

17th July, 1958.

Dear Dafo,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the latest edition of "Light", a well-known quarterly which was almost defunct and has now been revived by Mr. Francis Clive-Ross of Aquarian Press. You will see that it contains an article by Charles and Mary Cardell, called "The Craft of the Wiccens", and also a full-page advertisement inviting genuine members of that Craft to get in touch with the advertiser, Charles Cardell.

We are in touch with Cardell, both Ned and myself have had long talks with him, and he has asked us to forward you a copy of his "Open Letter to Gerald Brosseau Gardner", which I do herewith. He accompanies it with a letter to yourself, which is rather dramatically expressed and calls for some explanation from us.

Firstly, he says that I will vouch for his integrity. I will vouch for the fact that I have seen him once, and had a long talk with him; further than that, I cannot say. I can only repeat what he told me on that occasion.

It appears that, according to him, his mother was a member of the genuine Craft of the Wiccens (he pronounces this word "Witchens"), and that when she died she left her Athame to him and her bracelet to his sister Mary, together with her traditions. I have seen both the Athame and the Bracelet. They are not the same as ours, but bear sufficient resemblance to them to be worthy of our attention.

His family come from Wales, but he is now living in Surrey, and also has a flat in London. Here he contacted Gerald, and told me that he had proposed to finance the bringing of Gerald's museum to London. However, he became disgusted with Gerald's publicity-seeking and the general behaviour of his followers - known to us as the Moros. The two people whom he refers to as being introduced to him as Priestess and High Priest are Jack Bracelin and Thelma Capel, than whom a more squalid pair of spivs it would be hard to find indeed.

He therefore broke with them, and wrote to Gerald the "Open Letter" enclosed.

It appears that they made great play with you, he being the lady from whom originated the link with the old coven. However, when he very much wanted to be put in touch with you, they put him off repeatedly. The thing that he refers to in the letter as the abuse of confidential knowledge for personal gain, and the threat of publicity, means that so he tells sources - it is Jack Bracelin's intention, as soon as Gerald is gone, to publish all he can for all he can get.

Now, there is no doubt of Cardell's enthusiasm for the Craft. I have this morning a letter from Ned, who is a shrewd business man and nobody's fool generally, as well as having a great deal of experience of the occult, in which Ned says he is convinced Cardell is genuine. I am never convinced of anything nor prepared to vouch for anything on the strength of one meeting; however, I personally liked Cardell, and his sister. I will go so far as to say that I have a completely open mind on the subject.

What the proposal is at the moment is that we get together with Cardell and pool our respective traditions.

As you will remember, I wrote to you some time ago and told you very frankly of our feelings with regard to what we had received from Gerald. Your reply was so cautious that I could make neither head nor tail of it! So what we have been doing has been to try to get as close as we could to the spirit of the old beliefs, and try to feel intuitively what was right and real, and embody it in our rituals. We were engaged on this task when our contact came with Cardell.

Incidentally, we now have a good meeting-place which we are very busy getting into the shape we want it; a matter I am very pleased about, though it will mean a lot of hard work.

Well, my dear, such are the latest developments. I trust you and yours are all well. "Blessed be ....." "

Yours sincerely,

AE

25th. July, 1958

Dear Ameth,

I thank you for your letter of the 17th. inst. with a copy of "Light", also for Mr. Cardell's letter and a copy of his open letter to Gerald.

I am answering C.C.'s letter declining to meet him as I do not see how any useful purpose can be served by a meeting. I made no comment on his "open letter" again I do not agree with making public the individual conclusions of a private meeting.

Whatever each one thinks about the "Open Letter" is, in my opinion, each one's own affair.

I can understand your guarded admission that you will watch for C.C. and I respect you for it.

To revert to my answer to his letter I wrote that outside my home and family my interests were purely educational; that I have always been interested in finding out what I could about the Occult Sciences, both exoteric and esoteric, but that my aim is the pursuit of knowledge not the gaining of personal experience.

You are meeting very many people interested in Circles, Groups and Crafts and no doubt you will learn much that is at variance and much that links up with your own knowledge and perhaps they learn from you much of which they feel they can accept; but again if anyone wishes to reject the beliefs of another life is free to do so without personal abuse.

You speak of Jack Bracelin and Thelma Espel, of whom I know little and as the pictures drawn by different individuals differ so widely how is it possible to know the true picture? You speak after them of Gerald, saying "they made great play with you, etc." Did you mean that the two "made great play with" or was Gerald intended by you to be included?

If there is any truth in what you pass on, that J. B. intends to publish "as soon as Gerald is gone" words fail me. I have known two groups (or Orders) one world wide which were split from top to bottom by jealousy and lust for power; one became Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere with two Constitutions instead of one, much bitterness ensued and many people were lost altogether: of the other Order one member, an indefatigable worker and student, found or imagined a weak spot in the structure; there was much exposure of private affairs, hate and vengeance ran riot; the thing was taken up by a popular weekly; ridicule took the place of former adulation; all kindness and happiness vanished. No good whatever came of either so called exposure. It was purely merely coincidental if the informer in the latter case mentioned died soon after the upheaval.

If you, Ned and C.C. pool your knowledge and beliefs you should end up with something worth while and be some satisfaction to you and Ned. At the same time you (or Ned) may not be able to accept everything connected with C.C.'s. Order so that it boils down to the remark I have made before that everyone should be free to add to his knowledge without being abused because he cannot see all as Gopal. 2nd. Aug. I am so sorry to have left this

so long before finishing  
me. my last letter to you which was so cautious that you could make neither head nor tail of it. Shall we say, "I was taught to be cautious", weren't you?

Of course, all this dissention makes me very sad; serious study in occult matters should give great happiness; I am a member, though not an active one of an Order which is world-wide, I keep in touch with a few members but we rarely meet; there is a great bond which nothing weakens and stupid quarrels are unknown, so you see I have little patience or sympathy with all this.

I have not heard for some time from Gerald so know not what he thinks.

It is good to hear that you have found a meeting place and that it will in time be to your liking and suit your purpose is better still. From what I gather from Mr. Cardell's articles in "Light" if you join forces with him you may have to scrap some of your beliefs but that is as it should be and the great thing is that you can be happy in the company of your friends, learn something and help others: in passing, I may say that I think on the whole that has always been Gerald's idea.

As I said before I am sorry not to have finished this before, some very old friends came to stay in the district, and out of the blue have spent most of their time here so I was tied to entertaining.