

Originally Chapter 8, on Paganism in

Character Counts

Freemasonry Is a National Treasure and a Source of Our Founders' Constitutional Original Intent

Revised Second Edition



This was chapter 8, and I truly wanted to keep it in, but it is not crucial and there is an internet. There are some serious, educated, influential—and religious—power brokers who have called Freemasonry Pagan. Unbelievable—that was my first thought. Worse, they never define the Paganism they claim. So in many ways the reason for this chapter is to be utterly clear about real Paganism. It is real today and has had a steady increase since the early 1990s, just about the same time the SBC and others began some denominational attacks.

The best reason for keeping this chapter in the book is that it truly does provide a backdrop to highlight the good of Freemasonry. Plus, because I worked so hard on it, I truly wanted the humor to be part of the book.

This outline of Paganism betrays just how far and away the critics of Freemasonry have trod from reality. Worst of all, character has not counted even among the Christians who call out Pagan to fellow Christians *without* even asking one. Freemasonry is about the light, and a lot of Paganism focuses on the darkness. Regardless, it is important to remember that Freemasonry is not a religion, never has been. It is *for* religion categorically, for all the good morals of all religions. Yet, Masonry is *not* for or against any specific religion, not even against Paganism.

Freemasonry's vast array of symbols and allegories come from all quarters, all focused upon character counting under God, as a man may perceive God, and in a respect for freedom of conscience. Enjoy.



Michael G. Maness

www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/

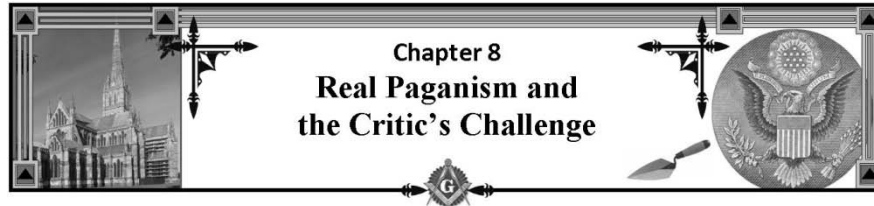


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Paganism in a Little Light



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The best index to a person's character is (a) how he treats people who can't do him any good, and (b) how he treats people who can't fight back.

Pauline Phillips, aka Abigail Van Buren, 1918-
Columnist "Dear Abby" 1956-95 - born Pauline Esther Friedman



- A. What Is Paganism?—and SBC Bill Gordon's Toxicity
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A. What Is Paganism?—and the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

I have met many Pagans of various stripes as a long-time prison chaplain. Believe it, the Wiccan golden rule is, "Do no harm." I have met Pagans who acted better than some Christians in their *do-no-harm* ways. I met a Christian who killed his cellmate because he his cellmate was a Satanist. This is the real thing.

We need to be utterly clear on Paganism, because it is a favorite term the critics use on the fraternity, especially Christian critics. Generally and not entirely accurate, a Pagan in North America is someone godless and immoral, including a vague lack of moral restraint.¹ By *godless*, most

¹ *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* (1983), s.v., "Pagan": "1. HEATHEN; esp: a follower of a polytheistic religion (as in ancient Rome) 2: one who has little or no religion and who delights in sensual pleasures and material goods: an irreligious or hedonistic person." *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary Unabridged Second Edition-Deluxe Color* (USA: William Collins & World Publishing, 1975), s.v., "Pagan": (from Latin, *Paganus*, a peasant or country-man, from *pagus*, country); 1. (a) formerly, a person who was not a Christian; 2. a person who has no religion. **Pagan** is now applied to one of the ancient polytheistic peoples, as the Greek and Romans, and **heathen** us applied to any of the [Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy]

Christians understand without the God of Abraham and Jesus. Yet that does not mean *without* a god, for actual Paganism includes gods and goddesses on life's journey.

Nor does that mean Pagans are without honor or without morals. The reality is that the term Paganism is an umbrella term much like the term Protestant, where Paganism includes many various denominations like Wicca, Druidism, Odinism, Asatru, even Vampirism and Satanism. In that light, nothing is more offensive to a Christian than to be called a devil. Why one Christian will do that to another is beyond me. The critics never reveal that Freemasonry is not *against* any religion, not even against Paganism.

Even so, the moral compass of the Pagan, especially Satanism and Vampirism, is about darkness. Freemasonry is all about light.

Paganism has flourished in the last twenty years, some of which may push a tear drop from a parent whose children have fallen prey. We just outline the raw scope. One has to wonder at the pervasiveness today and whether the church, and the SBC, could have done something. Pagans were not in the closet in 1993 and grew more in the 1990s than any other decade, a decade in religious affairs where several influential critics attacked Masonry while avoiding the revivals in Paganism.

The critics see monsters under every bush. One favorite rationale is that contact with anything Pagan in history makes *you* a Pagan too. If you drive a Saturn—you might be a Pagan. If you drive a Mercury, you might be a Pagan. If you use an up-side down star—you might be a Pagan. If you have a Brahma camper top on your pickup, to some, you might be a Pagan. If you are caught listening to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" in the Nutcracker—you just might be a Pagan.

That is the rationale, a real nutcracker, if you catch my symbolism. This chapter is devoted to nut cracking—symbolically speaking.

Paganism runs against Masonry's focus on a multi-layered set of character values founded upon a philosophical bedrock of honor, moral restraint, love of humankind, and "*under God*." That is true for the Christian, Jew and Muslim Freemason.

In that light, Paganism's own experts define moral virtue differently and prefer dark metaphors over metaphors that refer to light.

Though not a Christian organization, the fraternity has many religious values, none of which conflict with any of the major religions. You could call it *faith-based*, but that term is corrupt and confusing. *Faith-based* in

peoples regarded as uncivilized idolaters. The *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1979 [1st 1971]) says similar with this among addition, "villager, rustic ... indicating the fact that ancient idolatry lingered on in the rural villages and hamlets after Christianity had been generally accepted in the towns and cities of the Roman Empire"; first English use recorded in 1375.

America always means a charity or ministry that has an embryonic connection with a full-fledged religion. Masonry is not a religion or an extension of any religion. Yet all members must have a religion and are encouraged to engage to make character count *in* their own individual religions. That is not a subtle innuendo, but a crucial difference.

Hence, by charter and intention and constitution, Freemasonry is not *against* or *for* any religion, not even against Paganism. Its centuries-old charges and vast array of moral symbolism provide a platform that is consistent with the values of the major religions of the world, but not consistent with most Pagan religions. It is no secret that light and dark refer to two different worlds in the major religions, and most of the major religions consider themselves in the *light*. Most Pagans prefer the *dark*, many referring to themselves as aspiring masters of the *dark* arts. The major religions of the world are at home in a whole different universe of metaphor than are the Pagans, and Masonry in the main is only about the side of light.

Freemasonry is the fraternity of light. The Bible is the Great Light for the vast majority of the Grand Lodges of the world, though some use the Pentateuch or Quran. A Pagan would not feel comfortable.

When the critics allege evil and call out Paganism, do they know what they are saying? There is nothing worse that can be said to a Christian. So, let me tell you in utterly clear terms what Paganism is about today.



Much material exists on public Paganism, even in law enforcement concern, to indicate how far flung or lawless some Paganism has become: see Kerr Cuhulain's *Law Enforcement Guide to Wicca*.² Sometimes a Pagan can be construed as a rebel against social sensitivity and an advocate for various kinds of immorality.³

Yet, it is important to emphasize that Paganism is an umbrella of earthy religions and not inherently criminal. Not immoral in their own eyes.

Pagans are unashamed. One of the largest vendors, AzureGreen.com, has dozens of bumper stickers like "667 Neighbor of the Beast," "Ankh if You Love Isis," "Born Again Pagan," and "Back Off—I'm a Goddess!" Given the legions of legends in Masonry, the critics actually helped Paganism when they linked it to Masonry.

² Kerr Cuhulain, *Law Enforcement Guide to Wicca* (2nd ed.; Vancouver, B.C.: Wiccan Information Network Society, 1991 [1st 1989]).

³ *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (1979), s.v., "Pagan": "1877, Black Green Past ... 'But what are his politics?' said Lady Sylvia to this political Pagan"; "1879, *Macleod of D.* ... That bloodless old Pagan, her father"; "1765 Blackstone *Comm.* ... The ancient and Christian inhabitants ... retired to those natural intrenchments, for protection from their Pagan visitants."

While Paganism took off in the 1990s, while several religious power brokers attacked Freemasonry, it is ironic that from 1990 to the present America as whole has been becoming less religious as a whole!⁴

In the history of prison lawsuits over religious rights, one pair of creative convicts filed a religious discrimination lawsuit. They worshiped the Bear-Steak-and-Potato God. Ironically, even *that* has more substance and a more pleasing rationale than some critics. Tastes better, too.

If you want to know what someone believes, the first step is to ask them. Ask the Pagan or Christian. They'll tell you. It is utterly absurd to think that some leaders like former USA presidents were secret Pagans masquerading as Christians as they changed the world for good.

Pagans defend themselves. Andras Arthen said Paganism's origins "lie in European pre-history ... premised on the view that Nature is sacred, an attitude which is widely represented in the deification of the Earth as the Great Mother Goddess."⁵ Herman Slater reflected the earthiness well—no heaven, only a duality of forces.⁶ Margot Adler's *Drawing Down the Moon* detailed testimonials on the evolution of Paganism in the 20th century from numerous interviews of Pagans and witches from various paths.⁷ See Raymond Buckland's *Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft* and *Witchcraft from the Inside* and Gary Cantrell's *Out of the Broom Closet*.⁸

⁴ *Newsweek* Editor Jon Meacham commented on the 2009 American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS 2009) with lamentations from Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY). The remarkable element of ARIS 2009 was how those who indicated "none" had increased from 8 to 15 percent from 1990 to 2008. See also Jon Meacham's "The End of Christian America," *Newsweek* (April 13, 2009), 34-38, referencing Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar's *American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS 2008) Summary Report*, March 2009 (Hartford, CT: Trinity College). See www.PreciousHeart.net/ARIS-2009.pdf.

⁵ Andras Corban Arthen, *An Introduction to Paganism and Witchcraft* (Williamsburg, MA: EarthSpirit Community, n.d.).

⁶ Herman Slater, *The Book of Pagan Rituals* (York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 1978), ii-iv, "Paganism is returning to the world! Really, though, it had never left—for folk beliefs and the ancient Witch cult have always been with us. But for the past several centuries folk wisdom was given a Christian overlay and largely ignored; the Witches, with their age-old lore, were forced underground by persecution—with much loss to the common man.... Paganism recognizes that throughout all things—from the atom to the universe—there is a duality. Night and day, love and hate.... The Pagan realizes that there is no heaven except that which he himself makes, and likewise no hell but that of his own creation. Most Pagans believe that they have experienced previous lives in previous eras of this world. And they can point to impressive evidence backing them up.... Paganism teaches that the Highest source is both female and male in its aspects and that, ... we can perceive It—or Them—as individuals, or as Goddess and God to whom we can speak, and receive answers."

⁷ Margot Adler, *Drawing Down the Moon* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1979).

⁸ If not, see also these periodicals: *Circle Sanctuary* (www.CircleSanctuary.org), *Pagan Dawn* (by the Pagan Federation, London), *Reclaiming* (San Francisco, CA); these web sites, *The Witches Voice* at www.WitchVox.com, Covenant of the Goddess at www.COG.org, Earth Religion Rights at www.Journey1.org/rights, Moon Phase Calendar at www.Googol.com/moon, Pagan Educational Network (PEN) at www.Bloomington.in.us/~pen, The Pagan Federation at [Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy]

Are you clear about the general meaning of Paganism? Masonry's imagery is directed toward the light and away from darkness. Masons "have turned our backs on works of darkness, obscurity and drunkenness, hatred and malice, Satan and his dominions; preferring charity, benevolence, justice, temperance, chastity and brotherly love."⁹ Character counts. In spite of some good-natured Pagans, the difference between Masonry and Paganism is precisely that between light and dark, and between the control of passions and the wild abandon of passions.



