

Review: Peter Jones (ed.), *On Global Wizardry: Techniques of Pagan Spirituality and a Christian Response*, Main Entry Editions, Escondido, CA, 2010

Pages: 322

A Mixed Bag

The current assault against Christianity in this ‘Age of Aquarius’ seems manifold, and each essay offers its own insights and solutions to the problem.

Overall, a good book to expand apologetics into the ‘less travelled’ paths for when the opportunity comes to witness to one of the many different types of pagans you encounter.

Foreword (pp. 9-11)

The current age is the most religious ever.

Preface (pp. 12-15)

Jungian psychology is an open purveyor of the occult.

Christians relying on experience alone are at the mercy of any other religion which can have equally strong experiences.

“The medium is now the message”.

People often claim they are not religious, but they *are* spiritual.

I) Modern Shamanism: Spirit Contact and Spiritual Progress (pp. 16-30)

Shaman originated among Tungus-speaking people of Siberia for people who could heal, see the future, and summon demons. They are aided by tobacco, hallucinogenics and self-inflicted wounds.

Psilocybin mushrooms cause a “flying out of the body” experience.

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) claimed to have met with aliens and founded the Swedenborg Society. He found in his encounters that aliens were always violent.

Bulwer and Lytton wrote *Zanoni* in 1842 which was an introductory course in magic and spiritism.

Supposed “Masters” or “Secret Chiefs” guide humanity.

Madame Blavatsky obtained her knowledge in Tibetan lamasteries. She created the Theosophical Society in New York, 1875 and produced *The Theosophist* from 1879 to 1888. She claimed there are Mahatmas or Masters, members of the Great White Brotherhood. Specifically, she channelled "Koot Hoomi" and "Morya".

Alien abductees often perceive aliens as animals.

II) Astrology and the Age of Aquarius (pp. 31-43)

Astrologers already believe this age has begun.

Astronomy was born from astrology in the Age of Enlightenment.

Uranus, Neptune and Pluto were discovered in 1781, 1846, and 1930 respectively.

Uranus was linked to technology of the Industrial Revolution, Neptune to film, and Pluto power, death and rebirth.

Astrologers rely on the birth chart which has twelve “houses”. The planets are the “what”, the houses “where”, the zodiac “why”.

New Age spiritual patterns are always repetitive.

Astrology is pure occult divination and astrologers are moral relativists, have spirit guides, and are fine with abortion believing that a person is not fully human until his first breath.

III) The Global Mainstreaming of Witchcraft (pp. 44-58)

Two million gathered in Rio on New Year's Eve in 2008 at the Copacabana beach to honour Yemanjá.

The godhood of self is a pillar of witchcraft per the 1974 Principles of Wiccan Belief, adopted by the Council of American Witches.

In 1951, witchcraft laws in England were repealed.

The feminist movement is driven by anger and neurosis.

In the 1970s and 80s, Marija Gimbutas of UCLA claimed pre-Christian societies were matriarchies of goddess worship.

In 1986, three Wiccan priestesses were on the Harvard Divinity School faculty!

Witches “draw down” the moon.

The internet has caused an increase in solitary witchcraft.

Reincarnation beliefs fuel radical environmentalism.

The Wiccan Rede was likely developed by Gerald Gardner in the 1950s.

The Craft is dominated by ex-Jews and ex-Catholics.

Pagan feminism prioritises sex.

Most feminist spiritualists are white, middle-class and disproportionately lesbian.

Magick is filled with transgenderism.

There are about one-and-a-half pagans in the US (70% are sole practitioners).

IV) Kabbalah, More Than Red String! (pp. 59-70)

Hasidic Jews believe in ten “emanations” called the Tree of Life. Such esoteric teachings are reserved for advanced Judaists.

Kabbalah means “reception”, and as studies are often secretive, the word cabal is a derivative.

The *Sefer Yetzirah* (“Book of Creation”) is claimed to have been written during Abraham’s time.

The *Zohar* (“Radiance”) is from the 13thC by Moses De Leon.

Kabbalah has four levels of reality. “God” is always unknowable and his essence is the *Ayn Sof* (“there isn’t an end”). The religion teaches he cannot be placed in any category¹.

Shekinah was the tenth “Sephira” which shattered at creation and became trapped in Kabbalah is pantheistic.

Shekinah is a feminine noun and is thought to be the “indwelling feminine presence”. Man was originally created an hermaphrodite and every Jew is said to be a part of God.

