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Making Things Happen

by Margaret Bruce

Practical Magick, as distinct from mere philosophical speculation, is concerned with the achievement of measurable results. Thus, although one may adopt techniques that appear slightly insane to the stolid materialist, the end product must be recognisable as an accomplished physical fact. Even so, there is no virtue in using long-winded ceremonial in an attempt to deal with minor material problems of the kind that a good kick or a coat of paint would solve. It's a question of using the right tools for every job. If, for example, you hope to transform a ten ton block of marble into a statue of Aphrodite you will automatically build mind-pictures of the end-product and the processes involved in bringing the statue into being. Such visualisation can be a stage of Creative Magick or the unhealthy retreat from reality of a sick mind. The Moment of Truth that distinguishes Magick from madness is the very instant when the cold steel of a real-life chisel bites into the virgin stone.

This is the first thing to remember if you want to make things happen. Follow up every "spiritual exercise" with related and determined physical action. Those who haven't yet grasped what Magick is may think from this that I am merely applying the word Magick to every straightforward bit of creative activity. Those who make this erroneous assumption have had little experience of practical creative work and are not familiar with the miracles that are a by-product of imaginatively directed energy. These miracles are not just the sum total of effort and imagination any more than a piece of music is just the sum total of the notes involved. This will become clearer as we go on.

It is impossible to overstress the importance of understanding the Spiritual/Material relationship. It isn't a bit of use simply reading this article and accepting the stated proposition that Material and Spiritual are facets of a single Jewel of Truth. You must experience this as a fact with your body and with your heart. It was for this reason that the Egyptian Neophyte was compelled to spend so much time working with simple materials, toiling at menial tasks and facing the elements with the minimum of primitive protection. Only after he had escaped the limitations of his own ineptitude was he able to see the gods. While he struggled to manipulate the recalcitrant clay on the potter's wheel he was merely learning a trade. Once his fingers acquired the feel and dexterity of a master-potter, he transcended the material process in which he was engaged and experienced unity with the minor deity that governed the art of pottery.

The space-age Neophyte no less than his Egyptian predecessor, must begin at the beginning and achieve many simple skills. Not as some kind of whimsical occupational therapy for transcendental meditationists but as a serious attempt to encounter and get to know the Cosmic Forces that can make or break him as a human being. By applying this first simple idea of Learning and Doing rather than just reading and daydreaming you will already find that things begin to happen. Not just the things you have achieved by your own physical efforts but the Magickal things that are born when imagination and intelligence culminate in decisive material action.

The next step in the achievement of real results is to find your own personal relationship with Nature. This sounds frighteningly difficult but it's easy if you remember to begin with the simple obvious things. Many people live in a highly artificial environment which is not regulated by Nature but by working hours, time-tables and manmade regulations. The first step is to reduce the influence of these things as far as is possible in your own particular case. At present, the important daily influence in most of our lives is the time we start work in the morning. This is artificial. The first real influence of each day should be the Sunrise. So you simply put things in proportion and make the phenomenon of Sunrise of more personal importance than the purely clock-time of starting work. You do this by actually doing something at that time. The Egyptian would recite the Hymn to Ra to the rising Sun. The present-day magician might do nothing more spectacular than go for a walk in his garden, sit on the window sill silently thanking God for a new day, or fling wide the curtains with a cry of "Fiat Lux" or "Yippee!" The important thing is that he ACTIVELY recognises and acknowledges the Sunrise. There are of course people who are too sleepy to bother with such things. They are not the stuff of which magicians are made and should stay in their comfortable little dream world where all things are theirs without effort.

If you are still interested in making things happen and awakening the awareness of Magick, you should go on to make active recognition of the Sunset. Any action at all will do provided that it is always the same. Light a candle, say a prayer, chant a Mantra, dance a jig anything! - just make it real physical action. After a few days you will discover that you have already established a new rythm of living and that somehow you feel physically and mentally better for it.