B. Sesame Street and *The Count* ... Dancing

Given the Pagan rationales of the critics and on a lighter note, if the critics mean to warn of danger, then they ought to investigate Sesame Street and the theological incompatibilities therein. Sesame Street is a thousand times more dangerous by the critics' own rationale, entertaining 46 million children and counting, with characters like a big yellow bird called Big Bird, the Cookie Monster, Yip-Yip, and The Count. Hold your breath, too, for The Count is a Dracula-like character.¹⁰

Paganism—here it is! Laugh. No *symbolism* here. He *is* a cartoon Dracula character teaching young children, and there has been no warning from any major Christian denomination, SBC or otherwise. If the rational be consistent—be afraid. No etymological study needed. After all, we are talking about a veritable educational institution that was 35 years old as of 2004, the longest running and most watched children's program in the history of television.¹¹ Children are far more impressionable than adults. The Count's famous song, Batty Bat, is about counting numbers.¹²

www.PaganFed.demon.co.uk, Witches League for Public Awareness (WLPA) at www.CelticCrow.com; Rodney Castleden, *The Stonehenge People* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1987); Miranda Green, et al, *The Celtic World* (London: Routledge, 1996); Raymond Buckland, *Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft* (St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Worldwide, 1975) and *Witchcraft from the Inside* (St. Paul, MN: Llewellyn Worldwide, 1995); Gary Cantrell, *Out of the Broom Closet* (Parkland, FL: Upublish, 1998).

⁹ Johnston and Monette, *Masonry Defined* (1930; 935p.), 161, question #183.

¹⁰ See www.SesameStreetLive.com, accessed in Nov. 2004: "The lights dim, the curtain rises, and a thousand children squeal as a big yellow bird takes the stage. For over twenty years, VEE Corporation has entertained over 46 million children and their families with the flagship production in family entertainment, Sesame Street Live. Singing, dancing, and learning all the way, we're still walking down childhood's most famous street."

¹¹ See www.SesameWorkshop.org/35-sweeps and www.SesameStreetLive.com.

¹² See http://members.tripod.com/Tiny_Dancer/batty.htm, song Joe Raposo, voice Jerry Nelson "In old Transylvania when I was a lad, Our castle was poor but we never were sad ... By counting each count I knew just where to start, And one special step has stayed close to my heart, One two three, spread out the cape, One two three, twirl round the floor, One two three, left foot you swing."

How very apropos The Count becomes. Paganism is more alive today, in part, because several Christian leaders avoided it and occulted Masonry in the early 1990s. What is *truly* dangerous? Come on a brief tour.



C. Dracula—Gothic Sub-Culture’s Man for All Seasons

1. Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*—Study in Character Counting
2. Dracula Legacy Lives on Today—the Original Prince Vlad III
3. Gothic Subculture Today—No Games Here
4. Vampire Church—Come for a Bite

1. Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*—Study in Character Counting

The Gothic literature begins with Horace Walpole’s (1717-1797) *The Castle of Otranto*, published first 1764, set in the Middle Ages in an era permeated with superstitious fears.¹³ Mary Shelley (1797-1851) wrote *Frankenstein* in 1818. Even so, the Gothic genre came of age with Dracula. Who has not read Bram Stoker’s 1897 *Dracula*?—published in every decade since.¹⁴ On January 19, 2007, a History Channel exclusive, *The Real Dracula*, noted that Stoker’s *Dracula* had been published in fifty languages. There are oodles of plays and dramas,¹⁵ music from the land,¹⁶ and even a musical¹⁷ and a sound recording.¹⁸ Both the Chicago Radio Theater and

¹³ Horace Walpole (1717-1797), *The Castle of Otranto—Gothic Story* (trans. William Marshall [pseud.] from Italian *Onuphrio Muralto*; London: C. Cooke, 1780?; 125 p. (NY: Penguin, 2001).

¹⁴ Published every decade for over a century except the 1940’s and no end in sight. See Bram Stoker (1847-1912), *Dracula* (Doubleday, 1899, 378p.; Modern Library, 1983, 1st c1897; Doubleday, 1909, 378p.; Garden City Books, 1959, 354p.; Grosset & Dunlap 1930, 354p.; Garden City, 1928, 354p.; Doubleday, 1927, 1919, 1917, 1913; W. R. Caldwell, 1910, 378p.; Dover Publications, 2000, 326p.; TOR, 1997; Modern Library, 1996; Thorndike, ME: G.K. Hall, 1993, 609p., large print; London: Grandreams, 1990; NY: Fine Creative Media, 2004). Illustrated, introduced, and noted versions include: Intro. Anthony Boucher, illus. with wood engravings Felix Hoffmann, NY: Limited Editions Club, 1965, 410p.; Illus. of the author, setting, intro. by James Nelson, NY: Dodd, Mead, 1970, 430p.; *The Essential Dracula* illus. Raymond McNally & Radu Florescu, NY: Mayflower Books, 1979, 320p.; Intro. Joseph Valente, NY: Pocket Books, 2003, 500p.; Intro. A.N. Wilson, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1983, 380p.; Illus. Greg Hildebrandt, Parsippany, NJ: Unicorn Pub. House, 1985, 261p.; *The Essential Dracula* notes by Leonard Wolf with bibliography, filmography, NY: Plume, 1993, 484p.; Intro. Maud Ellmann, NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1996, 389p.; *Authoritative Text, Contexts, Reviews and Reactions, Dramatic and Film Variations, Criticism* ed. by Nina Auerbach and David J. Skal, W.W. Norton, 1997, 492p.; HarperCollins, 2000, 430p.; *Dracula—Complete, Authoritative Text with Biographical, Historical, and Cultural Contexts, Critical History, and Essays from Contemporary Critical Perspectives* ed. John Paul Riquelme, Palgrave, 2002, 622p.; *Bram Stoker’s Dracula* (edited by Jan Needle; Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004). See also Anne Williams, ed., *Three Vampire Tales* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003; 481p.). That is not all, just a quickie scary scan.

¹⁵ *Dracula, the Vampire Play in Three Acts* (dramatized by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderson; NY and Los Angeles: S. French; London: S. French, 1933 and 1947, 147p.), *Dracula* (by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderson; California: Federal Art Project, 1938)], *Dracula—the Ultimate, Illustrated Edition of the World-famous Vampire Play* (by Hamilton Deane, John L. Balderson; edited by David J. Skal; NY: St. Martin’s Press, 1993, 151p.), *Dracula—a New Stage Version* by Tom Clapp; Studio City, CA: Players Press, 1993 [1st 1984], 56p.), *Dracula, Dramatic Version* (NY: Dramatists Play Service, 1987, 15p.).

¹⁶ *Music from the Land of the Vampires* (NY: Terrascape, 1996, 1 sound disc: digital), *Music from Castle Dracula* (NY: Terrascape, 1996, 1 sound disc) and *Dracula—a Symphony in Moonlight & Nightmares: a Graphic Novel* by Jon J. Muth (2nd ed., NY: Nantier, Beall, Minoustchine Pub., 1992).

¹⁷ *Dracula: the Musical?* by Rick Abbot (piano & vocal score, 1982, 51 p.).

Orson Wells did radio versions.¹⁹ Even copy-cats.²⁰ The first movie came in 1922 by F. W. Murnau, *Nosferatu—The Vampire*, considered the “definitive adaptation of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.”²¹ Murnau created “mood and setting” for his “unforgettably creepy performance of Max Schreck as Count Orlok, a.k.a. the blood-sucking predator Nosferatu,” and it stands as an “icon of screen horror” with his “rodent-like features and long, bony-fingered hands” that brings death to Bremen in 1838.²²

There is *Nosferatu—the Gothic Industrial Mix* with a shocking date for its video release, September 11, 2001. This 1922 silent film adds music from “some of the top Gothic Industrial Bands ever” such as Christian Death and Electric Hellfire Club.²³ I did not know until this study that there were musical groups by such names as *Christian Death* and *Hellfire Club*. That there is even a market for that antique *Dracula* with such modern rock embellishments is surprising and a bit unnerving.

Paganism to music and in the movies is a sub-cultural trend today.

The 1931 classic *Dracula* with Bela Lugosi—who has *not* seen it?²⁴ There has been a never-ending fair of movies since, over 160 films on *Dracula* according to a *Mysterious Journeys* special on the “*Hunt for Dracula*” on the Travel Channel.²⁵ Many movies have come out in every single decade with at least twenty-four (24) movies in the 1970s, five (5) in the 1980s, forty (40) in the 1990s, twenty-nine (29) in the 21st century which is not even half over yet (2005 – I stopped counting). That is not all, just all I gave to it, as seen in this extensive footnote.²⁶ Look at the movie titles, for more

¹⁸ Sound recordings include, *Dracula* (Spoken Arts SAC 6113-6114, 1974, 2 cassettes).

¹⁹ *Chicago Radio Theatre’s Production of Bram Stoker’s Dracula* (Chicago: All-media Dramatic Workshop, 1976, 1 cassette, stereo), Orson Wells’ *Dracula* (Mark 56 Records, 1976).

²⁰ Jon J. Muth, *Dracula—a Symphony in Moonlight & Nightmares: a Graphic Novel* (2nd ed.; NY: Nantier, Beall, Minoustchine Pub., 1992).

²¹ *Nosferatu—The Vampire* (1st silent movie Stoker’s work; starring Max Schreck, dir. F. W. Murnau; 1929). *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (starring Klaus Kinski, dir. Werner Herzog, 1979).

²² Jeff Shannon, Amazon.com commentary on *Nosferatu—The Vampire* (the first silent version of Stoker’s work; starring Max Schreck, Ruth Landshoff; director F. W. Murnau; 1929).

²³ See www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00005MEW1/ref=pd_ecc_rvi_f/104-6784914-9416717.

²⁴ *Dracula* (starring Bela Lugosi, Helen Chandler; director Tod Browning; Universal Studios, 1931), and available for a low as 93 cents at Amazon.com. See also the book by Ian Thorne, *Dracula* (Mankato, MN: Crestwood House, 1977; 47p.), which discusses the origins of vampire legends and the portrayal of vampires in films and presents a synopsis of the 1931 classic starring Bela Lugosi.

²⁵ Airing first on 10-28-2007 on Travel Channel, and containing more than the text at the site:

See <http://travel.discovery.com/ideas/haunted-travel/mysterious-journeys/hunt-for-dracula.html>.

²⁶ *Vampyr* (starring Julian West; Image Entertainment, 1931), *The Vampire Bat* (Gotham, 1933), *Mark of the Vampire* (Warner Studios, 1935), *Dracula’s Daughter* (Universal Studios, 1936), *Son of Dracula* (starring Robert Paige and Lon Chaney Jr.; Universal Studios, 1943), *House of Dracula* (starring Lon Chaney Jr., John Carradine; Universal Studios, 1945), *Horror of Dracula* (starring Terence Fisher, Peter Cushing; Warner Studios, 1958), *Brides of Dracula* (starring Terence Fisher; Universal Studios, 1960), *Atom Age Vampire* (Rhino, 1961), *Bloody Vampire* (Front Row, 1963), *Dracula, Prince of Darkness* (Twentieth Century-Fox Film, 1965), *The Fearless Vampire Killers, or Pardon Me but Your Teeth Are in My Neck* (starring Alfie Bass; dir. Roman Polanski; Warner Home Video, 1967), *Dracula Has Risen from the* [Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy]

than a laugh in the endnote, including *The Satanic Rites of Dracula* and *The Night Dracula Saved the World*. They are no laughing matter. *Vampiyaz* is about a Black Vampire with some Jazz tunes. The video cover of *My Best Friend Is a Vampire* shows an adolescent stuffed inside a high school locker. Scooby-Doo is into Vampires too in a 2003 movie.