The goal is reunification with the divine by observing the *mitzvot*. There is also a complex system of reincarnation.

Gemtria of the Bible is popular in Kabbalah.

Each practitioner is said to have a *maggid* (spirit guide).

All Masonic associations are indebted to the Kabbalah for their signs and symbols.

¹Yet they place him in the category called “uncategorisable”! matter.

V) Gnosticism: Ancient and Modern (pp. 71-86)

Gof is thought of as an underground river from which many wells can be sunk to access him, or a mountain reachable by many paths. He is called a “dyad” (male *and* female creature).

Valentinian Gnosticism calls God “the depth”² and teach that all was formed out of terror, pain, and confusion. Dionysius died as a creator to rebirth the world.

A labyrinth is a “Church without walls”.

Anglican Rev. Chris Horseman holds a degree in white witchcraft.

Chief beliefs are that God is within you and one develops into a Christ over time.

Monism teaches creation is art of God.

Per the “time of eternal returns”, the gods die and rise again in harmony of the seasons.

Gnostic worship spiritualises man's base instincts, up to and including child sacrifice.

²See John 2.24

VI) The Broad Red Road to Despair: American Indian Animism (pp. 87-97)

Animism is interaction with environmental spirits of any kind.

A Cree elder is a “medicine man”.

The people call spirits “grandfather” and earth “Mother Earth”.

South American animism is polytheistic.

Tobacco is given as an offering to heal Mother Earth and is a connection to the creator and other spirits.

When a Cree-convert to Christianity stops smoking sweet grass persecution begins.

Important grandfathers are the Eagle Spirit (also Thunderbird Spirit), the Sun Spirit, and the White Buffalo Spirit. The Eagle ferries prayer to Manato.

There is a Cree Sundance.

During times of the “Ghost Dance” there is an escalation in violent crime for the following several weeks.

During the Sundance one sweats while sitting in the boiling hot sun.

VII) Syncretism in the Jungle: Native South American Spirituality (pp. 98-114)

In the ultramodern world, idolatry provides an excellent theological axis for applying apologetics.

Amazon Indian native ways included physical and sexual abuse of children, incest, cannibalism, and terrifying demonic encounters.

All is part of “Xai” (“peace and harmony”).

In 1557, John Calvin and the Geneva city council sent 10,000 Huguenots to colonise Brazil. They were slaughtered by Catholics at Guanabara Bay (present day Rio de Janeiro).

Indians ate human flesh for spiritual and religious reasons.

One Huguenot Jean de Lery observed that natives never ate a coward.

While the US holds to *lex rex*, the Jesuit mentality is *rex lex*.

Pierre and Marie Curie called down spirits.

In the African *Candomble* religion there is no difference between good and evil. It has two hundred *orixas* (higher demigods)

African Umbanda mixes Catholicism and the orixas.

While dominating South American culture, the Catholic Church has never challenged its pagan roots.

VIII) Techniques of African Pagan Spirituality (pp. 115-130)

African religion rests upon spiritual and power phenomena.

Vision quests are spirit possessions, including jumping from heights, walking on burning coals, skewering cheeks and tongues, taking drugs (e.g. marijuana, peyote and LSD), dancing, drumming, and chanting into a frenzy.

Trial by ordeals to ascertain the truth of a matter are common where the victim would have to take an oath, drink boiling oil or poison.

Touching or close contact with heroes and leaders is said to impart life force.

A rituals is a means of manipulating spirits forcefully.

Thaumaturgy involves conscious psychic power, and unconscious ritual.

Theurgy (white magic) undoes curses and spells.

Magic by contagion requires physical contact.

Africans eagerly seek professionals.

IX) Chinese Spirituality: Toward a Christian Understanding (pp. 131-142)

Chinese spirituality is also called Daosim.

“Jiao” means religion. The main ones are Confucianism, Daoism, Animism, and Buddhism.

Confucius (Kong zi) taught the way (*dao*) of heaven (*tian*), benevolence (*ren*), uprightness (*yi*), piety (*xiao*), loyalty (*zhang*), and humility (*lian*). Spirits (*gui*) and the gods (*shen*) were revered.

His main students were Meng zi (Mencius) and Xun zi.

Lao Tzu created *Daosim*.

Feng shui means “wind and water”.

Tian (also *Shangdi* “Lord Above”) was originally a personal deity.

