

Dear Mr Wilson,

20 Dec 1965

I read your advertisement in 'Pentagram', with considerable interest; being somewhat interested and involved in the Faith of the People.

I have recently been delving into the symbolism of the ley systems, and the corresponding Herme posts that are scattered throughout Europe - and also America. I wonder if you have any knowledge of the Amer-Ind system that was a marked part of the Sioux religion, and which appears to have extended from Mass: throughout the Great Plains, and into South America. I appear to have worded that somewhat badly - I meant the tradition of the ley-path, not the actual system itself. The South American maze leys are of particular interest, since they correspond very closely to part of a tradition that exists in Britain today; albeit the symbolism used is of a somewhat different origin.

I understand from your advertisement that you are also interested in Druidism, an interesting thing is that the original Druids still appear to exist - since I am in contact with an old man, born inside the pale of the Faith, who claims hereditary knowledge of the druidical beliefs - and it appears that what he was taught as a child and young man, and what is claimed to be druidism by modern sects and historians, are two very different things.

Are you a member of admission, and do you understand the order of 1734? A somewhat rude question, but since I cannot ask the traditional three questions in writing, I have to ask somewhat impolite questions.

I understand from the family that there was at one time quite a considerable influx of the Faith into America - in settlements in the Midwest. The symbols used by the state of Texas point towards this being a fact. Some of the neo-pagan traditions of the hill folk also point towards a considerable belief in the religion of the Three Mothers, Kansas being one of the states in which this appears. The Horsemen, of which my father was a member, appear to have settled in force in the cattle and sheep areas, so it is very possible that the clan system is still present in the Midwest.

I appear to have asked many questions and given you no information about myself. I am male, married, a member of the People of two admissions, and aged 35. I know the right and left hand language, the story of the flood, and of the child that survived, I have seen One become Seven, and Seven One, "Whirled without motion between three Elements", as Gwion said - and am still learning how many beans make five, and the number of steps in a ladder. I come from the country of the Oak, the Ash and the Thorn. I am against the present form of Gardnerism, and all kindred movements, although, like 'Taliesin', I believe they could become something far greater.

My religious beliefs are found in an ancient song, "Green Grow the Rushes O'", and I am an admirer, and a critic of Robert Graves.

Flags Flax and Fodder.

/s/Robert Cochrane.
Robert Cochrane.

12th Night. 1966.

Many thanks for your letter, which I read with great interest. You obviously have a deep interest for the Faith, and I will attempt to explain something of it to you - this will be a difficult task, since talking about the People (we describe ourselves as such) is a matter that every hereditary group trains out of it's members'. The religion is also more mystical than most - so words are very poor approximations of what we actually discover or feel about our beliefs.

A 'driving thirst for knowledge' is the for-runner of wisdom. Knowledge is a state that all organic life possesses, wisdom is the reward of the spirit, gained in the search for knowledge. Truth is variable - what is true now will not be true tomorrow, since the temporal truths are dependent upon ethics and social mores - therefore wisdom is possibly eternal truth, untouched by Man's condition. So we come to the heart of the People, a belief that is based upon eternity, and not upon social needs or pressures - the 'witch' belief then is concerned with wisdom, our true name then is the Wise People, and wisdom is our aim.

Some groups seek fulfilment in mystic experience - this is correct if one does not forget the duty of 'involvement' - the prime duty of the wise. It is not enough to see The Lady, it is better to serve Her and Her will by being involved in

humanity, and the process of Fate (The single name of all God's is 'Fate'). In fate, and the overcoming of fate is the true Grail, for from this inspiration comes, and death is defeated. There is no fate so terrible that it cannot be overcome - whether by a literal victory gained by action and in time, or the deeper victory of spirit in the lonely battle of the self, Fate is the trial, the Castle Perilous in which we all meet to win or to die - therefore the people are concerned with Fate - for humanity is greater than the Gods', although not as great as the Goddess. When Man triumphs, fate stops and the Gods are defeated - so you understand the meaning of magic now. Magic and religion are aids to overcome Fate, and Fate is a cradle that rocks the infant spirit.

Now you know what 'witches' are.