Francis Ford Coppola's *Bram Stoker's Dracula* won three Academy Awards in 1992. Ironically, that was the same year SBC James L. Holly,

Grave (Warner, 1969), *Taste the Blood of Dracula* (staring Christopher Lee; Warner, 1970), *Vampire Men on a Lost Planet* (director Al Adamson, 1970), *The Vampire Lovers* (MGM/UA, 1970), *Count Yorga Vampire* (MGM, 1970), *Blacula* (staring William Marshall: American International Pictures, 1972), *Lust for a Vampire* (Anchor Bay Entertainment, 1971), *Scars of Dracula* (Anchor Bay Entertainment, 1970), *Taste the Blood of Dracula* (Warner Studios, 1970), *Dracula A.D. 1972* (Warner Studios, 1972), *The Satanic Rites of Dracula* (Anchor Bay Entertainment, 1973), *Female Vampires* (Image, 1973), *Count Dracula and His Vampire Bride* (1973), *Scream Blacula Scream* (also known as *Blacula II*, other titles; staring William Marshall; American International Pictures, 1973), *El Conde Dracula* (staring Christopher Lee, Herbert Lom; Republic Studios, 1973), *Vampire Ecstasy* (1973), *Andy Warhole's Dracula* (staring Udo Kier; Triboro Entertainment, 1974), *Dan Curtis' Vampire* (Mpi Media Group, 1974), *Captain Kronos—Vampire Hunter* (Paramount, 1974), *In Search of Dracula* (Wellspring Media, 1975), *Vampyres* (Blue Underground, 1975), *Love at First Bite* (staring George Hamilton, Susan Saint James; MGM, 1979), *Dracula* (staring Frank Langella, Laurence Oliver; Universal Studios, 1979), *Vampire* (United American, 1979), *Night Dracula Saved the World* (staring Judd Hirsch; Vestron, 1979), *The Hunger* (Warner Studios, 1983), *I Married a Vampire* (staring Rachel Golden, Brendan Hickey; Starmaker, 1985), *Polish Vampire in Burbank* (Simitar, 1985), *My Best Friend Is a Vampire* (staring Robert Sean Leonard, Evan Mirand; Vidmark/Trimark, 1988), *Vampire at Midnight* (Fox, 1988), *Blood Ties* (New Concorde Home Video, 1991), *Vampire Happening* (Vci Home, 1991), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (staring Sarah Michelle Gellar; Twentieth Century Fox, 1992; and the series, at least seven seasons from 1996 to 2002), *To Sleep with a Vampire* (New Concorde, 1992), *Tale of a Vampire* (director Shimako Sato; Vidmark/Trimark, 1992), *My Granpa Is a Vampire* (Republic Studios, 1992), *Innocent Blood* (Warner Studios, 1992), *Vampire Hunter D* (D = dubbed English; Urban Vision, 1993), *Project Vampire* (staring Peter Flynn II, Myron Natwick; Ei Independent Cinema, 1993), *Vampire Kiss* (staring Michelle Owens; Academy Home, 1993), *Embrace of the Vampire* (New Line Studios, 1994), *Vampire Princess Miyu Vol. I* (animated; Animeigo, 1994), *Interview with a Vampire* (Warner Studios, 1994), *Anne Rice—Birth of the Vampire* (Twentieth Century Fox, 1994), *Dracula—Dead and Loving It* (staring Mel Brooks, Leslie Neslson; director Mel Brooks; Castle Rock, 1995), *Vampire in Brooklyn* (staring Eddie Murphy; Angela Bassett; director Wes Craven; Paramount, 1995), *Vampire Vixens from Venus* (Koch Vision, 1995), *Kindred the Embraced—Complete Vampire Collection* (series?, 377 mins.; Lionsgate/Fox, 1996), *Rockabilly Vampire—Burnin' Love* (Troma, 1996), *Caress the Vampire I, II, III* (staring Ruby Honeycat; Ei Independent Cinema, 1997, 98, 99), *New York Vampire* (Ei Independent Cinema, 1997), *Vampire Journals* (Koch Full Moon, 1997), *Beetleborgs—Vampire Files* (Twentieth Century Fox, 1997), *Vampire Wars* (Palm Pictures, 1998), *Die Hard Dracula* (Peter Horak Production, 1998), *Club Vampire* (New Concorde, 1998), *Blade* (staring Wesley Snipes; New Line Home Entertainment, 1998), *John Carpenter's Vampires* (Columbia/Tristar Studios, 1998), *Mr. Vampire* (staring Ricky Lau; Tai Seng, 1998), *Sucker the Vampire* (Troma, 1998), *Vampire Time Travelers* (Tapeworm, 1998), *Modern Vampires* (Lionsgate/Fox, 1999) *Bloodlust—Vampire of Nuremberg* (staring Werner Pochath; Ventura, 1999), *Sucker Vampire* (Troma, 1999), *The Unexplained—The Vampire Myth* (A & E Entertainment, 1999), *Wes Craven Presents—Dracula* (staring Jonny Lee Miller, Justine Waddell; Buena Vista Home Video, 2000), *Hot Vampire Nights* (Ei Independent Cinema, 2000), *Vampire Carmilla* (2000), *The Little Vampire* (staring Jonathan Lipnicki, Richard E. Grant; New Line Home Entertainment, 2000), *Vampire Femmes* (Spectrum Ent, 2000), *Pale Blood* (Columbia Tristar, 2000), *Vampire Junction* (Sub Rosa Studios, 2001), *Blood—the Last Vampire* (staring Yoki Kudo; Palm Pictures/Manga, 2001), *Vampire Blues* (Sub Rosa Studios, 2001), *Vampire Resurrection* (staring James Horan; Shadow, 2001), *Vampire Clan* (Lionsgate/Fox, 2001), *Shadow of the Vampire* (staring John Malkovich, Willem Dafoe, 2001), *Vampire Princess Miyu—Haunting Vol. II* (animated; Tokyo Pop, 2001), *Blade II* (2002), *My Vampire Lover* (staring Misty Mundae; Ventura Distribution, 2002), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (2002), *Great Bloodsucking Vampire Movies* (2002), *Wes Craven Presents Dracula II—Ascension* (Buena Vista Home Video, 2003), *Vampires Anonymous* (Hart Sharp Video, 2003), *Scooby-Doo and the Legend of the Vampire* (Warner, 2003), *Vampire Vixen* (staring Mia Copia; Ventura, 2003), *Vampiyaz* (staring Milak Burke; Lionsgate/Fox, 2004) *Van Helsing* (staring Hugh Jackman; Universal Studios, 2004), *Vampire Sisters* (Brain Damage Films, 2004; one rated this the worst of all), *Ironbound Vampires* (Ei Independent Cinema, 2004), *Vampire Effect* (Columbia Tristar, 2004), *Vampires Vs. Zombies* (appropriately, The Asylum Home Entertainment, 2004), *Countess Dracula's Orgy of Blood* (Image Entertainment, 2004)—from Amazon.com data and more (also a *Samson Vs. the Vampire Woman*, *Vamps II—Blood Sisters*, *Lust of Dracula*, and *Sexy Adventures of Van Helsing*, and about a dozen of the above are dubbed into English).

M.D., was so wired and worried about Freemasonry in the SBC that he offered up the motion to investigate, and that led to the teeny SBC *Closer Look at Freemasonry*. Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* called Coppola's *Bram Stoker's Dracula* "a Gothic extravaganza," which starred Gary Oldman, Winona Ryder, and Anthony Hopkins.²⁷

Talk about seeing danger in all the wrong places, look closely as this Gothic-inspired story unfolds. As you noticed above, there were forty (40) movies made in the 1990s and uncounted books. That does not mean much in itself. But *today* that means a lot. The Gothic subculture was brewing in the 1980s and sprouted like wildfire in the 1990s. What a market!

I found little on a CNN.com news search on October 28, 2004, under Freemasonry, Freemason, Masonry, Mason, Pagan, and Paganism. I did find on November 29, 1996, that John C. Salvi III had committed suicide because Massachusetts would not execute him for the women he shot to death at an abortion clinic in 1994: "The defense argued that Salvi believed the Mafia, Freemasons and Ku Klux Klan were behind an anti-Roman Catholic conspiracy, and that the shootings were part of the battle."²⁸

In *Vampires Anonymous*, with a little group therapy, out-of-control Vampires learn how to temper their blood-sucking ways. We know a couple to send to that group. There is more. Since we are concerned about our children more than adults, how about *The Little Vampire*?

8-year-old Tony, befriender of vampires, and the Scottish setting lends itself nicely to spookiness.... A continent away from his native California, Tony's having a tough time making new friends when a band of vagabond vampires enters his life through his bedroom window. The encounter seems pure coincidence at first, but then the scary truth surfaces: Tony, though he's not a vampire himself, has "sympathy for our kind," as the dad of the bat-linked brood puts it. Visions of vampire happenings from generations past invade the third-grader's consciousness, and they hold the key to the clan's current gypsy-like predicament. Through his clairvoyance and, by extension, the discovery of a long-lost amulet, the mostly benevolent bloodsuckers are able to reclaim their rightful status as proper cave dwellers in their homeland. Clueless-parent predicaments abound and are cleverer than most—Tony's mom and dad smirk at their son's vampire-obsessed imagination until the cape-draped heads of the clan drop by for a visit—and the gang's adventures eluding a bumbling vampire hunter are genuinely

²⁷ Francis Ford Coppola, *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (Columbia Pictures, 1992).

²⁸ CNN.com accessed 10-28-2004.

chuckleworthy. At-home Twizzler munchers ages 8 and older won't soon tire of this charmer of a Transylvanian transplant.²⁹

How many 8-year-olds can identify with being misplaced, having to make new friends in a strange and culturally different land. Then, try having to go through all of that with insensitive parents. In a new land, it is easy to befriend a Pagan when your own parents are hard to talk to.

What has the church done in the last 15 years, 1993-2008? Seems like the leading Christian denominations are busy with every kind of evangelism, discipleship, and mission trip imaginable, to everywhere *but* to the real Pagan sub-cultures here in America.

Given the phenomenal success of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, did you know there was a play on the *passion* of Dracula?³⁰ Talking about what is truly dangerous, take a look at the three children's books on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.³¹ Victor G. Ambrus wrote a comic book version that was larger than SBC expert Bill Gordon's *Closer Look at Freemasonry*.³² I kind of think Dracula could beat up Frankenstein, but ... yes, I know, that is just an *ad hominem* bite—symbolically speaking.

There are four volumes in the Hellsing Vampire hunter series. You can see much more at www.TheHellsing.org and at www.Hellsing.net. Hellsing is the name of the top secret British organization sworn to save King and country. The Vampire hunters in volume one mix and match wits with Catholics, I kid you not, and get a laugh (or cry) out of the following.

Hellsing's top vampire hunter is Alucard, a lanky figure in an oversized hat and a duster that swirls dashingly as he blows bad guys to smithereens with his arsenal of enormous firearms.... Alucard, it turns out, is actually a vampire himself, and just why he's tearing up his own kind is open to question.... In the first story readers meet a young policewoman who joins the undead after becoming an innocent victim in a battle. Police Girl, as she's known.... the heroes nearly meet their match in Father Alexander Anderson, a superhuman priest who works for Section XIII, the Vatican's own vampire division. The bloody battle

²⁹ Tammy La Gorce, Amazon.com review, referring to text on the out-of-print edition; see *The Little Vampire* (starring Jonathan Lipnicki; New Line Home Entert., 2000).

³⁰ *The Passion of Dracula—a Drama in Three Acts Based Upon the Novel by Bram Stoker* (by Bob Hall and David Richmond, rev. and rewritten; NY: S. French, 1979, 94p.).

³¹ *Dracula by Bram Stoker* (adapted Stephanie Spinner; illus. Jim Spence (NY: Random, 1982, 1988, & 2004, 94p.); *Dracula by Bram Stoker* (retold by Tim Wynne-Jones; Toronto: Key Porter Kids, 1997, 48p.), and *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (adapted and illus. Alice & Joel Schick; NY: Delacorte Press, 1980, 48p.).

