

**Review: William and Sharon Schnobelen, *Lucifer – Dethroned*, Chick Publications, Ontario, 1993.**

This book is at times a harrowing survey of the depths of Satan (Rv 2:24) experienced by a Satanist who is now a Christian. His wife Sharon (a Wiccan High Priestess) is mentioned in William's experiences occasionally as a periphery. As the author was also concurrently a Witch, his book, "*Wicca – Satan's Little White Lie*", Chick Publications, Ontario, 1993 covers some of the same ground.

The root of the author's journey into darkness began with childhood and adolescent experiences, specifically Halloween. Vivid descriptions of hordes of red-eyed bat-like creatures in the sky gripping darkness itself and a giant black figure stalking the earth evidence exposure to evil forces.

After becoming a witch, William begun engaging in necromancy and exorcisms (for money). He also became a priest in the Old Roman Catholic Church. The occult mixes religions well as they blend in together, similar to the devil's affinity for constant change.

In willingly serving the devil, Satanists are (unsurprisingly) all deceived. The five levels of members are: the devil does not exist and Satanism is an 'anti-religion' whose member's goal is pure self-obsession and gratification; the devil exists and is merely a faux antagonist to God having had his character assassinated; the devil is real but evil is more desirable than good, hell being a place of pleasure; the devil is real and lord of the entire universe, he draws power from suffering and misery and his earthly army will assist in taking back heaven from God (who is an usurper). Animal sacrifice occurs at this level and soul-winning is emphasised; the devil is real and even if he loses his worshippers will reign with him in hell receiving 'special privileges'. Human sacrifice occurs at this level.

A section on the attributes of Satan agrees with the Bible. Satan is: insane as a believer in his own lies; (but for his supernatural minions) limited in time and location, without comprehension of good; unable to create, only pervert what has been; most importantly not God.

Satanists have a Tree of Life illustrating their magickal progression (the word 'magic' only refers to illusion, not drawing power from devils). The stages are

classed by degrees: Neophyte, Zealator, Practicus, Philosophus, Adeptus Minor, Adeptus Major, Adeptus Exemptus, Magister Templi, Magus, Ipsissimus-a god incarnate (i.e. completely devil-possessed). After Adeptus is an 'Abyss', this is the Satanist's 'hell' from which there is no return if fell into. The author notes ones who fell in were usually ex-Satanist Christians! Satanism is likened to mountain climbing – no opportunity for rest amidst continual exertion, acquisition of greater magickal power.

Each level on the Tree of Life is represented as an inverted pentagram capped by an isosceles triangle. This is also the sign of a Wiccan Magus evidencing the unequivocal linkage. The Tree has variations represented by Tarot Cards and planetary bodies (worship of the 'host of heaven').

Satanism also encompasses 'astral travel'. This is where the believer can travel through a portal into a spiritual dimension. The author recounts an experience with a Master from the Temple of the Seven Rays. A high degree of proficiency in mathematics was suggested as a prerequisite for this skill.

One vivid account is the 'Cathedral of Pain'. An out-of-body experience is described where the author enters a nine-walled room inside an obsidian trapezoidal temple. A 'spirit-guide', Master H explains he will 'receive the light'. Satan (or one of his angels) manifests on a huge black throne, then as William lies on a concrete altar a burning mark is placed in his forehead. Later this is described as a 'meta-chine', akin to some alien technology implant affecting his thoughts and behaviour.

While the account seems incredulous, it suggests Satanic/Witchcraft activity is common, yet out of sight so as not to raise any public alarm. Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) is a term ascribed to those who have undergone extreme forms of abuse as part of organised Satanic worship analysis. The underlying premise is the younger the victim the more powerful magickal energy can be released. Abuse begins from age four for some reason.

Since human sacrifice is required at higher levels, the question of where they come from without raising alarm is raised. The answers are surprisingly simple: babies can be born into Satanic families without knowledge of the authorities then 'passed through the fire', numbers of missing persons at any one time is in the thousands and kidnapping (although this is rare).

The author also embarked on a path of vampirism. As an ordained priest in the Old Roman Catholic Church, the Eucharist elements served as 'real' blood and

flesh but this was substituted with supply from witches in his coven (willing donors). Also, by injecting special herbs and living nocturnally he was becoming half-human and half-nosferatu. The ultimate (fantastic) goal was to become a true vampire after death and live for hundreds of years.

The urge to find victims and drink their blood became stronger and the line between psychosis and demon possession became blurred. The author's blood type had also changed, a medical impossibility.

The author also became a Mormon and notes parallels with Satanism. Only Mormon Apostles are able to visit the temple and through exoteric signs it was confirmed to William they actually worship Lucifer inside.

Satanists can be witnessed to and saved, despite long periods in the religion. As for any heathen, the saving power of the gospel is the key!