You are confusing 'Ley', a story told to music, with 'Ley', which means in keltic 'Flat'. The Ley paths were drover's roads, used by the Neolithic herdsmen to drive sheep and other cattle. They were designed to go from one part of a country to another in an absolutely straight line. If you are in what was Indian country, and look along the horizon of hills or plains, you will sometimes see an artificial nick cut in the plains or hills. If you go to that point, you will notice that that mark corresponds to another within eyesight, and so on until you would have travelled either the whole length of Great Britain or Northern America. These Ley paths

are very strongly connected to the religion of the Wise, since the sheep-herders who carved out the hills also made the stone circles such as Stonehenge, Avebury, the Rollrights, and so on. The Herme post is the solitary altar stone that one often finds upon these ancient roads, and if they are approached correctly may be used as places to gain whatever you desire by means of prayer and of magic. They are sites of ancient power now nearly forgotten, but still places where more than one world meets. I will see if I can send you some photographs later of such places, since they will help you to find the Amer-Ind equivalent - and there you will find the answers to all your questions, although the form it will take at an Indian site will be somewhat different to how it comes to me. It is at such places that one may see the Goddess become as Seven, and then return to One. The Seven are hinted at in the days of the week - but consider those days as feminine not masculine. Likewise the order of 1734 is not a date of an event, but a grouping of numerals that mean something to a 'witch'. One that becomes Seven states of Wisdom - the Goddess of the Cauldron. Three that are the Queens of the Elements - fire belonging alone to Man, and the Blacksmith God. Four that are queens of the Wind Gods. The Jewish orthodoxy believe that whosoever knows the Holy and Unspeakable Name of God - has absolute power over the world of form. Very briefly the Name of God spoken as tetragrammaton ("I am that I am") breaks down in Hebrew to the letters IHVH, or the Adon Kadon (The Heavenly Man). Adon Kadon is a composite

of all Archangels - in other words a poetic statement of the names of the Elements. So what the Jew and the Witch believe alike, is that the man who discovers the secret of the Elements controls the physical world. 1734 is the witch way of saying IHVH.

The language of the hands is complex and I will deal with it much later. The Oak, the Ash and the Thorn are the Names of the Three Elemental Mothers. All this is quite a complex philosophy - I will deal with it later.

Gardnerism is the title given to the work of the late and unlamented Gerald Gardner - who, driven by a desire to be whipped, and to prance around naked devised his own religion which he called 'Witchcraft'. As you by now have gathered - we do nothing like this. Since the Gardnerians are very publicity conscious - they tend to give us a very bad name, and will one day possibly restart the persecution. Hence they are thoroughly disliked.

Graves' White Goddess contains the Predul Annwn - this will answer many questions if meditated upon - not only does it speak of the seven worlds, but it also tells you how to get there. "Where the evening star and the dark of night meet" is one way.

Green Grows the Rushes O is an archers song from the middle ages. It is somewhat corrupt now from Christian influence but parts of it are still original - "One is One and all alone - and ever more shall be so".

The Stars on the American Flag are Pentagrams - The
steer skull of Texas is another witch sign - as is the star
within a circle. Diagonal bars and 'V' shaped bars are also
witch in origin, like triangles, fleur de leis, roses etc of
heraldic tradition. Coats of arms contain many pagan memories.

The man I work with is called John Armstrong, and he is
an actual descendant of the Armstrongs of Cumberland and
Durham. Armstrong was not only a bandit, but also a chieftan
of no small merit.

My regards to yourself, wife and children -

Flays, Flax, Fodder.

(I bless thee by water by air,
by earth)

/s/Robert Cochrane. ✕
Robert Cochrane,

This breaks down to ? $\begin{matrix} \vee \\ + \end{matrix}$ - work out what it means.

Many thanks for your letter which I read with interest.

You appear to learn with speed. Your interpretation of
1734 is correct. The dialect name for this principle in
Shropshire is the Broom, or the Seven Whistlers (so named
because some of the Family summoned with a silver whistle).
These first and feminine principles are Earth, Air and Water.
Translated into the Broom they become Ash, Birch and Willow -
the Besom broom that the Family "Turn without motion between
three elements" upon. Which is the basic substance of magic,
and mysticism. The fourth, and some postulate the fifth,

metal, element is the one substance of power given freely to man - Fire. With fire, and it's many spiritual and intellectual ramifications man conquered the world of appearance. Therefore the four elements conjoined come to mean Female and Male in One - represented by the figure of eternity, 8 or Union. Fire, as such is the province of Alder, the God of the Underworld - Time - that which creates and destroys the world of appearances - finally Bran or Brian/Baal the God of Fire, of Craft, of lower magic and of fertility and death. All things that are of this world belong to him, the star crossed serpent. So you come to the true meaning of the Cauldron and the understanding of the rite of the Cauldron. Bring forth the Star son, and you have Dionysus, the Horn Child and Jesus Christ in one - So the Cauldron is Generation and Re-generation. Taliesin asked 'what two words were not spoken from the Cauldron?' A question I now ask you, giving these pointers. The Cauldron at this level means movement, a becoming of life - ever giving birth, ever creating new inspiration. There is within the Cauldron all things and all future - fate. Therefore there is one state the Cauldron cannot be - What is it? In finding the answer you will come to understand the Cauldron.