In Taiwan the highest god is the *san qing dao zu* (the **three** pure deities of the *dao*).

Most Daoist shrines have a plaque with *tian di qin jun shi* (heaven, earth, emperor and family master).

The Chinese worship deceased ancestors and the patron deities of the trades (such as Guang di/dong or red-faced sword-bearing general).

The soul has a *hun* which returns to heaven, and a *po* which returns to earth.

If a person has no son he or she is a “lone spirit” (*gu hun*), thus, all Confucians/Daoists want a son.

Funerary paper is burnt at funerals so the deceased has money in the underworld.

The seventh month of the year is the *gui yue* (“months of the ghosts”).

In Chinese religion man becomes part of the spirit world.

X) Jung and the New Spiritualities: Are They Godless? (pp. 143-156)

Unlike his mentor Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung viewed religious symbols and experiences as positive psychological expressions.

Jung's father was a Swiss Reformed minister.

Jung's view of God was one who "...sits on His golden throne, high above the world, and from under the throne an enormous turd falls upon the roof of the new cathedral."

Reality is best embodied by the Gnostic god Abraxis, amalgam of light and darkness.

Jung drew upon ancient occultic systems to give the impression of wisdom.

"Individuation is an alchemical experiment taking place inside the laboratory of the psyche."

XI) The Spirituality of Quantum Mechanics (QM) (pp. 137-170)

Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity in 1896.

Schrodinger believed in the Hindu Vedanta.

There is connection between QM and monistic Eastern thought.

Communication between space-time events cannot happen faster than light. Bohm posited an instantaneous "pilot wave".

Under Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle (HUP), knowing the exact position and speed of every quantum object would enable 100% accurate prediction of the next moment in time.

The universe is *not* a giant machine.

XII) Deep Ecology, Neopaganism, and Global Warming (pp. 171-185)

Most 'deep' ecologists are pantheists.

Feminism rejects science outright.

Argumentum ab annis is "appeal to age".

Atomism reduces all to its most basic chemical compound.

The General Circulation Models have proven to be an enormous fail.

XIII) Pagan Contemplative Techniques (pp. 186-202)

In neoplatinism, the One emanated into intelligence from nine angelic orders themselves arranged into three triads of celestial hierarchies.

The egoic self obscures remembrance of original union with the One.

Jesuit Harvey Egan said, “ ‘Mystical’ entered Christian vocabulary through the writings of pseudo-Dionysius .“

Most ‘deep’ ecologists are pantheists.

The Celestial Hierarchy has five steps: awakening, purgation, illumination, dark night of the soul, and [re]union.

Apophatic is repeating a “holy word”.

Kataphatic focuses on mental faculties.

Lectio divina is *not* about understanding the source text.

c815-877, John Scotius Eriugena translated pseudo-Dionysius into Latin.

1. In the tenth century Fulbertus built Chartres Cathedral on the site where the Celtic Druid priests had worshipped the Black Madonna. In the thirteenth century, a forty-foot diameter labyrinth was installed in it. It fell into disuse until Pierre Teilhard de Chardin introduced to Jean Houston in 1955.

The Chartre Mystery School opened in 2006 where students take seven mystery traditions over seven years in the seventh month of each year.

In the fourteenth century, an English mystic wrote *Cloud of Unknowing* based on the pseudo-Dionysius.

In 1978, Richard Foster wrote *Celebration of Discipline* based on Ignatius Loyola. It had astral projections as a standard exercise.

The enneagram is a nine-pointed star formed by overlaying a triangle on a hexad.

Sufies use a circle called “universal mendala”, often depicted as the Ouroboros.

XIV) Hollywood Entertainment and Neo-Paganism (pp. 203-218)

The Golden Compass was by Phillip Pullman, and admirer of Richard Dawkins.

The Lion King denied the existence of a creator.

Disney makes Pocahontas the evangelist for environmentalism.

Children watch a movie they like thirty to forty times.

Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were not strictly meant to convey historical facts.

XV) Christian Spirituality (pp. 214-231)

XVI) Old Testament Pagan Divination: Deuteronomy 18.9-14 (pp. 232-244)

Some Jews believed in telling the future based on cloud movements.

Sedim means “demons”.

XVII) The Protokos Paradigm: Colossians 2 (pp. 245-257)

In 1875, J. B. Lightfoot wrote a Colossians commentary due to the “Colossian heresy”.

XVIII) The Antithesis (pp. 258-271)