³² Victor G. Ambrus (who has illustrated 150+ books), *Dracula* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1991, 1989, 1st 1980; 32p.) and *Dracula's Bedtime Storybook—Tales to Keep You Awake at Night* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, 1981).

is accompanied by some rather awkward religious sparring between the Catholic Church and Hellsing, which is sworn to protect, believe it or not, the Protestant Church.³³

How do you like that? A Vampire is fighting *with* Catholics to *save* the Protestant church! That's a kicker.

Hold on, for we are only mid-way through this little tour-de-bite. Beyond the never-ending fair of movies already listed, there is a never-ending supply of books, encyclopedias, cookbooks, and guidebooks.³⁴ *Cookbooks*—Vampire *cookbooks*!³⁵ What do we put into the pot there? A black and white cake, maybe, with what kind of toppings? And those two cookbooks are larger than the SBC *Closer Look*. That is not all. Check out Martin V. Riccardo's *Vampires Unearthed—the Complete Multi-media Vampire and Dracula Bibliography*.³⁶

Talk about your *closer* look—Riccardo's bibliography on vampires was about the same size as David Barton's entire *The Question of Freemasonry and the Founding Fathers* and ten times the size of SBC expert Bill

³³ *Publisher's Weekly* quote from Amazon.com commentary from Reed Business Information.

³⁴ Here's a quickie list from Amazon.com (please excuse me for not searching out the publisher and date of each of these; I placed a few of the more odd up front, like "natural history" and "science" and "casebook"—I mean *casebook?*—goodness), *In Search of Dracula: The History of Dracula and Vampires*, by Radu Florescu, Raymond T. McNally; *The Natural History of the Vampire*, by Anthony Masters; *The Dracula Cookbook—Authentic Recipes from the Homeland of Count Dracula* by Marina Polvay and *The Dracula Cookbook of Blood*, by Ardin C. Price; *Vampire Book—The Encyclopedia of the Undead*, by J. Gordon Melton; *The Vampire Encyclopedia*, by Matthew Bunson; *The Vampire in Lore and Legend (Dover Books on Anthropology and Folklore)*, by Montague Summers; *The Science of Vampires*, by Katherine M. Ramsland; *Vlad III Dracula: The Life and Times of the Historical Dracula*, by Kurt W. Treptow; *The Vampire—A Casebook*, by Alan Dundes; *Dracula—The Connoisseur's Guide*, by Leonard Wolf; *Dracula Was a Woman—In Search of the Blood Countess of Transylvania*, by Raymond T. McNally; *Vampires, Burial, and Death—Folklore and Reality*, by Paul Barber; *Vampire in Europe*, by Montague Summers; *Vampires—Lord Byron to Count Dracula*, by Christopher Frayling; *Vampire—The Complete Guide to the World of the Undead*, by Manuela Dunn-Mascetti; *Vampires—The Occult Truth*, by Konstantinos; *The Complete Book of Vampires*, by Leonard R. N. Ashley; *The Complete Vampire Companion*, by Rosemary Ellen Guiley, et al; *The Vampire Lectures*, by Laurence A. Rickels; *Lust for Blood—The Consuming Story of Vampires*, by Olga G. Hoyt; *Dracula, Prince of Many Faces—His Life and His Times*, by Radu R. Florescu, Raymond McNally; *Vampires and Vampirism—Legends from Around the World (Classics of Preternatural History)*, by Dudley Wright; *Food for the Dead—On the Trail of New England's Vampires*, by Michael E. Bell; *The Vampire Film—From Nosferatu to Interview With the Vampire*, by Alain Silver, James Ursini; *Vampire Gallery—A Who's Who of the Undead*, by J. Gordon Melton; *A Dream of Dracula—in Search of the Living Dead*, by Leonard Wolf; *A Clutch of Vampires—These Being Among the Best from History and Literature*, by Raymond T. McNally; *Vampires—Encounters With the Undead*, by David J. Skal; *A Field Guide to Demons, Fairies, Fallen Angels and Other Subversive Spirits*, by Carol K. Mack, Dinah Mack; *Lord of the Vampires (Diaries of the Family Dracul)*, by Jeanne Kalogridis; *Vampires and Vampirism—Legends from Around the World (Classics of Preternatural History)*, by Dudley Wright; *Lust for Blood—The Consuming Story of Vampires*, by Olga G. Hoyt; *The Quotable Vampire*, by David Proctor; *Were-Wolf and Vampire in Romania*, by H. Senn; *Vampire—The Complete Guide to the World of the Undead*, by Manuela Dunn-Mascetti; *Vampires—Restless Creatures of the Night (Discoveries)*, by Jean Marion; *Complete Vampire Chronicles (Interview with the Vampire, The Vampire Lestat, The Queen of the Damned, The Tale of the Body Thief) a box set*, by Anne Rice; *Dracula (Temporis Collection)*, by Elizabeth Miller.

³⁵ Marina Polvay's *The Dracula Cookbook—Authentic Recipes from the Homeland of Count Dracula* (NY: Gramercy, 2000) and Ardin C. Price's *The Dracula Cookbook of Blood* (1993).

³⁶ Martin V. Riccardo, *Vampires Unearthed—the Complete Multi-media Vampire and Dracula Bibliography* (NY: Garland Pub., 1983; 135p.).

Gordon's *Closer Look* that was based on only two authors—and rather cold blooded.

Well then, talking about your tour-de-bites and vampire cookbooks, you just know at least one cereal maker has to get in on the undead market. Cereal magnate General Mills has a low-nutritious meal for you: Count Chocula. Ironically enough, General Mills is not even what turns up on the top internet search engines for that cereal's title. Instead, a host of independent sites introduce you to all of Count Chocula's cereal friends, like Frankenberry. There is a site that hosts the 297 different images of Count Chocula created by the General Mills cartoonists.³⁷

Remember Sesame Street's The Count? A web site pitches The Count versus Count Chocula in the "War of the Warm Fuzzy Vampires," hosted by HellFire.com. Smile and see their character traits in a tale-of-the-tape qualifications between the Warm Fuzzy Vampires.³⁸ The critics should shudder—even HellFire.com is interested in character. And you guessed it, there is a movie out, called *The Curse of Count Chocula*. BadMovies.com reviewer summed the players thusly,

Simon VanHelsing—Descendent of the great vampire hunter. His proficiency leaves a lot to be desired....

Professor VanBratwurst—In addition to a ridiculous accent, this man has a hatred of Count Chocula. Shot for his troubles....

Zombies—They only gurgle (helpfully, their conversations are subtitled) and are vegetarians (except, they do eat brains)....

Count Chocula—He prefers chocolate over blood. A putz if there ever was.³⁹

What will they think of next? As cheesy as the movie *The Curse of Count Chocula* is, I have to admit in all of this cricketing nonsense that

Professor Van-Brat-wurst

is creative and a better developed *character* than the mind-sapping Frankenstein created by so many critics in their pro*Paganda*.

While we are punning around here, you should know that a bowl of Count Chocula is only 100 calories with only 10 calories of fat, 10% vitamin C, 175mg sodium, 1.2g protein, 14.1g sugar, and only .5g fiber. Count Chocula is low fat, lean, without many nutrients, and gets a D+ on the nutrient scale.⁴⁰ Slightly above the SBC *Closer Look* and Barton's

³⁷ See www.Derok.net/derok/countchocula.html.

³⁸ See www.HellFire.com/versus/thecount_vs_countchocula.html.

³⁹ See www.BadMovies.org/movies/chocula, by Green Pastures Studio, 2001.

⁴⁰ See www.Calorie-Count.com/calories/item/08270.html for true tale of the tape. And do compare calories: see www.GeneralMills.com/corporate/brands/product.aspx?catID=50# for an up-to-date 2005 reading of the nutrition register on the box, which lists 1g fat, 170mg sodium, 13g sugar, and 1g fiber, and apparently more vitamins.

Question of Freemasonry in calories, bite for bite. Count Chocula tastes good, to children, but it is not good for you. We are talking about Vampire incarnations and what is good for the soul, after all—are we not?

Never mind that there was a Hellfire Club in England in the early 1700s, “whose members indulged in scandalous orgies,” having nothing to do with Masonry and everything with Heathen dissipation.⁴¹ Maybe this was not the best place for this amidst General Mills cereals. But the SBC *Closer Look* is so crunchy.

Count Chocula is dated too. For those lonely nights you can get still get a 1975 squeeze toy to help your child sleep at night, to fall asleep hugging a Vampire. Where are the critics when you need one? Look see, here is an advertisement at the internet Toy Museum:

Count Chocula, the chocolate vampire, always tried to seem a very scary monster, but with his bucktoothed grin and friendly eyes, he just couldn't help but be liked! He was the companion of all kids who liked General Mills' Count Chocula cereal during the mid-1970's.

Here, the Count has transformed into a vinyl squeeze toy.⁴²

Squeeze toy! Are we having fun? The General Mills TV commercial features Count Chocula saying, “I *vant* to eat your cereal,” an advertising promo trying to capitalize on a child's passionate character for *not* sharing. Character counts for even General Mills. From 1975 to 2005, that is 30 years and counting, Count Chocula is still taking a bite out of the children's cereal market, and the gothic subculture will insure the Count's success in the 21st century—no thanks to our Christian *experts* mind you. The experts are still *trying* to find Paganism in churches and occulting the character of Freemasons. Think of the country song *looking in all of the wrong places*.

Think we'll see a *Closer Look at Count Chocula* or *at Sesame Street*? Not in your lifetime. Is there anyone concerned about children being affected by Pagan symbols? Some people need a squeeze toy.

To take another bite out of the SBC *Closer Look*, we did more research here on Count Chocula. There are at least five unique references, including the ToyMuseum.com. Now ain't that sweet? Not really nutritious or substantial, but a really sharp point. Get the bite?—where the word *bite* has multiple layers of symbolism here, more layers than most critics' writings.

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the greatest occultist of all?

⁴¹ Jasper Ridley, *The Freemasons—A History of the World's Most Powerful Secret Society* (1999, 2002; 357p.), 38. In a History Channel special airing June 29, 2009, titled *Secrets of the Founding Fathers*, Evelyn Lord documented such in her *The Hell-Fire Clubs—Sex, Satanism and Secret Societies* (New Haven, CT; London: Yale Univ. Press, 2008; 247p.).

⁴² See www.ToyMuseum.com/inside/c5/3249048.html.

Remember the 1960s comedy series *The Munsters*, with Grandfather being the family incarnation of Dracula, only he does more magic than blood-sucking. Grandpa seems more into witchcraft than his *normal* undead nighttime blood-sucking buddies. Who knows, maybe Grandpa went to Vampires Anonymous. The whole Munster family was backward and funny and *loving* in odd ways; more together than many families, with hardly a fight among them. Herman Munster is a better developed Frankenstein than that of most of the critics, and more lively. Herman Munster is more funny, too, and size does matter, with his size 26C shoe, 7.5 foot frame, lantern jaw, and the five-inch-long lightning-bolt beauty mark on his forehead.⁴³

The Munsters were a *good* family of eccentrics whose eccentricities were never truly a source of conflict, and *the* attraction and comedy were their loyalty, concern and respect for each other's differences as normal in the face of an often hostile, misunderstanding and prejudicial world. The Munster family seemed innocent of the local indigenous hostility, even amazed at the world's acceptance of their odd-ball ugly one, who was pretty to the rest of us *normal* folks—ironically written by the same author as *Leave It to Beaver*—when character counted.⁴⁴

The critics could learn from the Munsters and how character counted in even a fictitious family of monsters. Led by an honorable Frankenstein.

Here in the 21st century, we actually have mostly teens dressing up like the Munster family, with white make-up, but some adults too. What do they call it? Gothic dress, is it? It is not so funny, nor funny that Christian denominations were silent on real Paganism from the early 1990s while attacking the fraternity of our Founders.

Should I footnote *The Munsters*? Or are their brood sufficiently familiar? See www.Munsters.com on the internet. Most would agree that *The Munsters* are more readily understood than Paganism in the common vocabulary, by sitcom definition and in metaphorical usage—that is, perhaps exclusively, for those old enough to remember the *The Munsters*.