As you have gathered we teach by poetic inference, by thinking along lines that belong to the world of dreams and images - There is no hard and fast teaching technique, no laid down scripture or law, for wisdom comes only to those who deserve it, and your teacher is yourself seen through a mirror darkly. The answers to all things are in the Air -

Inspiration, and the Winds will bring you news and knowledge if you ask them properly. The Trees of the Wood will give you power, and the Waters of the Sea will give you patience and omniscience, since the Sea is a womb that contains a memory of all things.

Obviously you wish to know how one asks correctly - This is known as 'Approaching or Greeting the Altar'. There are many altars, one is raised to every aspect you can think upon, but there is only one way to approach an altar or God-stone. * There is a practice in the East known as "Kundeline", or shifting the sexual power from it's basic source to the spine and then to the mind. Cattle use this principle extensively, as you will note if you creep silently up to a deer or cow - since there is always one beast that will turn its back to you, and then twist it's neck until it regards you out of it's left or right eye alone. It is interpreting you by what is laughingly known as 'psi' power and that is how an altar is used - with your back to it, and head turned right or left to regard the cross of the Elements and Tripod that are as sacred to the People as the Crucifix is to the Christians. Before you do this however, it is necessary to offer your devotions and prayers by bowing three times to the Altar, with arms crossed upon your chest and then turn about the Altar (which for normal purposes should be round, hence King Arthur) the number of the Deity you are invoking or praying to. The Maid is usually three times three - the Mother six times three, the Hag (which is anything but the true title).

Flax is a form of rush, a plant that grows in European waters - so the answer is Flax, water, Flax, being the weavers plant and blue - thus representing the Goddess of Birth and Death (Fate) being the principle of Air, and Fodder - which means grass, the Earth. The ancients swore an inviolable oath by grass roots - the answer will come to you if you think on it.

I will go into involvement more fully next letter - since I am somewhat tired.

Regards,

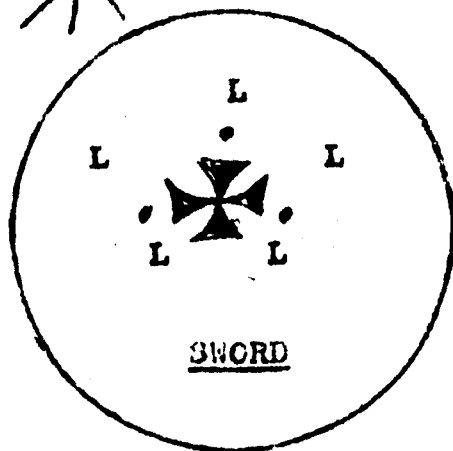
3, P's

/s/Robert Cochrane - ✕



A silver or pewter disk for cross of Elements - Tripod can be either broom or the three woods bound with flax yarn thus ✕ - bind. Upon Altar place thus

Lights = L



put disk so that it is seen easily

Surround ring perimeter with salt, sprinkle with water thrown from broom -

Ash from need fire makes outer perimeter surrounding Altar.

Incense is used to smoke area before beginning

Many thanks for your letter which I read with interest.

"I am a Stag-- Who survived the Flood
I am a Flood-- That destroyed the world
I am a Wind--- Of God moving across the desolate world.
I am a Tear--- The sorrow of Fate
I am a Hawk--- The Child who survived the Flood.
I am a Thorn-- The beginning of Fate (Death)
I am a Wonder- For I am Ressurrection
I am a Wizard- For I alone transform."

The Song of Amerigin, combined with two other poems both of which are known, is like the Qabbala - a poetic commentary upon a religious work. The Song begins with a reference to the Golden Age of Man, in which men were Gods. This age of innocence was destroyed when movement began (Fate). The Child is Hope, borne out of the Flood by a stag of seven tines - and like the early Christian doctrine, the horn child travels the world seeking a place to rest. This is a common legend found in all mystery systems. Now to give a more detailed translation. The Stag is Welsh symbolism - it has seven tines on each antler, and represents $1 \times 7 \times 3 \times 7$, like 1734. It is the Roebuck, or the inner mystery of Godhead.

The Flood is again symbolic and represents Five. The Wind is the Shekinah, the feminine principle of Godhead - that which the Christians name the Holy Ghost.

The Tear is akin in principle to the passion of Christ. The Hawk is the young Sun King Baldar - Jesus - Buddah - Llew Llaw Gyffes. The Thorn is Death or the process of Fate and as such the first principle of the Broom.

