

## The Real Lucifer

Lynn Picknett is without doubt the most media-feted member of TEMS, quite apart from being its most published author. The writer and co-writer (with Clive Prince) of a number of texts extensively drawn upon by the phenomenally successful novelist Dan Brown (she and Clive have cameo roles in the forthcoming film *The Da Vinci Code*) demonstrated her continuing loyalty to our humble group in the face of popular demand by addressing members at the summer garden party hosted by Lionel and Joy in Hampton in June.

Lynn's title was 'The Real Lucifer' and if those members who'd expected to hear all about fallen angels didn't get quite what they'd had in mind, they certainly weren't complaining, for this presentation was up to Lynn's usual standard – punchy, passionate and provocative.

What she *was* going to offer us, Lynn told us, was something of a sociological analysis of what happens when one section of society becomes demonised. She apologised in advance for the fact that what would prove to be a somewhat gory story came so soon after our excellent lunch, noting that someone who had heard her talking on the same topic at a meeting of the Saunier Society in Scotland had referred to it as a "horrible talk". Perhaps Lynn spared us the most gruesome details, but it was plenty gory enough for me!

Ever since Adam and Eve, it seems, women have had a pretty awful time. By offering Adam the forbidden apple, Eve got a reputation for herself (and for women in general) as evil; from that moment on God would add to her pain in childbirth and she must consent to being ruled by her husband. The witch-trials which went on for 300 years in Europe, including the arrest, torture and brutal killing of at least 100,000 women, were a horrific demonstration of the way in which the Church has demonised women and may help to explain how the name *Lucifer* (which actually means 'bringer of light') came to be identified with the devil.

The hidden truth about Mary Magdalene has long held fascination for Lynn and is the focus of her book *Mary Magdalene: Christianity's Hidden Goddess*. The church's attempt to conceal this truth, Lynn suggests, lies at the heart of the witch-hunt phenomenon. Much of the repressive evil of the past two millennia, she thinks, comes from the church's desperation to "rewrite Mary Magdalene". The recently-discovered Gnostic Gospels suggest that, far from being the penitent prostitute the church would have us believe, Mary was in fact Jesus's rightful successor. Feisty, intelligent and independent, Mary was closer to Jesus than any of the male disciples and, perhaps not surprisingly, hated by Peter. In the Gnostic Gospels we find Mary telling Jesus that she is afraid of Peter "for he hates me and all the race of women". Lynn finds this "very interesting considering that he went on to set up the Catholic Church!" To make quite sure that Mary's power was well and truly repressed, any of the gospels referring to her in a positive light were banned and she was re-fashioned by the church as a repentant prostitute mercifully forgiven by Jesus.

Like many of the ancient goddesses, Mary had been given the name *Lucifera* by her followers, so with her re-invention by the church as a fallen woman, it's perhaps not surprising that the poorly educated men of the church came to equate the name *Lucifer* with the devil.

Despite the church's efforts to demonise her, Mary Magdalene (or Mary *Lucifera*) continued to have her devotees, especially in the South of France. And it was here that one of the most astounding and horrific episodes of human history began. What happened here was not, said Lynn, so much an example of man's inhumanity to man as of man's inhumanity to women; it was a demonisation of women that began in the heartland of the Magdalene cult. With the beginning of the witch-trials (which would spread from France to Austria, Germany, and finally to Britain) there began 300 years of gender-specific brutal arrest, torture and savage killing all in the name of the Catholic Church.

It didn't take much to be labelled a witch. All that was necessary was to be a woman and to be the recipient of another person's wrath or forced 'confession'. You could be named as a witch just because the milk had gone off, the crops had failed or another woman had died in childbirth. One poor creature was convicted and blamed because she had had an argument with a drunk at a tavern and (surprise, surprise!) he'd been up all night vomiting. Another woman seen (presumably by someone looking through her window at night) taking off her stockings was landed with the blame for her neighbour's lameness. If you happened to have red hair and freckles, you were especially likely to be labelled a witch since those brown spots upon your skin were obvious marks of the devil.

