

THE DARK SIDE: CHURCH OF SATAN

The Church of Satan is a legally recognized religion with its world headquarters in San Francisco, California. After many year of studying all forms of organized religions and the occult, Anton Szandor LaVey founded the Church on April 30th, 1966 C.E., and became its High Priest. Since then, the membership has grown at an increasingly rapid rate. There are now Agents of the Church of Satan in most major North American and European cities and there are countless numbers of people throughout the world who practice our teachings without formally affiliating with the fountainhead of contemporary Satanism.

The Church of Satan was established to enable members to openly practice Satanism in the community, and so that, as an organized religion, the Church could dispel the many falsehoods which are widespread concerning Satanism.

Every popular idea about Satanism has been fostered by Christianity, in which Satan is the Evil opposite to the Good God. Christian Churches are not authorities on Satanism, and their concept of Satan is as alien to true Satanism as is their concept of God; the Satanist knows that he or she is capable of performing every action attributed to the gods of spiritual religions; for each Satanist is his or her own god!!

Satan is not misshapen, cloven-hooved demon of Christianity, but the name Satanists have given to the natural force which rules the world, and which represents humans and their nature; Satan is the opposite of everything which frustrates and condemns Man. He is the symbol of Man's carnal nature his lust, greed, vengeance, and most of all his ego. Satan signifies our love of the worldly and our rejection of the pallid, ineffectual image of Christ on the cross.

To be a Satanist means to live according to one's natural instincts, to pursue rational self-interest, Satanic doctrine can best be stated as: Do what thou wilt, so long as no undeserving person is harmed by your actions. The Satanic philosophy of life is: Life is the great indulgence Death, the great abstinence! Therefore, make the most of life here and now!. Satanism is the only religion in the world dedicated to a glorification of material and carnal elements, and which does not condemn people for doing that which they know is not wrong.

Satanists are found in all walks of life; of the only thing which a group of Satanists may have in common is that

they live according to their own set of rules, not one imposed them by an unseen, unknown, and unknowable force or being. The only requirement which the Church

of Satan places upon its members is a full understanding of the principles of their religion as set forth in **The Satanic Bible** written by our High Priest. Our Bible explains Satanic philosophy, doctrine, ritual, and magic. Further, it is a primer on Satanism; it leaves each Satanist free to interpret its teachings and to put them into practice.

the Satanic view of sex is often misinterpreted. To Satanists, the instinctive drive of sex is second only to that of self-preservation. No Satanist would condemn any sexual act in which both parties are consenting adults. Satanism does not force any individual into performing sexual acts that he or she does not naturally choose in which to indulge.

The Church of Satan is not affiliated with the criminal lunatic-fringe of self-styled "Satanist" as we are firmly opposed to ritual murder, ritualized sex-orgies, animal sacrifices, and the like. We are not "Devil worshippers", Christian heretics who bow before a symbol of absolute Evil and use it to excuse their vile behavior. By its very nature, true Satanism provides the initiative for self-aggrandizement based on the needs and desires of the individual, without placing him or her at variance with those laws established for the common good.

No true Satanist uses mind-altering drugs. Drugs alleged to "Expand consciousness" are actually an escape from reality. The true Satanist is a realist, one who knows that only by working within society, and using his or the own self-awareness and enriched ego, can he or her effect the changes that will better his or her own condition in life, according to his or her own will Satanists know that we live in a world in which only the strongest and most realistic (those whom sociologists and psychologists have termed "ultimate pragmatist") will survive and succeed. Drugs are a crutch which merely weaklings to drop out of the society in which Satanists work and to which Satanists contribute.

For a more complete understanding of Satanism, we encourage you to read **The Satanic bible** published by A von books and available at most bookstores around the country. If, after reading our Bible, you choose to affiliate with the Church of Satan, you may write to the following address for further information: Church of Satan, P.O. Box 210082, San Francisco, CA 94121.