The Wonder is survival of Death -

The Wizard is Merridwen, the Sky re-creating Life out of Death - Now you explain something of the next five lines to me. What I have given is a basic translation only - it is far more involved, and to explain fully needs a considerable amount of time and space. However it has a rough parallel with some of the Old Testament, and with the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh. The five lines following are an explanation of the Pentagram, so that the pattern makes

$$8 = 1 + 7 \quad 1$$

$$5 = * \star \quad 2$$

$$8 = 1 + 7 \quad 3$$

$$21 \text{ or } 3 \times 7$$

Now this becomes also = $\frac{3}{24} = 2 + 4 = 6$ or the combined Cauldron ritual, in which both male and female meet - this is described as a Star of David.

I understand that you are corresponding with friend Taliesin - a nice fellow, albeit temperamental. He says that he belongs to a West Country group, and since he is ever so hush hush about it, I wouldn't be surprised. A friend of mine who has been in the People all his life made contact with them some time ago, but got on very badly since they appeared to be very snobbish - not at all like the People in the Midlands, who will talk to anybody. Anyway this old boy from the Midlands was put off by the cloak and dagger approach - he had to go through practically the whole history before they became interested - but got so fed up that he

broke contact - it was a pity, since he was one of the last of the Lonie Compton People, and from my own experience of him he could have told them a lot. It was he that taught me the mechanics of the wand and stone - which is the secret behind the standing stones, if it is understood fully.

As you say, one is never through with learning about the Faith. It is a process that begins in childhood and continues throughout life. Some modern groups such as the Gardnerians have contained the active principle of belief and faith into dogma and ritual - this limits the process of wisdom severely, since wisdom cannot be contained but must be free to all that seek it. They appear to have confused the actual mystery, which is beyond words, with procedure - and evolved a secrecy about nothing except nudity and flagellation. The real mystery is only uncovered by the individual, and cannot be told, but only pointed to. Any occultist who claims to have secrets is a fake - the only secret is that which man does not understand - otherwise all wisdom is an open book to those who would read it. One is discreet about certain things because of blank incomprehension or misunderstanding, but wisdom comes only to those who are ready to receive it - therefore much of the nonsense believed by Gardnerians and some hereditary groups alike concerned with secrecy. There is no secret in the world that cannot be discovered, if the recipient is ready to listen to it - since the very Air itself carries memory and knowledge. Those then that speak of secrets and secrecy and not of discretion or

wisdom are those who have not discovered truth. I personally distrust those who would make secrets - since I suspect their knowledge to be small. I was taught by an old woman who remembered the great meetings - and she took no terrible oath from me, but just an understanding that I would be discreet. She did not require silence, only a description of what I had seen and what I had heard and said when I was admitted. The Gods are truly wise - they know the future as well as the past and they admit not those who would abuse knowledge or wisdom.

Wisdom is cyclic - when one makes the discovery, one creates the alchemy that brings an answer - and in turn creates more questions from that answer. It is the hare and hound. When the hare (pussy) is pursued by the hound it twists and turns, and turns until eventually it creates a great circle and crosses it's own path. Therefore Pussy pursues the hound at one point, and not the hound pussy. Symbolically the hare then becomes the hound, and the hound the hare - therefore they are but one thing - it is the same with knowledge and the pursuit of wisdom - one thing becomes the other, as also life becomes death, and death life. What is wise now is the desire for wisdom later. The Cauldron is the same, constantly moving, creating, bringing forth, tearing down, building up, movement - therefore the simplest way of expressing what the Cauldron is not is by saying 'Be Still'. Even death is movement, one disintegrates and is recreated. The past moves in the future, since past shapes the future to come - this is Fate. All things

that are of this world belong to the past, the flesh is heir to the sins and wisdom of the past - therefore the past lives on. There is no such time as 'Now' since that would require stillness to create it, and now is an impossible fragment of time - even to think of now is to think of the past. Therefore, and very simply to put your feet on the road - the words are 'Be Still'. Mayhap the true pursuit of man is in capturing stillness - since when the moment of silence is created magically man becomes as God.

The true cross is created out of four circles leaning slightly to the northeast. It should be seen clearly - therefore it does not matter how it is fashioned. It should have the same quality as the dark mirror - that is it should reflect light softly so that the conscious world is lulled, and the world of dreams may come to the surface. It needs time and practice to use it but if a genuine desire to see is there you will see. You will find that it assists in meditation if the gaze is fixed on it while a small light burns nearby.

I understand that in the past the Maid would wear a cloak sewn with little silver discs that the people would gaze upon - and she acted as a medium for the people whilst they reflected upon her cloak.

Flax is a common cultivated flower known as *Linum*. The variety known as *herbonense* is very good - it is also a decorative in a garden. It is gathered and hung to semi dry in darkness. When it is nearly dry beat it with a mallet made of wood until the fibres are separated from the stem.