Once arrested as a witch, you could look forward to sharing a filthy cell with rats (not to speak of other unwashed women), to the most horrific torture and, once you had had your 'confession' tortured out of you, to death by burning or (as was generally the case in Britain) hanging. Even the most devout and innocent of souls would be so broken and reduced by torture that they would say anything to bring their pain to an end, including citing their closest friends as witches. One such woman arrested in Germany in 1637 for witchcraft reacted by laughing heartily and saying she would rather die than admit to such nonsense – she'd lived a decent life with her husband and eight children these 20 years and

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she wasn't about to confess to something she'd never have dreamt of doing. Three weeks later, Lynn told us, this woman died under torture having confessed to being a devil worshipper who had killed one of her children at his bidding and having named at least 45 of her neighbours as Satanists. And from there, the Inquisition rolled on and on with whole communities being decimated (including the *very* occasional man).

Those from whom 'confessions' were forced had not only their physical well-being to worry about. One woman who managed to smuggle a letter to her husband after being tortured five times was so concerned about the state of her soul, now she was under such pressure to deliver to her inquisitors the lies they wanted to hear, that she begged him to send her something to end it all.

Some of the worst excesses of hellish punishments, says Lynn, were invented by patriarchal societies for the terrorisation of women. Ah, you might say, life was cheap in those days. People weren't well-educated; they were all superstitious. That sort of thing couldn't *possibly* happen today! Think again, says Lynn. Think back to what happened in the mid 20th century, in one of the most sophisticated countries in Europe. And it's still going on, that demonisation, between Protestants and Catholics, Israelis and Palestinians - the 'us and them' phenomenon is alive and well in the 21st century. And if you think women have long since been free from those old ideas about pain and suffering, how about the New England minister who, in the 1960s, railed against giving women chloroform in childbirth, seeing such an action as depriving God of the pleasure of hearing women's screams?

Rather than doing nasty things, suggests Lynn, maybe the 'real' Satanists should consider trying to be *nicer* than God. After all, if it really was his will that all those thousands of women should be so horrifically treated, it wouldn't be so hard, would it? If you want a role model, suggests Lynn, don't go for Satan - go for Lucifer, the angel of light and the spirit of progress and challenge. She invites us to look forward to an enlightened, progressive time and to say "to hell with Satan" but "long live Lucifer!"

Our thanks go to Lynn for a horrifyingly excellent talk. Her latest book *The Secret History of Lucifer: The Ancient Path to Knowledge and the Real Da Vinci Code* was published in July 2005 by Carroll and Graf (£12.80 Hardcover).

**Ann Hopkins**

### Magnets and Their Use.

**Magnets and Their Use.** First, this article has a large number of website links due to the diversity of the subject and for those with a further interest it is obviously simpler to include them rather than fill the entirety of this issue. Magnets are often proffered as part of weird and wonderful solutions to various ailments and are often somewhat ridiculed by the mainstream. However, magnets are in fact being used increasingly as part of the solution within conventional medicine. They are for instance being used to assist the healing of broken bones and more interesting, perhaps, studies (<http://www.harvardmagazine.com/on-line/050447.html>) are showing that some patients suffering from, say, bipolar conditions are emerging from MRI scanners with improved moods, this improvement will last from between a few hours to a number of days. Other institutions have also been conducting experiments in order to adjust moods with more focussed methods, the studies report successful responses for those suffering severe clinical depression, epileptic seizure and jet lag. In addition, these methods are being seen as a preferable alternative to ECT. More on these results at [http://www.erowid.org/spirit/devices/devices\\_article1.shtml](http://www.erowid.org/spirit/devices/devices_article1.shtml).

**The Conscious Electronic Field Theory.** The linking to consciousness is not left out and there is some work being done at some academic institutions in this direction. The proposition presented at <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/qe/cemi.htm> is that electromagnetic fields provide the glue between the individual activities taking place in the brain: "em fields are waves that tend to cancel out when the peaks and troughs from many unsynchronised waves combine. But if neurones fire together, then the peaks and troughs of their em fields will reinforce each other to generate a large disturbance to the overall em field" resulting in, say, separating out some significant occurrence from all the multiple activities generally taking place in our thinking.

For a little bit of conspiracy take a look at this site <http://www.cheniere.org/priore/index.html> which outlines what looks to have been some very successful use of magnet-based treatments of cancer. Such research in spite of serious support did not make it into the mainstream although later many other sites with somewhat established academic positions have started researching again these same areas.

**My thesis.** That while some representing so-called established thinking are rejecting magnetism and all its works the multifarious application of magnets is creeping up on them from the other direction. For magnet central for this arena go to <http://www.amasci.com/freenrg/magh2o.html>. This site includes simple experiments demonstrating unexplained 'magnetic' effects in water plus many other related sites.

**Mick.**