Yet both *The Munsters* and *Paganism* were not a part of our cultural literacy in 1992 according to E. D. Hirsch's fantastic book, *Cultural Literacy*. Dracula and Frankenstein's monster were, then, a part of our cultural literacy in the same way as Mason and Freemasonry, George Washington, Sam Houston, J. Edgar Hoover, Billy Graham, and *veni, vidi, vici*. Those were more a part of American cultural literacy than Pagan and Paganism and even *The Munsters*, interestingly enough, especially given

⁴³ See www.Munsters.com/herman_munster.php for more.

⁴⁴ See www.TVLand.com/shows/munsters: developed, written, and produced by Joe Connelly and Bob Mosher, both writers for *The Amos & Andy Show* who teamed up to create, write and produce *Leave It to Beaver*. The Munsters debuted on CBS on 9-24-64 and ended on 9-1-66.

that the SBC authors of the 1993 *Original*—and other Christian critics—did not define what they meant by Pagan in Freemasonry.⁴⁵

Confusing, isn't it?

We could cross-reference this popularity with Robert Louis Stevenson's (1850-1894) *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Scribner's, 1886, 138p.), that a History Channel exclusive said was among the most read in the world in the late 19th century. It made Stevenson rich, was cathartic, and was based for the most part upon a real madman and some of Stevenson's own inner struggles. The success of Jekyll and Hyde lingers today; a decade has not passed without some version being published.

We are talking about a *closer* look, are we not? Speaking of Frankenstein's monster ... well, maybe we have used enough metaphors and symbolism to explain the critic's spook-house work. But there is an application. A real electrode shocker. We did more on Frankenberry calories than some critics, if calories count, and they do for some characters.

Who's the bad guy here? The legion of legends in Masonry or the critics who ignore *real* Paganism?

As you have seen, for over 100 years one Gothic bad guy stands out. No other single monster has ever been so popular for so long and who was also inspired by a true madman. A close second is the strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, which in this study is also apropos, as Dracula, Frankenstein, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are all about character studies.⁴⁶ There is no better way, sometimes, to see the best of humanity than to compare it with the worst of humanity.

Dracula has entered our American culture as a strikingly clear icon and even a super-metaphor on the epitome of the Gothic. No other dark metaphor compares or comes close. Dracula as an icon crosses a multitude of fashions in every variation possible, from Sesame Street, breakfast cereal and *The Munsters*, to scary movies, comedies, and bloody horror flicks, to movies with weird sexual atrocities. Dracula has risen from the grave again and again, and there is no end in sight or bite. Dracula has morphed into countless incarnations in the last 100 years, from the ugly half-starved rodent-looking Nosferatu, to cartoon fuzzies, to the suave black-cloaked gentleman caller with the supernatural ability to swoon young women,

⁴⁵ E. D. Hirsch, *Cultural Literacy—What Every American Needs to Know* (1987), see his appendix: What Every American Needs to Know, The List, pp. 152-215. "*Veni, vidi, vici*" means "I came, I saw, I conquered," said by Alexander the Great. And Pagan and Paganism and Vampire are not on this significant book's list, but if it was to be up-dated, might make the list today (perhaps because the SBC was doing nothing in 1987 or 1992 or 1993 or today for that matter on real Paganism—just perhaps).

⁴⁶ Some of his other lesser known works include, *An Inland Voyage and Travels with a Donkey* (NY: American Book, 1911; 128p.) *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* (London: C. K. Paul & co., 1879; 227p.), *A Child's Garden of Verses* (London: Longmans, Green, 1885; 101p.).

sexually, but not quite—he goes for the neck instead of the nightgown. Though there are X-rated versions we bypassed. Dracula is here to stay, and has seen a revival since the early 1990s and steady through the first half of the 21st century.

No, I do not believe there is any causal connection between the 1992-93 SBC vote on Freemasonry and the escalation of real Paganism in the 1990s. Our point is that the SBC and other Christian denominations could have made an impact then if its leaders at been more attuned to real Pagan upsurges in our culture. The resources devoted to the SBC *Closer Look* were minimal, to be sure, and disproportionate the legacies and unworthy of the legends. But if Christian denominations (SBC too) who *are* against Paganism had devoted serious efforts to evangelize the burgeoning Pagan sub-cultures, and educating on the same, what then? Would there have been 40 Dracula films in the 1990s and 29 in the first of the 21st century?

There is more. What about the school play on Dracula written in 1983!⁴⁷ Are schools still using the play? That would be nice to know. Do you think we could squeeze a school play on Moses or Christ after Dracula in the curricula? Seriously, Paganism *is* a religion and Dracula certainly qualifies as Pagan. What's fair is fair.

No one doubts the literary value of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the novel. It is a classic literary work of a phenomenal success. Dracula has been incarnated into countless men, women, children, dogs, cats, and cartoons, and into every cultural setting imaginable. No end in sight. Stoker wrote other works, but none that touched the public conscience like Dracula.⁴⁸ Nor would anyone recognize Stoker as a theologian or even the supporter of a Pagan religion, though I've not read his biography.

The attraction of Stoker's *Dracula* is truly *the* study of human character most of all, dark and detached, manipulative and cunning—blood sucking and predatory—but ever so calm and consistent. Dracula was a character of integrity, certainly, only evil in nature. Part of the phenomenal attraction is that, in opposition, we want to be as strong and consistent for the good as Dracula was for evil. We want to outwit and overcome evil with the Cross, consistently hung around our necks—believing our character and virtue and faith superior—unafraid of the dark, because the Cross *is* our salvation.

⁴⁷ Carey Blyton, *Dracula! or, The Vampire Vanquished: a Victorian Melodrama for Schools Based on Bram Stoker's Book, "Dracula,"* (for narrator, unison voices, piano, opus 87; Kent: Novello, 1983).

⁴⁸ Bram Stoker, *The Jewel of Seven Stars* (1903, 280p.; London, 1966, 254p.), *Lady Athlyne* (1908, 333p.), *The Lair of the White Worm* (1911, 324p.), *The Man* (1905, 362p.), *The Mystery of the Sea* (1902, 454p.), *Personal reminiscences of Henry Irving* (1906; 2v.), *The Snake's Pass* (1890, 234p.), and *The Watter's Mou'* (1895, 178p.)

I doubt that interpretation was a part of the school play on Dracula, though, which would make it—well, you know—a *religious* play then.⁴⁹ Character development is what separates the good from the bad in fiction literature as well in life. The critics should take notice.



2. Dracula Legacy Lives on Today—the Original Prince Vlad III

Did you know that there was a real Prince Vlad III Dracula, also known as Vlad Tepes, meaning “Vlad the Impaler” (1431-1476)?—and this footnote has an R-rating.⁵⁰ If you think that was strange, true though it was, perhaps a look at Romania’s official tourism site will be of interest:

Some say that Transylvania sits on one of earth’s strongest magnetic fields and its people have extra-sensory perceptions. Vampires are believed to hang around crossroads on St. George’s Day, April 23rd, and on the eve of St. Andrew, November 29th. The area is also home to Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, and it’s easy to get caught up in the tale while driving along winding roads through dense, dark, ancient forests and mountain passes.

Count Dracula, a fictional character in the *Dracula* novel, was inspired by one of the best-known figures of the Romanian history — Vlad Dracula, nicknamed Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler) — who was a ruler of Wallachia (1456-1462).

Many “Dracula Tours” are being offered throughout Romania.⁵¹

What a novel idea—trying to get tourism dollars with mysterious Vampire legends and extra-sensory perceptions of Romanians. A real bite out of tourism. I mean, even *Romania* is aware of the Gothic attraction of the Vampire legend, lore, history, and subculture.

Where are the critics? I cannot even see them in the mirror.⁵²

⁴⁹ Carey Blyton, *Dracula! or, The Vampire Vanquished: a Victorian Melodrama for Schools Based on Bram Stoker’s Book, “Dracula,”* (for narrator, unison voices, piano, opus 87; Kent: Novello, 1983).

⁵⁰ See www.Royalty.nu/Europe/Balkan/Dracula.html for a history of Count Dracula, born in 1431, and deposed in 1462, who they say: “Dracula liked to set up a banquet table and dine while he watched people die. His favorite form of execution was impalement.... Nothing was too brutal.... he had killed between 40,000 and 100,000 people, possibly more. He always thought up some excuse for these executions. He killed merchants who cheated their customers.... women who had affairs. Supposedly ... one woman impaled because her husband’s shirt was too short. He didn’t mind impaling children, either.... 20,000 bodies hanging outside his capital city. Of course, the stories about Dracula’s cruelty might have been exaggerated by his enemies.... Despite all this, Dracula’s subjects respected him for fighting the Turks and being a strong ruler. He’s remembered today as a patriotic hero who stood up to Turkey and Hungary.... the last Walachian prince to remain independent from the Ottoman Empire.... He was opposed to the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.”

⁵¹ See www.RomaniaTourism.com/dracula.html, accessed March 8, 2004.

Did you know that “vampire” turned up over 2 million hits on a Google search in 2004? On February 21, 2010, vampire turned up 64+ million hits, Pagan 21.1m, and Dracula 11m. Have no fear, God turned up 457m and Jesus 191m.⁵³ Those are juicy numbers.

I hear the Christmas hymn—*Do you see what I see...?*

Did you know that there is a Gothic match-making dating service? Meet your date for a *bite* of dinner—ooh—now that’s a thought. Are Vampires a myth? Television’s A & E did a special on that very question. Did you know that there is a Vampire network where you can meet your Vampire friends and get connected to over 540 Vampires worldwide? At Vampire.com you can connect with the Vampire vineyard, Vampire energy, and a Vampire store, where the site upon entrance informed us that “Vampires have taken over the night—join them!” in 2005 and in 2008 they showcased a bottle of Merlot among six kinds of Vampire wine.⁵⁴

Truly, the Vampire network is more informed and networked than the critics’ network, which rarely references each other or the precedents. Even the country and city governments of Romania are capitalizing on the undead market. What a hoot.



3. Gothic Subculture Today—No Games Here

An entire Gothic subculture exists today, and Vampire is a significant term of choice to describe the character and lifestyle of a growing portion of the broader Gothic subculture. Listen to this—Vampirefreaks.com is “dedicated to Gothic industrial culture; you will find tons of Gothic pictures of beautiful freaks, industrial music reviews, interviews, Gothic artwork, industrial music dj sets, a popular message board and chat room to meet fellow Gothic/freaky people.”⁵⁵

There is a popular video game called *Vampire—the Masquerade Redemption*, a 3-d role-play game released in May of 2000 by Nihilistic Software. This has resulted in a host of web support and merchandising.⁵⁶

⁵² Just in case, there might be one unaware of this allusion. In movie lore, Dracula cannot be seen in a mirror, no reflection, another part of his spiritual disconnectedness, like his repulsion to the Cross and garlic, and incapacity to be killed except by a stake through the heart.

⁵³ Christianity 68.4m, Islam 108m, SBC 33.5m, Buddha 33.3m, and Mohamed 16.8m.

⁵⁴ Respectively, see www.GothicMatch.com, *The Unexplained—The Vampire Myth* (A & E Entertainment, 1999), <http://Vampires.meetup.com>, www.Vampire.com, and other domains like www.PathwayToDrkness.com, one is routed to Vampire.com automatically. How convenient.

⁵⁵ See www.VampireFreaks.com.

⁵⁶ See www.Nihilistic.com, and based upon White Wolf’s paper game role-playing license. Nihilistic Software has also developed these popular games: Jedi Knight: Dark Forces 2, Dark Forces, Descent, Starcraft, multiple Quake Mission Packs, Requiem—Avenging Angel, Shadows of Empire (N64), Star [Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy]

Yes, Nihilistic Software is the name. But what's in a name? All of this applies to Nihilistic Software, where our children *are* playing role-play Pagan Vampire games—our children—and playing with far more rapt attention than the religious critic gave to their own definitions.

