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### **Movies for children - The Phenomenon Harry Potter**

#### **Resemblance to the occult activity**

The entire series Harry Potter is full of allusions to the occultism. The gravity of this fact is usually ignored. by the writer Rowling' s fans. They pretend that they create an imagery world, the way J. R. R., Tolkein and C. S. Lewis created in their books, and, accordingly, they cannot understand why such a commotion should be created and that it shouldn't be given too much importance to the presence of the witches and of the other similar things. Unfortunately, the world of the writer is far from being imaginary; it follows thoroughly the contemporary occult activity.

Harry's entire magic activity in Rowlig's books has a correspondent in the real life. Let's start by taking a look at the Hogwards School's program. It is a seven years' program which resembles very much the teaching offered by Ordo Anno Mundi (OAM), an occult group in London which venerates the snakes. Just like the Hogwarts School, the OAM offer a seven years' program of instruction. The OAM' s program also includes a course on the "ancient runes". In the volume "Prisoner in Azkaban" Harry Potter is initiated in the "study of the ancient runes" (Rowling, "Harry Potter, Prisoner in Azkaban"-New York: Scholastic, 1999, pg. 13). The group OAM also offers courses on fortune telling, farsightedness and divination for the students in the first year. In "Prisoner in Azkaban" Harry Potter is told in the classroom that : "This year we are going to learn the basic methods of the divination". The OAM members also have a course on" the metamorphosis into beasts and werewolves". At the

Hogwarts School Harry Potter is also told: "the metamorphosis is one of the most complex and dangerous witchcraft practices we are going to learn" ("Harry Potter and the Philosophical Stone"-Scholastic, 1997, pg.134). And we could easily go on with other similar comparisons. Other occult activities mentioned by Rowling are: astrology, spells, necromancy the science of plants, magic, familial ghosts (spiritism where are invoked relatives), talismans, chiromancy and others.

Rowling does not create new types of "imaginary" witchcraft, but, on the contrary, she presents practices appeared in the ancient times which are still used in the contemporary occultism. She herself admits having researched and studied occult practices in order to render her story credible(Abanes,pg. 23, quoting Rowling in a radio interview in the broadcasting "The Diane Rheim Show", Wamu, National Public Radio, October 20, 1999.

The writer's admirers could consider the magic and meaningless words introduced by her -"Aloohora! Expelliarmus! Rictusempra! Finite Incantatem!"- as being a proof fanciful and eccentric approach of witchcraft, but these few funny introductions in her story are just some insignificant changes in the actual witchcraft that she describes. In many epistles she describes the witchcraft practices without changing anything. She proceeds the same way when she writes about "the hand of glory" which appears in "the room" of the secrets" : " Oh, the hand of glory! Put a candle on it and it will give light only to the one that has it. The thieves' and pickpockets' best friend!". This kind of dreadful "hand of glory" really exist in the occult tradition. It is about a hand of a murderer who had been hanged. It had been cut, drained of blood, kept in salt and conserved. Candles (made by another murderer's grease and with a wick made by his hair) were put between the fingers before a thief had entered in the house of the victim. This hand is said to have magic powers of protection and warning for he thief.

Rowling also describes the practice of fortune telling in the crystal globe with the same accuracy and little imagination. Hogwarts' teaches of divination tells to the children: " the fortune telling is an extremely refined art. We'll start by the relaxation of the mind and of the eyes in order to clear our interior eye and the superconscience"

(Rowling, "Harry Potter, Prisoner in Azkaban"-pg. 297). This is an exact description of the practice of fortune telling. It is used in order to get into touch with the spiritual world in an attempt to find out the future. The most scaring occult practice described is that found in the fourth volume, when Harry is kidnapped in a spell and brought in a cemetery where is described a satanic ritual in the most dreadful details. Although this description may not follow thoroughly the known rituals, the classic elements are present: the human sacrifice, self- maiming and other elements specific to the satanism, including a "atomey" (a sharp, double-shaped dagger, used for sacrifice).

