO, OUTSIDE OF LEARNING, CONFORMING AND PERHAPS, EVENTUALLY, REALISING THERE MUST BE MORE TO ALL OF IT THAN THIS SO SPLINTER OFF INTO NEW MATERIAL-A NEW LEADER OF A NEW THOUGHT (do you smoke?) IT'S STILL CONFORMING! (only) NOW IT'S YOUR BRAND, SO STEP RIGHT UP. "ENFORCED ORTHODOXY" HAS AT TIMES SAVED CIVILIZATION!!! BY IT'S VERY DEFINITION, ONE CAN EASILY THROW STONES AT IT'S SUPPRESSED EXPANSION OR EXPERIMENTATION, YET EVEN IN THE STRICTEST ORDERS?CHURCHES?FAMILIES?UNITS WE STILL CAN FIND THE CHILD'S EYES LOOKING OUT THE BARRED WINDOWS INTO THE U N K N O W N THAT LIES JUST BEYOND THE NEXT MULTI-COLORED VORTEX. THERE IS NO PLACE CALLED HOME. THEREFORE, WHY DRAG A DEAD CHAOS AROUND IN ONE'S MIND, UNLESS OF COURSE, O Z IS RUNNING ADS LOOKING FOR A NEW WIZARD.

The writer appears to have made some rather obvious ORTHODOX stands. Perhaps we see a reflection of the FOOL...ready to step off the CONFINING EARTH, and (Pick One) INTO THE VORTEX?/ INTO THE LIGHT? THE FOOL has been called everything from the IPISIMIS to the INVISIBLE roots of/below the TREE OF(LIFE) ...IPSOFACTO!! I used to SUSPECT many things until I bought into the idea that THE REASON the FOOL always seems ABOUT ready to TAKE THE NEXT STEP is simply because that is the way the silly card is drawn. IT DOESN'T CHANGE (orthodox?), THUS I had to. Now that I am clearly against placing any age, gender or REASON into the funny little FOOL picture in the card(s), I do not have to fall for any TIME CONSTRAINTS on the subject(s); Thus: AGE EQUALS NOTHING OTHER THAN SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A VERY GOOD RULE. IF THE FOOL TALKS DOUBLE-TALK, OR NO TALK; HIDING BEHIND (actually, that is but one side of the point of view, but...)SOME "smoke screen of mystical double-talk", IT IS A perfectly ORTHODOX view to CLASSIFY the smoke and the mystery AND the one performing this MAGIC(k) as "Phoney of the Year." IT'S SAFE. ALL ORTHODOX 'SYSTEMS' ARE REALLY JUST SPRINGBOARDS FOR fools, so one can pay the dues UNTIL the old kit bag is PACKED and the travel begins. Oh, how perplexed so many of us would be TODAY were we not afforded THE CHANCE to participate in a system that WE GREW THROUGH, so that what WAS is NOT what IS! Is this not close to the function of the 'family unit'; whether it be mom/dad, or Anton LeVey? WELL?? I remember listening as a child to a lot of big people talking while smoking, and to this day I cannot imagine what in the hell they were talking about. They didn't know I even cared (do you?), but even if they had been POSSESSED BY THE VIRGIN MARY, it would still have come out as plain DOUBLE TALK to me. At least they didn't charge me money for those early lessons, but I paid up in confusion in my own SMOKE SCREEN of maya, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT, MY side. TRUTH and LIE all IGNORED was a WAY OF LIFE; one I still see. Guess I caught it from someone, like a cold. But I got rid of it before it cancered, so NOW I have the LITTLE FOOL hanging on my mirror to remind me of my ORTHODOX past (.oh, yeah; thinking) ONLY my old motto: THERE ARE NO RULES can help me through those DANGER ZONES when I become confusec trying to formulate a STAND ON ANYTHING! HOW, YOU ASK? SIMPLE! It's Double-Talk. SINCE ITS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE 100% HONEST WITH ALL MY(you?)SELVES ALL THE TIME?SPACE?BEING!, ALL I HAVE IS MY MOTTO. KAPISH? When I share time with all the humans and bipeds of every known dimension and beyond, hooting at moons and whistling at timed-muzak, I never LEAVE HOME without my motto. IN A STYROFOAM BABY THAT IS TIRED OF THE WAR(S)(all the same), SO ALL I CAN DO IS LOOK AT THE COLLECTED SELVES INSIDE OF ME, PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER NOW, THEN WAIT...for the next step! X,Y or Z: The questions are ALWAYS the same. Try to just FOLLOW YOUR OWN ANSWERS. THEN, if you have the time(substitute as necessary), REVERSE YOUR DECIDED ANSWER, AND LIVE WITH THAT FOR AWHILE. BALDERDASH, YA SAY? From The Wings, Norman Kaeseberg 14.9.83ev Contact MKG: 2520 N. LINCOLN BOX 66 CHICAGO, IL. 60614. (figure many have lost addresses-here's mine.nk)

Response to "Everyone Talks About The Weather"

Congratulations to Deborah Bender on her very well written work. However I personally have no inclination toward the political arena, either materially or magickally. It is my opinion that political activists are much the same as missionaries in their prime direction..."Have I got a great idea for you..." I do respect your right to hold a different opinion. Best wishes,

J.R. Ayers

Response to "Everyone Talks about the Weather"

A comment on Deborah Bender's article... I hear and understand what she is saying. It is important to be aware of just where we (the magickal community) fit into society. However, I personally feel that the politicalization of the magickal arts should be carefully approached. I believe that in the past, i.e. the Witch-hunting days in Salem and Europe, that the occultist's were outspoken, and as a result drew attention to themselves that later lead to the dire consequences they faced.

A similar situation could be said to exist today. One can never be too sure that a Jerry Falwell or Ronald Reagan-type (please indulge me in my stereo-typing) is not living next door. It is still best in most cases to retain some degree of clos-mouthedness concerning our affairs. True, we must, and should, take an active part in the affairs that we as members of society face; but our magickal activities should remain "occult." If one desires to use one's magick to bring about a desired change, fine. But please, remember that we are still a minority, and someone will be quite willing to persecute us to make a name for themselves. I must also agree with J.R.Ayers comparison with missionaries as ringing the Bell of Truth.

Mark Krubsack

COMMENT ON "EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER"

An excelent paper on an important subject. Like money, politics is an exoteric form that reflects an esoteric influence. The destiny of nations has long been a special study in occultism. One of its principles might be (vulgarly) expressed: "People get the government they deserve". This means that you and I are now living with the gov't we deserve. If this pleases you, fine. If not, you must ask yourself what actions or inactions led you to this point. If you think the gov't doesn't affect you, then you are perhaps just lucky enough to have suffered arrest for your pleasure, or have a loved one slain in war. If you feel powerless in the face of political forces you are simply mistaken, though it would take too long to demonstrate it here.

J.R.AYERS: Yes, many activists do behave like religionists. Many occultists behave like idiots, as well. The problem with political apathy these days is that the stakes are

just too high! Consider our principle above, and ask yourself whether you deserve nuclear annihilation. If not, why not? One need not accept any political "doctrine" in order to make decisions about the kind of gov't one wants to live with, or to work to be deserving of it (that is to make it real).

IAN CORRIGAN