Enough? Hardly. We are not playing role-play games here.

One can subscribe to *Vampire Magazine*.⁵⁷ There is enough of a market to keep a magazine like that alive, while the entire Interfaith Witness Department did not survive, changing names to the SBC Apologetics Department, and does not have enough of a market to keep a newsletter afloat in the largest Protestant denomination on earth. Bloody shame.

What a Pagan tour-de-bite that is.

Take your hats off and place your hand over your heart—in honor and memorial—the Federal Vampire and Zombie Agency (1868-1975, fictitious) is dedicated to the 4,000 brave souls who lost their lives in days gone by to help rid the world of dangerous Vampires and zombies.⁵⁸ It is rated “T” for teen. And hot off the press, wouldn't you know, Mile-High Comics, a subsidiary of DC Comics' Vertigo Press, just released #2 in May 2007 of its five-part series, Bite Club—Vampire Crime Unit, in which is advertised:

Life still sucks as Detective MacAvoy, the Vampire Crime Unit's rookie cop, investigates the murder of a tattoo artist.... the clues point straight to Risa Del Toro. Lieutenant Fortine takes the collar, fulfilling his obsession with the Del Toros and pounding a stake in the heart of Miami's biggest crime family.⁵⁹

Talk about taking a bite out of crime, or crime taking a bite out of us—and the top *crime* family?—sheese, reality does not get more twisted.

How about the popular teen hit series, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, who works practical miracles in the teen world saving the innocent and ignorant adults from Vampires?⁶⁰ You will not believe when the movie came out, 1992, the same year that James L. Holly, M.D., was puffing his Frankenstein concoction upon the SBC, with his cloak occulting character

Wars Episode I titles such as The Phantom Menace, Racer, Pit Droids, Obiwan, Prince of Persia 3D, Escape from Monkey Island, and New Legends. Also see www.PlanetVampire.com.

⁵⁷ See www.Vampire-Magazine.com, now <http://vampiremagazine.com>.

⁵⁸ See www.FVZA.org, admitting no connection to the U.S. government, being entirely fictional.

⁵⁹ Source: www.MileHighComics.com/comicindex/nice/March-2006/Title-BITE-CLUB--VAMPIRE-CRIME-UNIT--2006---2-by-DC--Vertigo-Press.html; written by Howard Chaykin & David Tischman Art by David Hahn Cover by Frank Quitely, available for pre-order on 5-17-07.

⁶⁰ See www.UPN.com/shows/buffy and, of course, www.Buffy.com—you have to smile here! See also *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (starring Sarah Michelle Gellar; Twentieth Century Fox, 1992; and the series, at least seven seasons from 1996 to 2002).

all along the way. Believe this: *Buffy* has been a seven-season teen hit while Holly was asked to leave by his own church.⁶¹

How about that? A teenage girl with the required cute-as-a-button innocence is saving *us*—the innocent and ignorant adults—from Vampires. Buffy has not gotten out of high school and she is saving the world already. What are our SBC experts and other denominations doing to save our teenagers from Vampires? Seems like both Buffy and the Bite Club have the upper hand. At least Buffy and the Bite Club know the threat and the market. Unfortunately, Buffy and the Bite Club are fiction, and the Vampire culture and the limping critics of Freemasonry are the reality. We will need more than Buffy stardom and the critic's tiny references to meet the real threat of one of Paganism's burgeoning denominations in Vampirism.

The SBC should have a *stake* in educating about the dangers of Paganism and Vampirism. Drugs and sex go hand-in-hand in most of the Gothic subculture, along with a fixation on death and the practical—if not practiced—desensitization to the sanctity of life, the trivializing of and flirtation with death, and all with connections with the worst of Paganism.

On this precise issue, in 2004, Daniel R. Heimbach discerned the rise of four counterfeit views of sexual morality—the romantic, playboy, therapeutic, and Pagan; he said, “The influence of pagan sexual morality is exploding through the culture now.”⁶² In that light, Christian denominations have a responsibility, even a *stake* in Vampirism's growth, at least in the meager education resources they could dedicate to Paganism.



4. Vampire Church—Come for a Bite

That is not all. If Dracula had stayed dead in non-fiction and fiction literature, that might have been the end of it. But Paganism has arisen from the grave and become more public in a steady upsurge from the 1980s and 1990s into the 21st century. The Pagan sub-culture is real and has latched onto Dracula as a poster-boy of sorts for one of Paganism's denominations in Vampirism. There are points of connections all across the Pagan landscape, some of which cross into SBC life. Let's look a little closer.

Yes, a Vampire church. Come for a Bite!

Where *you* are the communion.

⁶¹ See www.PreciousHeart.net/fm/Holly.htm for a critique of his work; he was asked to leave his church for his lack of concern over how his position on Freemasonry might divide the church.

⁶² Daniel R. Heimbach, *Crossway's Book Report 2:2* (Fall 2004), 2, about his book, *True Sexual Morality—Recovering Biblical Standards for a Culture in Crisis* (2004; 528p.). Heimbach is Professor of Christian Ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

There is a Vampire church dedicated to being a haven for like-minded people wanting to find others: “The Vampire Church was conceived to do research and provide a place, to learn about Vampirism.” There is a Vampire Bible with these chapter titles: The Calling of the Undead Gods, The Secret Methods of Vampirism, and The Predator of Humans.⁶³ Of course, there is a Satanic Bible, which predated the Vampire Bible. More thought went into the Vampire Church literature than most of the critics did for their studies of the 300+ year-old institution of Freemasonry.

The following is on the other side of the universe from George Washington and a legend of legions. It is another universe entirely. Not surprisingly, the “Vampire Creed” is predatory and Pagan to the bone.

I am a Vampire. I worship my ego and I worship my life, for I am the only God that is. I am proud that I am a predatory animal and I honor my animal instincts.... I acknowledge the fact that survival is the highest law. I acknowledge the Powers of Darkness to be hidden natural laws through which I work my magic.... I realize there is no heaven as there is no hell, and I view death as the destroyer of life. Therefore I will make the most of life here and now. I am a Vampire. Bow down before me.⁶⁴

Those are *gravely* serious. You may think it a joke, and even joke about it, but *someone* wrote that and several are trying to live that.

Clearly, though Freemasonry is not anti-anything or constitutionally set against any religion or even against Vampirism, there is nothing in Masonry that such a Vampire person would find appealing. The Christian Bible as the Great Light would be most offensive. He would have to *lie* to get in, if he was wanting to be a predator there—only get this—it would be harder for him to get into a lodge than a local church. Why? Because Freemasonry investigates every prospect first. If that man got through all of that, then that man was truly living a *secret* Pagan Vampire life.

If a Vampire even *meagerly* followed his own code, he would be only a *meager* predator. But that was of no interest in early 1990s and apparently has not been of interest since then, in spite daunting numbers where Vampire turns up 64+ millions of internet hits, which is six times more than the SBC’s 11+ millions in a Google search. What is the true threat?

⁶³ See www.Vampire-Church.com. You must be 18 years or older to enter the site, they say, but in reality if one arrived there, all one had to do was click a mouse. For the Vampire Bible, see www.VampireTemple.com/vault: “This Authorized book which is required for attaining membership includes the essentials to practice the Vampire religion and is available only through this Temple.” The table of contents reads: The Vampire Creed, The Dragon Speaks, The Calling of the Undead Gods, The Secret Methods of Vampirism, The Predator of Humans, The Book of Dreaming, and The Coming Apocalypse. Cost \$35 hdbk, \$20 soft. See www.VampireBible.com, web for Vampire connections.

⁶⁴ See www.VampireTemple.com/vcreed.html.

Who knows how many SBC children are dancing around to the songs of Sesame Street's Dracula-like The Count? The experts have not done a survey. Vampirism *is* a religion, has a theology, and pushes its own form of character counting that is opposite to everything Freemasonry, Christianity, the SBC, and all of the major religions value.

In a History Channel exclusive *Decoding the Past*, on January 18, 2007, they investigated the Vampire culture, where one Vampire dubbed New York the "Rome of Vampires," with over 50 covens and thousands of followers. The book titled *The Black Veil* details an up-to-date Vampire code of ethics, especially the "Psychic Vampire," nicknamed Psy-Vamps. This code of ethics prohibits the drinking of blood. No blood sucking? Talk about your old school versus the new school. That new vein of Vampire takes psychic energy from his or her host, but, also from the new code of ethics, only with permission. You can only take psychic energy from another *with* permission.

They love the big city, because of the energy and all. But you must respect others' rights to their own psychic energy, and not take without permission. What happens if someone sucks the energy without asking permission? Well ... ah? ... Is that psychic rape?

There is a line of humor there that I had better keep away from.

Michelle A. Belanger's *The Psychic Vampire Codex: a Manual of Magick and Energy Work* will explain the rest. See Robert C. Welch's *Vampire Almanac* (1995) and Norine Dresser's *American Vampires: Fans, Victims & Practitioners* (1989; 255p.). That's right, *practitioners!* Perhaps a commission will be forthcoming. Dresser is an expert of sorts on cross-cultural communication, whose recent work is *Come as You Aren't!: Feeling at Home with Multicultural Celebrations* (2005).

The post 9-11-1 "*can you hear me know?*" has a new twist here.

In this section, we see Vampirism in every aspect of our culture, from movies, music, comics, clubs, cookbooks, sexual forays—especially sex—adaptive codes of ethics, blood-sucking evolutions, "fans" and "practitioners," and now to cross-cultural studies and permission-seeking Psy-Vamps. Hmm? The SBC expert Bill Gordon found Paganism in millions of fellow Baptists! Yes, *proPaganda*.

See Katherine M. Ramsland's *The Science of Vampires* (2002; 276p.) and the circuit is complete—*science* will never be the same.⁶⁵

⁶⁵ Michelle A. Belanger, *The Psychic Vampire Codex—a Manual of Magick and Energy Work* (Boston, MA: Weiser Books, 2004; 284p.); Norine Dresser, *American Vampires—Fans, Victims & Practitioners* (NY: Norton, 1989; Vintage Books, 1990; 255p.); Dresser, comp., *Our Own Stories—Cross-Cultural Communication Practice* (White Plains, NY: Longman, 1993; 160p.), Dresser, *Come as You Aren't!—Feeling at Home with Multicultural Celebrations* (NY: M. Evans and Co., 2005); Dresser, comp., *Our Own Stories—Cross-Cultural Communication Practice* (White Plains, NY: Longman, 1993; 160p.); [Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy]

Perhaps, the next step is Bed'n Breakfasts with coffins made for two.

Dell, a world-wide computer leader, had a million-dollar advertisement series in 2004-05 with two college roommates, one deeply into the Gothic subculture with everything black, from her dress and hair to her bedspread and picture frames—all in black and white. The commercial starts at her amazement over her new roommate who loves everything pink. Real cross-cultural communication challenges there. At the end of the commercial, their only similarity is their Dell laptop. Cute and made a powerful point. Community, cross-cultural communication, mutual understanding through ownership of a Dell laptop. Genius.

Even computer giant Dell was interested in bridging the *cultural* gap! Dell is one of the largest computer companies in the history of the world and is using the Gothic subculture in its million-dollar advertising budgets. There are college kids dressing up like Vampires while they go to *science* class. Some earn a business degree. Perhaps one goes to med-school. I can hear it now, over the hospital intercom system, "Dr. Psy-Vamp, please come to ER." But at least they will not have to worry about the blood supply.

Dell spent a million dollars! Or more.

What did *all* the Christian denominations together spend in the entire decade of the 1990s? There's something to bite into.

Goodness, in the 2003 *Blue Collar Comedy Tour* (movie) starring Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Engvall, Ron White, and Larry the Cable Guy, a small humorous segment has Jeff poking fun at his daughter bringing home a girlfriend dressed up in Gothic: black lipstick, black dyed hair, black fingernails, and—as he said—a face painted with Liquid Paper. It was funny, but serious. Even *Blue Collar* comedians are doing something in their humorous concerns and lampooning with respect to their own children.