This produces a linen 'shoddy'. These are combed out with a teasle head until they are reasonably separate, then spun upon a distaff by a woman who 'sings' to the moon (sounds crazy!) This linen shoddy should be dyed before combing or spinning by Alder bark for red, blackberries (or equivalent) for blue, and bleached in lime or chalk for the white. Your whole length should be measured in this then seven knots tied in the pleit - and then you have the beginnings of a cord which is worn about the waist or neck and used as a meditational device, a la 1734. The remains should be kept in the separate colours and spun upon the distaff. This, used with Mother Broom, and symbolic herbs will assist the cure of most illnesses if a piece is tied and charmed around the afflicted part and three knots tied. I know it sounds crazy but from personal experience I know it works. I have seen the common cold cured, cancer of the womb, warts, and bleeding stopped by this yarn - but it is dependant upon the moon's phases, and Mother Broom for the inner workings. The slow process of creating the yarn is a form of alchemy. If your wife uses it, she must not use the Alder, but instead turn to blackthorn for a black thread, but be careful of that yarn for it carries the power to blast.

What is known as 'witchcraft' is full of apparent superstitions that upon reflection have a sound scientific basis. Alchemical formula produces a resistance free copper - although analysis shows this copper to be of the normal purity rate, approx 98%, yet normal copper has a resistance of 7% to electricity. The slow process of creation works its own magic -

just in the same way that the innumerable firings of the copper produced a 'normal' article that has an unusual power. This applies to all materials used in working, since they are accumulated and collected carefully, and have power of their own.

It is intent and the love of God in creating the magical substance that transmutes it not any particular power in its own right. The best example of this is woman.

All females, irrespective of species is a lesser moon reflecting the Greater. She is made of three elements, the poor male possessing the fourth. Through these elements she creates a chain unbroken that ranges from primitive child-bearing and nest making to the Goddess woman flying in strange climates. Man is individualised and solitary - lead only by reason or passion. Woman by her physical structure is part of the cycle of evolution, and therefore part of the group soul. You notice in homemaking how they create a nest of security, a bond that is shared with all other females, and how the female passion embraces all creatures that have need - a bitch in whelp will mother kittens, etc. The woman, as a possessor of this common instinct, shares experience with the group soul - and what she and thousands of others do shapes that soul for time to come. Therefore if one observes the way a woman instinctively works reflecting the tides of her body, and of the group soul - one learns about the creation of charms and remedies by 'magic' since the slow tide of growth and protection shapes the group entity, so can another principle

if undertaken as naturally shape it also. A plant grown with intent, a branch cut with intent and prepared according to the natural rhythms of life can affect any natural creature the only creature it may not affect is man, and that man will be the product of a corrupt society in which nature has become a whore. The yarn spell has everything in common with the instinct that makes a mother knit for a forthcoming baby - each stitch is a spell for protection and comfort, wrought with love. Woman is a magical creature, not because of the tides of her body as Graves suggests, but because she has the power to shape the group entity to her desire and following the tides of her soul she creates magic of no small order in making a home for her offspring. It is the Earth Mother working through her deep instinctive acts and she both creates and influences the group soul. It follows then in charming one should follow the tidal movements of the soul, and of the group soul, rather than the intellect and haste of the fire male. A rhythm worked upon like this strikes a resonance in the group - as power contacts are made. Alchemy and transmutation takes place not because of the material or what is done, but because of the resonance upon the group - and the power of the group. A tide is created, and another tide stilled - a balance wrought.

My regards and blessings to you and yours.

FFF

/s/Roy Bowers
Roy Bowers.
Alias Robert
Cochrane.

P.S. This month's problem -

I received your second letter, just as I was going to post the first. I am very glad you and your wife have come to an understanding - since domestic sorrow is a very big price to pay in order to belong to the Faith. There is no necessity that ones beloved should also belong - since one of the basic tenants of wisdom is that of tolerance. The People have had and experienced many centuries of intolerance, persecution and pain - therefore we make no attempt to convert - but instead we are just content to belong, that being enough in its own right. Your wife probably felt insecure in the face of a belief that inevitably obsesses its male followers - and to many people who have as yet to see the Goddess triumphant, the Faith is a strange and alien belief, intertwined with childhood memories of wicked witches, and later sensationalism from the gutter press. To a young girl looking in from the outside it must seem frightening, since to her she must have seen the man she loves, subtly change and a side to his character appear that she does not understand - and although this character is not malignant in any way - it is alien to what normally passes as 'normal' in this world. You no doubt have discovered that a whole new philosophy, a new morality, a new personality has begun to awaken in yourself and subtly alter your life - yet in spite of the excitement of the chase, and the desire to know that drives all 'witches', you must try to think of the effect this has upon someone who has not as yet kindled the flame. This is a frightening experience, and one that brings a sensation of tremendous insecurity, especially to a girl with a child in her womb. A piece

of advise if I may be allowed to give it; is that no philosophy, no creed, no God is worth more than the love that one human being may give and receive in their life time - this is what I meant by being 'involved'. It doesn't really matter how wise or knowledgeable one is - providing one can love and be loved in return - in this way the Christian ethos of 'loving ones neighborough' is very true - all one needs after that is the witch 'Law': Do not do what you desire - do what is necessary.