### Pages peopled by wizards

In Rowling's books can also be found many characters well-known in the occultism. For example, Nicholas Flanel and his wife Perenelle are mentioned. These were some occultists who lived in the 13th century. Nicholas Flanel practiced alchemy and became famous as the creator of the "philosophical stone" (J. K. Rowling's book was initially entitled "Harry Potter and the philosophical stone" when it was published in England the title was modified as "Harry Potter and the wizard's stone" by the Scholastic Books, Inc., Who is the American publisher of the book). The stone had to turn any substance into gold and to produce the elixir of life which made anyone immortal. Rowling lacks imagination when she introduces in the book the characters Nicholas Flanel and his wife together with the very "philosophical stone". In the same manner are also mentioned Adalbert-an archbishop of Cantebury in the 8th century, sentenced to death for witchcraft (naturally, presented in a positive light by the author); and Paracelsus, a Swiss alchemist.

A character in Mrs. Rowling's books who should be attentively looked at by the Christian readers is Cassandra Vlabatsky. Richard Abames constantly shows that this character is named after the famous Helena P. Blavatsky, whose name is reformulated in order to hide the outspoken mentioning (Rowling used an identical anagram when one of Voldemorteste's pseudonyms is introduced in the form of the anagram "Tom Marvolo Riddle".This pseudonym is elucidated when the letters are rearranged under the form "I am Lord Voldemort"). H. P. Blavatsky lived in the 19th century and she is the founder

of the Theosophical Society whose aim was "to oppose the scientific materialism to any form of dogmatic theology, especially the Christian one that is looked at by the leaders of the society as being extremely dangerous" (taken from a booklet of the Theosophical Society quoted in the book *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow* by Constance Cumbey, Shreveport, Louisiana: Huntington House, 1983, pg. 45). Blavatsky said about herself and had been described by her disciples as being possessed by "somebody" (M. K. Neff, "Helena P. Blavatsky's Personal Memories", pg. 244) and moreover, she clearly stated that "Satan, the snake of the Genesis, is the real creator and benefactor, the Father of the spiritual world" (Helena P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine - Los Angeles: The Theosophical Company, 1925. Third volume, Pg. 386*).

Rowling also introduces many well-known pagan and mythological characters, using their names for her characters, as for example: Minerva (Roman goddess), Argus (the one hundred eye giant of the Greek Mythology), Circe (the witch of *The Odyssey*) and Cliodna (a Druid/Celtic goddess still venerated by the modern new-pagan) - Abanes, pg. 30-32.

Rowling does not create a "second world" as that created by Tolkien in the center of the earth, but rather "a parallel world" which thoroughly follows the contemporary occult activity. In fact, as R. Abanes states: "Mrs. Rowling plain understanding as far the occult mechanism is concerned is so obvious in her books that during a radio broadcasting interview, a person declared to be a "wizard" (a probationer of magic) (Abanes uses on purpose the word "Magick"-magic in order to highlight the similarity between the magic used by Harry Potter and that practiced by Aleister Crowley, the founder of the Satanism - our note), enthusiastically asks the author whether she herself had been member of the Association of the Wizards (Wicca). When Rowling denied, the interlocutor was shocked and retorted: "Well, you have done your homework pretty well!". This interlocutor went on expressing his admiration for the Harry Potter series, not only because it presents so many occult practices, but also for the presenting of the magic in a favourable light which helped his daughter get used with his own practices of wizard and magician. (Abanes, pg. 24, quoting Rowling in *The Diane Rhein Show*).

The attraction of the youth in the practicing of the witchcraft

Here lies the danger. Her books reflects the occult activity so well that they become a natural means of introducing the young men in the real magic. The pagan federation in England designed a young member (in September 2001) to answer the increasing number of questions asked by young men. The media official, Any Norfolk attributes the increasing interest of the youth in the witchcraft to the books "Harry Potter and the Philosophical Stone", to the other books in the Potter series and to the TV shows as for example: "Sabrina, the Adolescent witch", "Buffy, the Killing Vampire". He went on declaring that , after every article on witchcraft or paganism, " we have an increasing number of phones, mainly from young girls" ("Harry Potter' fans go for witchcraft", "This is London"-Associated Newspaper Ltd., August, 4, 200.

Why do the people find it so difficult to believe that the series H. P. could easily introduce them in a contemporary occult practice? It is not surprising the fact that both Rowling and her fans deny any intention to initiate men, especially the children, in witchcraft. Anyway, we must take into account her reaction against the cover of the edition H. P. and the Wizard's stone" published by The Scholastic Publishing House. During an interview in April 1999 concerning the different editions of her books, Rowling enthusiastically declared: : The cover of the Scholastic edition best illustrates the way I have imagined the way the book should appear. It resembles a spell book due to colours and the style of illustration".

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