There are nightclubs in New York that stay open all night and cater exclusively to the Vampire subculture.⁶⁶

Since the early 1990s to today in 2010, what have we done? I pray this is something. After the bloody trail above, ask yourself where Paganism, Vampirism and the several Gothic subcultures would be today if one major Christian denomination, even the mighty SBC, had focused upon *real* Paganism in the early 1990s, instead of the fraternity on character counting.

We all have a *stake* in Pagan Vampirism today and the burgeoning Gothic subculture. Paganism is not hiding in the bushes anywhere. Nor is

Katherine M. Ramsland, *The Science of Vampires* (NY: Berkley Boulevard Books, 2002; 276p.), and Robert C. Welch, *Vampire Almanac* (Illustrated by Steve Feldman; NY: Random House; 1995; 64p.)

⁶⁶ History Channel, *Decoding the Past* (1-18-2007), where one Vampire dubbed New York the "Rome of Vampires," with over 50 covens, and nighttime havens for costume-clad adherents.

Paganism as dishonorable as it was a hundred years ago. Will the critics define the Paganism *they* are looking for?

Vampirism ... bad enough you think? No, not the worst.



D. Asatrú, Sex, and True Paganism ... Be Afraid

Asatrú is admitted Norse Heathenism, preferring Heathenism over term Paganism; Asatrú means “belief in the gods.”⁶⁷ They have an independent journal called *Vor Trú*, meaning *Our Faith*, devoted to the Old Norse and Germanic religion of Asatrú, “dedicated to the restoration of that Faith as epitomized during the pre-Christian era in Europe.”⁶⁸ They are not all bad, for “the family is one of the pillars ... have always been devoted to their family, clan or extended family, and tribe,” and “courage is one of the more conspicuous Northern virtues.... tribe would not exist without courage.”⁶⁹ Character counts even to Norse Heathens.

Asatrú followers claim that their beginnings are lost in the prehistory of the Northern Europeans dating back some 40,000 years.

The so-called “barbarians” who followed Asatrú ... were the source of our finest civilized traditions—trial by jury, parliaments, Anglo-Saxon common law, and women’s rights.... The very word “law” comes from the Norse language, not from the tongues of Christian lands.⁷⁰

They may have a point there, though undocumented. Yet that hardly relates much on the history of civilization, and that would be better cross-checked with the work already done on legal history.⁷¹

⁶⁷ On www.Asatru.org, the official home of the Ásatrú Alliance, a major Ásatrú organization. The site gives the current time and Runic Era date which on October 21, 2004, was Thor’s Day, Hunting 21, 2254 RE. It appears that either Ásatrú or Asatrú is acceptable.

⁶⁸ Pamphlet, “The Ásatrú Alliance of Independent Kindreds: a Brief Introduction” (Payson, AZ: World Tree Publications, nd.; www.Asatru.org), also in this pamphlet, “Many of the followers of the Norse Gods and Goddesses have banded together in groups which we call kindreds to more effectively share our knowledge and associate with others of like mind and beliefs.” Interestingly, “A vital part of the World Tree’s work with the public is our Prison Outreach program. With an ambitious mission to have Ásatrú recognized in every prison in North America.”

⁶⁹ Pamphlet, “Why Ásatrú” (World Tree Publications; www.Asatru.org).

⁷⁰ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Ásatrú* (2003, 1st 1985; www.Asatru.org), 2.

⁷¹ For starters, see Gleason L. Archer, *History of the Law* (1928; 442p.), Kermit L. Hall, ed., *The Oxford Companion to American Law* (2002; 912p.), Lawrence M. Friedman, *A History of American Law* (1985, 1st 1973; 781p.), and *The American Journal of Legal History* (Vol. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1957 to present), Albert Kocourek and John H. Wigmore, eds., *Primitive and Ancient Legal Institutions* (1993; 704p.), Carl Ludwig von Bar (1836-1913), *A History of Continental Criminal Law* (1968; 1st 1916; 561p.), John W. Cairns and Olivia F. Robinson, *Critical Studies in Ancient Law, Comparative Law and Legal History: Essays in Honour of Alan Watson* (2001; 427p.), David Sugarman, ed., *Law in History—Histories of Law* [*Footnote continued on the next page ... do enjoy*]

In Asatru, there are several deities, “each concerned with a different aspect of the multiverse,” including gods and goddesses, with an admitted tongue-in-cheek saying, “a religion without a Goddess is halfway to atheism.”⁷² They are polytheistic, do not believe in original sin, and therefore do not believe in a need for “salvation,” and they do not claim to be a Universalism. Not all are going to be *saved*, whatever that truly means to them.⁷³ There are three races of deities involved in human life and several gods in each race, including Ostara, goddess of fertility celebrated at the Spring equinox, known as Eostre, for Easter and whose symbols are the hare and egg.⁷⁴ Think about that the next time you host an Easter egg hunt.

Easter is the convergence of three traditions: (tradition 1) the Pagan in the spring vernal equinox festivals (March 21) when nature resurrects after winter, rabbits are notably fecund, and colored eggs represent the returning sun and the northern lights of aurora borealis; (tradition 2) the Hebrew in Exodus 12 where in Egypt the angel of death “passed over,” and hence Passover or the Jewish Pesach is celebrated during Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew calendar; and (tradition 3) the Christian Easter from the 1st century feast of Passover in Jerusalem during which Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead—hence Christians hold Easter sunrise services.⁷⁵

If our Founders’ Freemasonry is Pagan, then by conviction the critic should be impelled to *hop* over to Wal-Mart and boycott the Easter bunny

and Society (1996; 2 vols.), F.J.M. Feldbrugge, *The Law’s Beginnings* (2004), and Martin Ferdinand Morris (1834-1909), *Introduction to the History of the Development of Law* (1982; 1st 1909; 315p.).

⁷² Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatru* (2003, 1st 1985), 3; see also, Pamphlet, “Why Ásatrú” (World Tree Publications, nd.). Runes is a kind of alphabet, with some of the figure resembling our alphabet and others not; in *A Brief Intro to the Runes* (2003), Randolph Milleson says, “The runes are nothing less than the mysteries of the multiverse and the very keys we use in our attempts to approach those mysteries.” Milleson offers a few books on Runes, including Guido Von List’s *The Secret of the Runes*, Edred Thorson’s *Futhark—A Handbook of Rune Magic* and his *Runelore—A Handbook of Estoteric Runology*, Siegfried Adolf Kummer’s *Rune-Magic*, R. I. Page’s *Runes—Reading the Past*, and Sirona Knight’s *Little Giant Encyclopedia of the Runes*.

⁷³ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatru* (2003, 1st 1985), 3.

⁷⁴ See www.ReligiousTolerance.org/asatru.htm, condensed by me: Deities: Aesir - Gods of the tribe or clan, representing Kingship and craft; Vanir - represent the fertility of the earth and forces of nature. Jotnar - giants in constant war with the Aesir; at the battle of Ragnarok, many Gods will die, and the world will end and be reborn. Their Gods: Thor - the Thunderer, who wields Mjolnir, the divine hammer. His chariot across the sky generates thunder, Thursday (Thor’s Day); Odin - the one-eyed God, who gave up one eye to drink from the Fount of Wisdom. He is a magician and wise one; Frey - the God of Yule (born on the Winter Solstice, typically December 21), God of peace and plenty who brings fertility and prosperity. Their Goddesses: Freya - Freyja the Goddess of love, beauty, sexuality, leads Valkyries taking souls of slain soldiers to Valhalla, Odin’s great hall; Frigg - Odin’s wife, whose name is slang for sexual intercourse, the patroness of the household and of married women; Skadi - Goddess of independence, death, hunting, skiing, Scandinavia named after her, English words shadow, skullduggery and shade; Ostara - Goddess of fertility celebrated at Spring equinox, known as Eostre, for Easter and whose symbols are the hare and egg.

⁷⁵ *Encyclopedia Americana* (vol. 9; 1962; 1st 1924), s.v., “Easter,” by P. W. Wilson.

and egg-coloring companies? There is no doubt about the Pagan origin of the term “Easter” and the Easter bunny’s colored eggs.

The reality is that few Christians associate Easter bunnies or colored eggs with their Pagan or Asatrú origins. Kids color eggs for an Easter egg hunt. Should that bother anyone? I have no desire to hunt eggs in the grass. But the kiddos sure love hunting them out. I mean, from all appearances, it seems like they are on the adventure of a lifetime. There is no symbolism or ancient mystery worship. It is just an Easter egg hunt.

Yet, if you follow some cricket’s logic, that’s a Pagan something.

In real Pagan Asatrú, the followers do pray, but not like Christians. If you have had enough, skip the rest of the chapter, because to some it may be R-rated. Just remember what we are doing here. The a few SBC officials have alleged Paganism in official documents to fellow Christian who are also Masons without an eye-wink’s notice of what that means to a legion of legends. Here is how Stephen McNallen of Asatrú says they pray.

We never surrender our will to our Gods and Goddesses or humble ourselves before them, because we see ourselves as kin to our deities, not property of them. We do not beg or plead to our Gods and Goddesses, but we do commune with them.... Actually, living a full and virtuous life is a form of prayer itself.⁷⁶

Asatrú Gods and Goddesses relate to the world as an “unfolding of a natural process, rather than one requiring supernatural intervention.”⁷⁷ Their gods are subject to those natural processes! They do not worship trees or man-made objects, though they use items as reminders of a God or Goddess, and “we believe they can be ‘charged’ with a certain aspect of the divine energy,” yet, “we would never confuse such items with an actual deity.”⁷⁸

How many Freemasons does that describe to you?

Believe it, character counts with Asatrú, only how the virtues are developed have a different focus. They hold these virtues in high regard:

Strength is better than Weakness	Freedom is better than Slavery
Courage is better than Cowardice	Kinship is better than Dogmatism
Joy is better than Guilt	Vigor is better than Lifeless
Honor is better than Dishonor	Ancestry better than Universalism ⁷⁹

They do not believe the world is divided into a dualism between good and evil. Rather, the world is divided into “what is beneficial and what is perhaps better avoided,” and with no holy book their sources are “sacred

⁷⁶ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatrú* (2003, 1st 1985), 4.

⁷⁷ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatrú* (2003, 1st 1985), 8.

⁷⁸ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatrú* (2003, 1st 1985), 5.

⁷⁹ Condensed from World Tree Publications flyer, author unknown.

lore in the form of myths and examples of conduct” with “holy wisdom inside us.”⁸⁰ Do the critics look? This *is* Paganism. The ethical standard is within the person, and sex is freer, nearly uninhibited. The following would shock many, but it is Paganism by an adherent. Þórsteinn Thórarsson said,

Our race has traditions ... of total sexual celebration.... Goddess figurines are typically bare-breasted, and ... the Irish Sheila-na-Gig, which is mostly vagina! We can cast off the Christian church chains only when we regain our sexuality. Until we are sexually whole, the enemy will continue to control us.... At blótar honoring the Vanir Gods either Freyr and Freyja sexual rites most certainly took place. Orgies were the order of the day. Phallic worship was widespread.... After the sacrifice and feasting couples paired off, and at Yuletide many a soul delighted in playing ‘Freyr’s Game’ (sexual intercourse).⁸¹

That is Pagan Heathenism, and part of some material requested by a prisoner in Texas. Pagans are not hiding; they are spreading—dare I say—like rabbits. If you believe the critics, then Paganism has some of the grandest men of all time, many Christian leaders too, all who kept their Paganism a secret while they changed the world. What pro*Paganda*!

Still ... that is not the worst.



E. Satanism and Anti-Mason Craftsmanship

Satanism—goodness, do you even want to know? How the critics like Blanchard and Holly and a few others—and some internet blather—credit Satanism to the finest men is, well, I am almost at a loss for words. What can one say? The favorite tactic of alleging Pagan or Satanic for any past use of a symbol is about as deep as a mud puddle.