Take all you are given - give all of yourself.

"What I have - - - I hold!"

When all else is lost, and not until then, prepare to die with dignity.

These may sound like peculiar laws, but they are wise and based upon experience - the first is perhaps one of the most difficult criterions to live by - since there is no room for illusion - the second allows you little time for yourself - the third is the keystone of wisdom and the fourth is the basic key to the witch personality.

Now how can I teach your wife - Shall I tell her that the Faith is the Mother of all Gods and Goddess's - that Christianity is only a part of the ancient faith, and not the whole, that the People are the direct descendants of the ancient priests and priestess's of the Mysteries? Or shall I tell her that the Faith is basically feminine - and in it she will find her deepest self reflected? It has been the repository for centuries

of the deep feminine wisdom, the protector of the dispossessed female - in that it recognises her for what she is, man's total and absolute equal - and the Goddess's representative upon earth. That the Gods created the world, and to man they gave Earth, Air and Fire - and to Woman they gave Earth, Air and water - and that it was decreed that these elements would be worthless until they were brought together in male and female - therefore the Faith believes that both men and women play their separate and united roles in the comedy we call life - Still this is poetic and to a young mother sounds like a strange language - so I will put into the language of logic and rational thought, something of the Mysteries.

The Faith is made of three parts - of which I know two. The first part is the masculine mysteries - in which is enshrined the search for the Holy Graal - and is the basis of the Arthurian legends. This is the order of the Sun - the Clan of Tubal Cain. Under it come learning, teaching, skill, bravery, and truthfulness. In the distant past the male clan was lead by a woman who was their priestess and chieftan. This is the origin of the legend of Robin Hood - and surprisingly enough began the Old Testament, and later, Christianity since both Jesus and Moses alike preached a version of the Masculine mysteries - Mithriasm was also a development of this - and the tradition was followed through into the Middle Ages when the Plantaganet Kings were officers of the masculine aspect of the Faith (The name 'Plantaganet' means 'The Devil's Clan'). The effect of the masculine mysteries upon the world can hardly

be under emphasised - since a very considerable portion of civilization owes its origin to them. To name but a few - Commerce, Lawmaking, Lawgiving, Parliament, The early forms of universities and craftsmens guilds - which lead to knowledge being contained and taught, Surveying, all sciences such as metallurgy, astronomy and so on ad infinitum. The masculine mysteries were the direct creators of modern civilization as we know it now. It must also be remembered that originally the Mystery was conducted by a woman - and that she was the presiding genius behind many of the fundamental discoveries that created civilization. These mysteries are depicted as a Javelin, a cockerel upon a pillar, a ladder, a flail, a twelve rayed sun and a ladder of eight rungs and a sword or battle axe. Basically they have to do with control over three of four elements, especially that of fire.

The feminine Mysteries are the deeper - connected with the slow tides of creation and destruction, of the cycle of life and death. They are best expressed in the pentagram - Life/Birth, Love, Maternity, Wisdom, Death/Ressurrection. They are connected with all things that grow - all creatures of flesh - fertility and sterility - the mystery of the woman who is virgin/Mother/Hag in one person. They are in essence the cycle of life, and the universality of life - and they express themselves in deep intuition and feelings - in otherworld terms they control the unconscious, as the male controls the conscious. That is they are what the Jews describe as the

second emanation of the Sephiroth - emotion, sensation, imagery, empathy and intuition. They are expressed in symbols as a broom, a flask, a cup, a glove, a distaff and a shift - all of which have a symbolic meaning in the Faith. The clan of Women is lead by a man, who acts as a Priest, and teaches the feminine mysteries. Each one of these symbols has a value in wisdom, and I will teach you both what I know about them in forthcoming lectures. Today, since there are so very few, the old system has broken down and the families teach their children both mysteries, so that the tradition will not be forgotten entirely. In the past the male and female clans were seperated except for the nine Rites or 'KNIGHTS' of the Year - when they came together and worshipped Godhead. Also a great deal of traditional rite has been lost - but it will be recovered again one day, since things and thoughts alike do not die, they only change.