All this time you should gradually reduce the conditioning forces that are eating away at your individuality. Radio, Newspapers and Television all combine to invade your privacy with their insidious power of suggestion that turns healthy integrated people into anxious, neurotic zombies. It is significant that few Magickally orientated people possess a television set and most of them tend to ignore the Popular Press. Sell the Television set and cancel the Sunday Newspapers and you have removed two of the most dangerous and corrupting influences in your life. You will also discover that you really have time to achieve your most cherished aims.

Anyone with the Will and determination to put into practice the ideas I have set forth so far will have achieved much more than some petty economies and a smattering of handicrafts. He will begin to feel a new purpose in life. Things will begin to happen for him. Somehow he will find that the problems that haunted his sleep have vanished or dwindled to insignificance. His wealth will increase. His relationships with his fellow-men will improve. In other words he is on the brink of Magick.

All the time, the stress is on the Practical aspects of occultism. From the daily active acknowledgement of the Sunrise and Sunset we go on to make active recognition of the Moon phases. Learn when the New Moon is due by looking in any almanac. Make a point of going out and looking at the New Moon as soon as it is visible - sometimes a day or two after the actual New Moon in the Almanac. Keep a special "Moon

Notebook" and, on the Night of the New Moon write down all the things you are hoping to achieve that Month. At the Full Moon write down the things you are trying to dispel from your life. Keep this up every month without fail. Now, not only are you living in rythm with the Sun but your actions are timed in sympathy with the Lunar Phases. This is a big step in the break away from the destructive artificial rythms forced upon us by our environment. In fact, many people who complain of persistent ill-luck and misfortune are simply out of step with the natural Solar and Lunar rythms. Once they re-establish the correct natural rythms "the Spell is broken" and everything begins to go right for them.

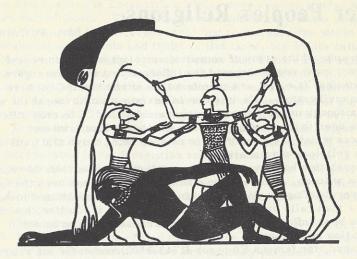
The final basic step in this process of establishing a rythmic relationship with Nature is to observe and acknowledge to twelve Zodiacal periods. Although we are using astrological terms we are applying them in a Magickal sense. We are using them in a thoroughly down-to-earth way. Learn the weather conditions associated with each Zodiacal period.

Forget the man-made calendar and live by the thirteen Lunar Months. Celebrate the entry of the Sun into each Sign of the Zodiac by having a simple "feast" consisting of foods ruled by that sign. If you don't know the foods ruled by the Zodiacal Signs; take heart. The humiliation of discovering how little we really know is a recurring theme in the lives of Magicians. It's when you imagine that you know it all that you have to begin worrying about your sanity and your honesty.

All this is a far cry from the popular conception of Magickal training with its accent on the ineffable, the intangible and the impossible. Possibly because, like so many popular conceptions, it is wrong. No genuine occult Lodge would entertain the idea of restricting formal training to spiritual exercises and theory and most would insist on substantial evidence of practical capability at a very early stage. Some in fact organise really rugged outdoor activities that would make the average Outward Bound course look insipid by comparison. Unpopular as these ideas may be to the sedentary meditators, they are the practical basis of a way of thinking and a way of life that has, for hundreds of years, been obscured by a welter of superstitious clap-trap and nonsense. Of course there are ways of telling the difference between Magick and superstition, between the plausible rogue and the Magician. These things will all, I hope, become clear in future articles. Already you know how to make things happen for you in a general way. Soon you will be ready to learn the more specialised aspects of getting exactly the results you want.

THE END

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JUST SOME OF THE COSMIC ENTITIES THAT THE NEOPHYTE MUST LEARN TO RECOGNISE.

An Egyptian Cosmological representation of NUT, the Sky Goddess and GEB, the black Earth God. Supporting NUT is the God of the Atmosphere, SHU who is assisted by the Winds. These are not merely primitive pictures of Earth, Sky and Air but represent the very real Forces emerging from the relationship between these aspects of Nature.

READERS LETTERS Continued.

so, or why it should appear so if this is not the reality. Also I should be pleased to learn the reasons for the study of these paths, and the uses to which it is put.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Pym

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