That kind of rationalizing is present in Yisrayl Hawkins’ bizarre book, *Devil Worship* (1992; 609p.), when he uses the definitions of *obelisk* from the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* and *Collier’s Encyclopedia* to start off his section on “the sun-phallic symbol erected at every temple of sex.”⁸² From there he makes a direct connection from every heathen obelisk to every cathedral and church steeple, even St. Peters Church in Rome and

⁸⁰ Stephen McNallen, *What Is Asatú* (2003, 1st 1985), 5 & 7, “real source of holy wisdom is inside us, passed down to us from our ancestors as instinct, emotion, and innate predispositions ... living spiritual guidance is better than any dusty, dogmatic, so-called ‘holy book’ ... [and so] our Gods and Goddesses don’t seem to spend much time writing books.”

⁸¹ Þórsteinn Thórarsson, “Sexuality and Ásatú,” *Vor Trú—A Journal of Asatú* (Sumar 2237 [in Runic Era, 1987 in ours], Number 23; Payson, AZ: World Tree Publications), 6, quoting Stephen McNallen (number 38, winger 1981, issue of *The Runestone* p. 17) with last paragraph by Thórarsson.

⁸² Yisrayl Hawkins, *Devil Worship—The Shocking Facts!* (1992; 609p), 194-200.

in the churches across America, with pictures.⁸³ Hawkins sees the Devil and sex everywhere. Hard to imagine anyone spending this much time on the devil, and his loony attributions to the Christian holidays tire the soul.

The Pagan origins of Easter and Christmas are seen in our best Christian scholars.⁸⁴ Yet Hawkins smashes every aspect of the church, Protestant and Catholic, alleging roots in Satanism; Hawkins did a better job in connecting the church with Satan than Blanchard, Gordon, Holly, and Barton did in connecting Freemasonry with Paganism. Their rationalizing is eerily similar. Character did not count for Hawkins either.

Ironically enough, in 2007 he stands accused of bigamy, facing 100 years in prison, and Nancy Grace got an exclusive interview.⁸⁵ In her characteristic fashion, she helped him expose himself to her audience. His 2.2 million dollars in property was acquired over time as rent property, and he would not reveal how he spent the congregation's money. He *prophesied* that a nuclear war would begin on September 12, 2006, on YouTube.com.⁸⁶ He did tell Nancy Grace that he believed—hold onto your seat—Global Warming was caused by STDs: he said it twice, on CNN, sexually transmitted diseases caused Global Warming! Scientists had proved it, but he fumbled when Nancy Grace asked, “What scientists?”

Hawkins is the one with the STD ... of the mind. He's not alone.

Moreover and truly spooky, Hawkins' views are more similar to the critics than they are to anything Freemasonry has published. And many Christians know this, like the famous Watchman Expositor, who compared Hawkins to David Koresh.⁸⁷ Hawkins and Koresh use religion for sex, and call the rest of us persecutors. That is the worst STD.

On the 5-pointed stars, the First Church of Satan web site says the “Left Hand Path” or up-side down version represents the vulva and the “Right Hand Path” or right-side up represents the penis.⁸⁸ The “Satanist does not

⁸³ Yisrayl Hawkins, *Devil Worship—The Shocking Facts!* (1992; 609p), 199, “These Church Steeples and Towers are just MODIFIED FORM of the “Obelisk and Asherah”—SYMBOLS of Male and Female Sex Members: PHALLIC SYMBOLS, which are actually the unspoken SYMBOLS of Sex Worship which is actually being taught in the building so ‘decorated.’” All-caps his—nearly every paragraph has several words or phrases in all-caps, underlined, and extra quoting.

⁸⁴ *Zondervan Pictorial Bible, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Encyclopedic Dictionary of Religion, Collier's Encyclopedia, Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore, and Symbols*, and more .

⁸⁵ Nancy Grace, airing 5-20-8, CNN, channel 202 (Texas). Daralyn Schoenewald, “Sect leader appears on national TV: House of Yahweh's Yisrayl Hawkins fields questions from talk-show personality Nancy Grace,” Abilene Reporter News (5-20-8); see <http://reporternews.com/news/2008/may/20/sect-leader-appears-on-national-tv>.

⁸⁶ See www.YisraylHawkins.com.

⁸⁷ See www.Watchman.org/cults/koresh-hawkinscompare.htm. They did not slam Freemasonry, even though they too missed the legions of legends. Surely, it speaks well of them that they did *not* follow the shallow Frankenstein concoctions. See www.Watchman.org/cat95.htm#Freemasonry.

⁸⁸ From <http://fcos.us/>, accessed on 11-20-04.

respect one symbol above the other.”⁸⁹ On the First Church of Satan mission statement, there is a debt to and quote from Aleister Crowley:

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.⁹⁰

That is opposed to Christian and Masonry principles.

As you would expect, there is some discord in the Church of Satan, as the First Church of Satan above is apparently a splinter group from the original. Anton Szandor LaVey (1930-97) started the Church of Satan on April 30, 1966, and published in his *The Satanic Bible* shortly after.⁹¹ Their “Nine Satanic Statements” reveal a nearly asocial stance against all religions, clearly “nine” chosen to spite the “Ten” Commandments.⁹² Throughout he derides all morality *except* indulgence. There are 77 “Infernal Names,” including Dracula, Balaam, Behemoth, Coyote, Mammon, Pan, Pluto, Shiva, and some claimed as gods of hell for the Aztecs and Chinese.⁹³ He sees Satan in a lot of places, not surprisingly, and it is hard to conceive of a philosophy more *against* honor—clearly *against* self-sacrifice. At the welcome on the Church of Satan site, Magistra Blanche Barton said:

One of the primary points of Dr. LaVey’s diabolical philosophy is that it’s our role to be practitioners of the unexpected. We challenge, we rage and outrage. We unsettle people. As a Satanist, it’s your responsibility to toy with people’s expectations of you.⁹⁴

Diabolical in word and deed. This is Paganism’s darkest side, and they are proud of it. Character counts, believe it, for the Satanist is a *good* Satanic character when he “unsettles people” and when he “toys” with expectations.

⁸⁹ See <http://fcos.us/>, quoted on 11-20-04; on the mission of the First Church of Satan, the priest notes the philosophy of Aleister Crowley (Edward Alexander Crowley; 1875-1947).

⁹⁰ See <http://fcos.us/>, quoted on 11-20-04, from the mission of the First Church of Satan, where the priest notes the philosophy of Aleister Crowley (Edward Alexander Crowley; 1875-1947).

⁹¹ Anton Szandor LaVey, *The Satanic Bible* (Intro Burton H. Wolfe; NY: Avon Books, 1969; 272p.). Composed of four “books”: (1) Fire, Book of Satan, The Infernal Diatribe; (2) Air, Book of Lucifer, The Enlightenment; (3) Earth, Book of Belial, The Mastery of the Earth; and (4) Water, Book of Leviathan, The Raging Sea.

⁹² *Ibid.*, 25, 1. Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence; 2. Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams; 3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit; 4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates; 5. Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek; 6. Satanism represents responsibility to the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires; 7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours....; 8. Satan represents all the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, and emotional gratification; 9. Satan has been the best friend the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all these years.” See www.ChurchOfSatan.com/home.html, quoted on 11-20-04, “We Satanists are our own Gods.”

⁹³ *Ibid.*, 58-60, but he does not reference anyone.

⁹⁴ See www.ChurchOfSatan.com/home.html, history of Baphomet, adoption by Satanists.

That is the epitome of the anti-social, truly anti-fraternal, and that by conscious willful design and not merely the psycho-pathetic accident.

Who *unsettles* people by religious design? The conspiracy theorists and critics line up to capitalize on the unpopularity of the Satanic. Some spend more time with Satan than with Freemasons.

On a significant conspiracy web site, you can see a quote from Anton Szandor LaVey's Satanic Bible that claims that Satanism is an amalgamation of everything, with LaVey saying that all occultism has Masonic roots, quoting LaVey's *The Satanic Rituals* indicating it as a blend of Gnostic, Cabbalistic, Hermetic, and Masonic elements.⁹⁵

According to LaVey, Satanic Freemasonry has been controlling the world, even to the extent of the Satanic founding of the USA. These blame everything upon Masons. Ironic—the critics find LaVey authoritative, of all people, the originator of the Satan cult admittedly bent on *toying* with people. They find the man dedicated to *toying* with people's expectations as authoritative. They believe Satanist Anton LaVey over George Washington and George W. Truett and a legion of legends! That's clear and should be enough to send Frankenstein back to the graveyard.

The cosmic polar differences between Freemasonry and Paganism are two different worlds separated by galaxies, connected only by the imagination of the critics with teeny tiny references.



F. Lessons from a Big Yellow Bird

Closing this tour-de-bite, know that the critics mean business, and some are taking in a lot of business. Sesame Street's Big Bird is a big yellow bird, "Bird" to his friends, who is prone to misunderstandings. Bird lives in a nest behind house at 123 Sesame Street and has a teddy bear named Radar.⁹⁶ Kids get help with their letters at his web site.⁹⁷ Carroll Spinney played the "Bird" since 1969, and his book is aptly named, *Wisdom of Big Bird—Lessons from a Life in Feathers* with chapters like "Find Compassion" and "Eat Your Veggies." He also played Oscar the Crouch.⁹⁸

So while we are having fun here—in all seriousness—please note that the *Wisdom of Big Bird* is ten times larger than the SBC expert Bill Gordon's *Closer Look* and about 30 pages longer than David Barton's *The*

⁹⁵ See www.ConspiracyArchive.com/NWO/Freemasonry.htm (seen 11-25-04 & 2-23-10).

⁹⁶ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bird.

⁹⁷ See www.SesameWorkshop.org/sesamestreet/?scrollerId=bigbird.

⁹⁸ Caroll Spinney with J. Milligan, *The Wisdom of Big Bird—Lessons from a Life in Feathers* (and the dark genius of Oscar the Grouch) (NY: Villard, 2003; 156p.).

Question of Freemasonry and the Founding Fathers, only Barton has more pictures than does Spinney in his *Wisdom of Big Bird*.

Are you catching the symbolism here?

Please, stop laughing, for the critics are dead serious, or should I say *undead* serious. Anyway—at the *Tiny Dancer* web site you can read the lyrics of the famous songs. Big Bird has some classics.⁹⁹ One Big Bird classic song is “Everyone Makes Mistakes.”¹⁰⁰ Now that is comforting for children, and adults too. The point is that there was no *mistake* in the critics’ concoctions. No *mistake* in refusing to ask a single Freemason.

You see, even Big Bird knows the difference between a *mistake* and *calculated malignance*. Even adults know that Sesame Street and Big Bird are more about teaching good character than about subversion.

Character counts for even Big Bird!

Even a big *yellow* bird!



⁹⁹ See www.SesamePlace.com is the theme park site, www.SesameWorkshop.org the educational site to complement, and 500 songs at http://members.tripod.com/Tiny_Dancer.

¹⁰⁰ See http://members.tripod.com/Tiny_Dancer/mistakes.html, written by Jeff Moss, “I’ve a special secret children ought to know; It’s about the little mistakes you make as you begin to grow. If you make a mistake, you shouldn’t start to cry. Mistakes are not so bad, and here is why: Oh everyone makes mistakes. Oh, yes they do. Your sister and your brother and your dad and mother too; Big people, small people, matter of fact, all people! Everyone makes mistakes, so why can’t you?”

Other Books by Author



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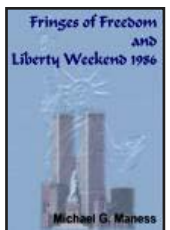
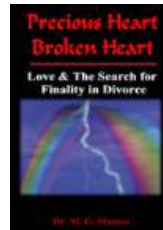
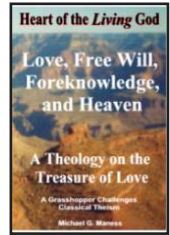
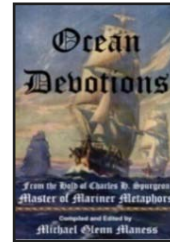
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