It was common for the people to meet once a week - like a service or a teaching session, or even to work some particularly difficult piece of magic. As the persecution grew harsher, the meetings became more secretive, and for security's sake the Clans divided and knew nothing of each other. The mysteries were also united so that nothing would be forgotten - yet I personally think it is better that they now divide - since there is a mystery in sexual difference, and some things may only apply to men and some things only to women. No man may ever fully understand the mystery of menstruation or birth - and how it affects not only the female body but mind and emotion. No

woman may fully understand the male passion for knowledge or craft etc. since it is a part of the male mind in which most women have difficulty in understanding. Yet the Faith teaches wisdom that has to do with both of these aspects of male and female - and when it was taught properly as it was in the past - it produced some really remarkable people. One of the deepest and most appealing images in the Faith is that of the Virgin and Child - whom the Catholics stole from us as late as the twelfth century - yet the approach of a man and the approach of a woman are very different to this one image.

I have enclosed a leaf out of a book which has the photograph of a French Menhir upon it - I helped the woman who wrote this book, and explained something of the menhir to her - but she is a fool, and her book is a shame to read since it is only interested in the sensational, and not in wisdom. However the menhir contains all 'Witch' theology and belief - and if it is studied, it will answer many questions for you. The carvings date from the 17th century, the menhir is at least 2,000 years old. Archeologists believe it to be a depiction of the Passion of Christ, which shows how little they know. You will see upon it both male and female mysteries - with the bottom line reading as the third part - that of the Priest/Magician, Understand it, and you will have the basic groundwork of the Faith. Ask me questions about it, and I will explain them to the best of my ability.

You will be coming to Britian within one year, when you do come to us when you have free time (or maybe it is me going to America)

FFF

Many thanks for your letter - which I enjoyed reading.

I found your interpretation of the five Queen lines of Amergin of great interest, since it shows you are well on the road. Basically they follow the Pentagram, that is Life, Love, Maternity, Wisdom, Death. Obviously, since the interpretation of the Faith is deeply personal, we differ somewhat in our approaches but basically we seem to be travelling in the same direction. The line "I am a Spear" refers to the Cauldron mystery - the original Holy Grail - in the sense that the Grail (Divine Inspiration) was activated originally by a priest bearing a spear, who like Sir Gawain performed the sacred marriage by thrusting the spear into the cauldron. Symbolically he was taking the principle of life made of ash and steel (Ash the Mother tree - earth - steel or iron the metal of Chronos - Wayland - the God of Time/physical life) and so continuing life by bringing down the principle of movement to earth - literally drawing down the Moon. In thrusting the spear the priest performed an act of love - thus bringing us to the next point of the ritual, "I am a Salmon". Ritually as you will find by reference to the Arthurian legends, he then withdrew the Spear, and cast drops of blood that fell from its tip upon the earth and surrounding congregation. This action was based upon observation of the actual mating habits of the salmon (a fish who anciently represented fertility and wisdom - there are records of trout or salmon being used for divination as late as the sixteenth century). The salmon

comes in from the sea to spawn and die, but in dying the male salmon casts his sperm over the eggs - so a sequence of love and death is built up - which idea is confirmed by Gwion's further poem 'Prediue Annwm', when he writes - "Where the evening star and the dork of night meet together". The ritual at this point then is like the Catholic sacrament. The Host has been raised and transubstantiated - in other words spirit and matter have been brought together in the action of the ritual - as spirit and matter may be considered as the Female Spirit, and the "pear as phallic in the sense that the Goat God represents time or physical life, the ritual becomes that of Union or Love.

The contents of the Cauldron are now transformed into the "aqua Vitea - the Waters of Life. Anciently, as Taliesin pointed out, the Water of Life was impregnated with one of the plants that bring dreams such as Fly Agaric, or the Peote mushroom. However I am not suggesting that you do this, since they have extremely bad side effects and need care, caution and discipline to use effeciently. However, the sacred drink is now administered in the same fashion as the wine of the sacrament. Now how does this tie up with Motherhood? The Goddess feeds us, as a mother does - so in this aspect She is Bountiful Nature - Mother Earth, feeding Her children, in the same way as any mother feeds the child. The priests of Isis carried a dish that was shaped like a female breast, and from the nipple fell a constant stream of water and milk, with perhaps wine mixed in i

So then the congregation at the assembly are fed with the water of Life - which as you already appreciate is inspiration or spirit brought to earth. This is, apart from the actual physical differences, exactly the same concept as the sacrament to be found in Christianity.

