# How can a Black Magician be known?



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#### Should he be treated as a part of the Universal Brotherhood?

From *The Theosophical Forum*, Question 11. Republished in: Dara Eklund (*Comp.*). *Echoes of the Orient: The Writings of William Quan Judge*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Pasadena: Theosophical University Press: Vol. II, 2009; *pp*. 256-58.

This question comes from America. It is premature, and very much in the nature of "crossing a bridge before you reach it." It also seems to indicate either a loose use of the term "Black Magician" or a total ignorance of what such a being is, as well as a forgetfulness of what has often been stated — that a Black Magician is the efflorescence of an age.

Such a being as this is one who has acquired knowledge of recondite laws of nature such as those known to the White Adepts, and who uses that knowledge for purely selfish purposes. He is the triumph of selfishness, not in that degree which we so easily recognize about us every day in the lives of men of strong will used for selfish ends, but in a degree and to an extent that raise the Black Adept to a pinnacle of knowledge and power far above the pigmies of this century. He can perform marvels, read thoughts, and do all the wonderful feats usually attributed alone to White Magicians.

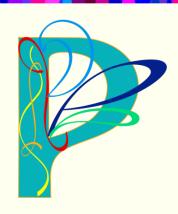
How many of such, then, are there to be found now, either among those who study occultism, or in the ranks of the money-loving or fame-pursuing multitude? I have never heard of one. Why, then, need to enquire how one should treat a Black Magician? If the questioner shall ever be so unfortunate as to meet one of those as yet fabled monsters, he will quite likely have opportunity to reflect that the magician knew more than he did.

It is wiser to turn aside from the aspect of the matter brought up by the question, to the reflection that we all have within us potential black magicians lying in the lower and stronger part of our nature, and that it is important to see that we shall not furnish the opportunity for that potentiality to manifest itself in future lives through the giving way now to selfishness in any of its forms. The Black Magician, therefore, we are really concerned with is in ourselves. This talk of meeting or dealing with Black Magicians in the flesh, with powers developed, is purest nonsense.

But it will probably be said, "If there are White Adepts now working in the world, why are there not black ones as well?" The answer is easy. It is this. Although the full-fledged White and Black Adepts are both the efflorescence of an age, there is a great difference between them. There is as great disparity between them as between day and night, for those who follow the White Law represent spirit, unity, love, while the

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others represent nothing but self and disruption. Hence, although the Black Magician — in those days when they shall be abroad on the earth — may prolong his life for an enormous period, he is surely silently attacked by nature herself, and at last, when the great day of dissolution, the end of a period of manifestation, arrives, all those black ones left will be swallowed up and annihilated. But at that day all the White Adepts, those called by the Hindus "Jīvanmukta," although absorbed into Brahma are still in possession of consciousness, and will come out at the new day just as powerful as when the night came on. Hence, as the day of Brahmā is divided into the four Ages - of which Kali-Yuga is the last, the White Adepts alone are known or in existence in the ages preceding Kali-Yuga, and in that age the Karma fitted to bring forth Black Adepts begins to act, and the seeds sown long ago sprout up more and more as the years of Kali-Yuga roll on. Now as that dark age has 432,000 years, and only 5,000 of those have passed by, there has not yet been time to evolve the real Black Magician. But this civilization pre-eminently shows the seeds are sprouting, and nowhere with greater power than in America. Here the national characteristic is individualism, and that existing as a tendency of the nature will differentiate some day into individualism concentrated into some few men. Imagine this concentration as occurring in a future century when wonderful advances will have been made in knowledge of great forces of nature, and you can easily see without any need of prescience the future Black Magician.



### Suggested reading for students.



#### On Black versus White Magic.

- "A Strange Story by Bulwer-Lytton"
- "Akhund Abdul Ghaffur of Swat"
- "Ancient Magic in Modern Science"
- "Animated statues, trophies of the Black Art"
- "Auras of mediums and adepts"
- "Between Black and White Magic there is but a cobweb thread"
- "Black Magic is in full sway amidst mankind"
- "Black versus White Magic, the two Opposing Powers"
- "Blavatsky on the author of Phallicism"
- "Blavatsky on the malignant fever of unsound scepticism"
- "Buddhism, Christianity, and Phallicism"
- "Buddhist Feminism in Ceylon"
- "Capital punishment is a relic of Jewish barbarity"
- "Christian Lectures on Buddhism"
- "Christianity has retarded the Woman's progress"
- "Confessions of Cyprianus, the Penitent Sorcerer of Antioch"
- "Does your mind elate with self-adoration"
- "Egyptian Magic, good and bad"
- "Evil is an illusion caused by the Circle of Necessity"
- "Evil is the infernal end of the polarity of spirit-matter"
- "Exact Science versus Archaic Philosophy"
- "Frightening crying children into silence"
- "Hugo's La Fin de Satan (1911)"
- "Hylo-Idealism is a fig leaf for Crass Materialism"
- "Insights to the high idealism and quaint wit of Eliphas Levi"
- "Insights to the Occult Arts"

## BLACK VERSUS WHITE MAGIC SERIES SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- "Instead of Black and White Magic, read selfish and unselfish motive"
- "Magic is the Occult Knowledge of Natural Law"
- "Mediumship and Adeptship are poles apart"
- "No one has the right to control the mind of another"
- "Occultism and Kabbalah are only masks to hide the sacred truth from the profane"
- "On Astral Intoxication"
- "On malevolent bewitchments and venomous magic"
- "Ormuzd and Ahriman are ever opposing powers, yet inseparable and interdependent"
- "Papal dispensation for murder and mayhem"
- "Phallicism and Phallic Worship"
- "Presentiments of what lies in the bosom of future"
- · "Psychological and conjuring tricks"
- "Reflections of an ardent apostle"
- "Religious conversion means absolute perversion"
- "Selfishness is the cause of all sin and suffering"
- "Selfishness is the hallmark of fakirs, hermits, and yogins"
- "Sin by cruel acquiescence in an unworthy fashion"
- "Soul-destroying sophistry is fake wisdom"
- "Spirit and Matter are dual aspects of One Cause"
- "Spiritual progress is not aided by watching the Astral Light"
- "Teraphim are the elemental spirits of ancient divination"
- "The Arabian Nights are echoes from of Lemuria and Atlantis"
- "The Astral Light reflects images of every thought and action"
- "The Ensouled Violin"
- "The Idyll of the White Lotus"
- "The Origin of Good and Evil"
- "The Original Sin is a Jewish Invention"
- "The Pernicious Sophistry of Hypocrisy"
- "The Pitfalls of Occult Arts and Metaphysical Healing"
- "The power of the magician is inversely related to his worldly interests"
- "The process of precipitating handwritten letters explained"
- "The Silent Brother"

# BLACK VERSUS WHITE MAGIC SERIES SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- "The spiritual blindness of anthropomorphism"
- "The Theosophical Society's position on hypnotism"
- "Theological anthropomorphism is the parent of materialism"
- "Theological malice is the root cause of Satanic Magic"
- "Trained imagination can produce occult phenomena"
- "True magic is the Gnosis of Pythagoras"
- "Warning to phenomena seekers"
- "When theological ethics speak no longer in man"
- "Why women should avoid the Church like a plague"
- "Yoga is a wolf in sheep's clothing"