Then we come to the extremely puzzling line 'I am a lure'. The lure was more than a snare, it was usually an imitation bird or animal used to attract the genuine article into the trap - Why is love a lure? Because it creates inspiration - and from inspiration comes the thirst for wisdom. The onset of physical love is also the onset of the two destructive/creative forces in man. He can be fascinated by the object of his fancy, so that he will forget everything else. The stress of the love act produces poetry - and in poetry is wisdom. Therefore, as we English say - "A sprat to catch a mackerel" - something smaller to catch something bigger. The reason why the Goddess of Love in Britian was depicted as carrying a net, was that she ensnares the souls of Her men with a devotion that very few women are able to command. In Her love (this is a hard thing to say) there is death - and She rends Her poets/lovers apart before finally making them all wise. Graves follows this theme in the White Goddess - and there is always considerable truth in it. Be careful throughout your life of Her traps - They will make you wise, but you will sing sweetly and sadly afterwards. She is Fate, the Creatoress and the Destroyer. You will understand why She destroys, but the destruction will bring its own sorrow. As the Goddess of Love, She humbles us all at some time - and that sorrow is perhaps Her greatest gift to the moon-struck poet.

'I am a Hill' is a reference to Wisdom, since in vision you will see the Castle of the Seven Gates or Winds, standing upon a gloomy hill, turning four times to the elements. The Hill is Life - the steady climb with its triumphs and disasters to Illumination or Wisdom. It is the Dark Tower that Roland fell in front of, it is the Castle Lolor of the legend of the Grail, the Coer Colmen of 'Friedu Annum'. The gods of the High Sordeas - the One in Seven Wisdom, the destroyer and creator of men. You will die many times to be reborn in this religion, and each little death is the resurrection of new hope and spirit. Whatever Madame Le Guider has in store - the law is that you will overcome - and in the overcoming find spiritual strength. Never be like I was for a short while, arrogant in the knowledge of power, for She soon tripped me up, and brought me home across my black horse, and I like the knights of old lie wounded, and at this desert without hope.

Anciently the castle upon the hill is a very common motive in folk art. You will find many specimens of this in traditional Romany caravans - in that the inner walls are painted with roses (red and white), a roadway with nineteen trees lining it, and a castle at the end of the road upon a high hill. Azourial and coats of arms are also good examples, and about a 150 mile trot from here there is an old inn that has as a sign a castle founded upon three silver spheres. In cabalism the sphere becomes the moon - and is known in Hebrew as Malkuth, or foundation. Now the three moons represent inspiration or spirit in these aspects; Life, the Virgin. Love, the Mother

and Death/Wisdom, the Hag. As such then the hill is representative of the three major sources of inspiration and fate in physical life - the problems that we face are based upon these three foundations - Graves writes they are the poetic theme - but they are the structure of existence before that.

"I am a sow" or "I am a bear" This refers to Keridwen - the greedy sow who in Keltic poetry eats her own farrow. The nightmare fertility and death in one creature - and so we come to the end of the Pentagram. The principle of Fate giving birth to life, then for reasons of her own destroying her own litter - a fact that any pig farmer will tell you about.

As you have realized - the poetry of the ancients was based upon observed natural fact. From the lesser phenomena of nature, they drew conclusions about the greater and spiritual phenomena - reflecting as I do, that there is nothing created but it has a symbolic link with spiritual principles. I am not saying that physical creation has what the Theosophists like to call a purpose - that is something different - but in creation one uses a greater force to create the lesser - and there is an indivisible link between all things and their spiritual counterparts. As you say Gods are in Man, and Man is in Gods.

You will also find contained within my letters to you, a ritual which is the basic ritual of the Faith - that Of the Cauldron. You know now how to approach an altar, how to create an altar - how to create the sacrament house (bread and wine), and what to expect from it. You have in your possession the

Broom - later we will speak of the Sword and Stone which is to do with Fire. But now you are girded, and can administer the Water of Life to your family - if you so desire. Remember though that male and female work together - and where the male intellect or fire gutters and burns out, the female water will wear at the problem gently, until it is reshaped and understood. In the final analysis rely upon what a woman feels rather than upon what you think is right. Of air and earth we have those between us.

Please do not thank me for helping you - you also help me. To describe the Faith is like teaching, but if you teach then eventually the pupil must turn on the teacher, since wisdom is only found in freedom, and teacher and pupil alike are not truly free, since the teacher is bound by dogma in order to explain - and therefore forgo's inspiration. The pupil has to follow the dogma in order to understand the teacher. Wisdom is not dogmatic - and when the pupil becomes wise he must necessarily break from the teacher, and interpret dogma and the promptings of his soul as he sees fit. Therefore I explain to you what I know - but I am not teaching you, you are taking from it what you require - and translating these ideas to your own needs.

The buckle in the photograph is a spouted pot used for pouring the Water of Life. You will find all the physical paraphernalia of ritual in it, and much of the symbolical stuff also.

If you wish I will do a complete reading upon your immediate future - or for that matter upon your complete future. It is easily done.

My best wishes to Daisy, yourself and the children - I sense that it will be a girl, and I got an impression that she will be fair headed. She (if I am right) will live long and happily - and also be wealthy by marriage to a man that she will love.

FFF

/s/Roy