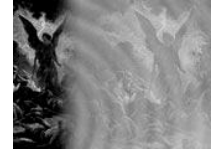




# The Dark Side of the Spiritual World

## Leaders Notes draft



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## Introduction

This is a follow-up to 'Angels and the Spiritual World' but it can be used on its' own.

When talking to young people about the devil, evil spirits and any occult related issues, we need to be discerning. It can sound interesting and exciting but we don't want to either hype them up or frighten them. They need to be reliably informed in a responsible way.

One way to keep a balance is to deal with it alongside discussing other supernatural occurrences such as angels and God's supernatural gifts to his children.

You often won't know beforehand what they have already encountered or what questions they may ask. We have aimed to provide a wide range of back-up notes but we leave it to your discretion as to how much you share with them.

If you have any concerns then consult your church leaders.

## What does the Bible tell us about evil spirits?

### *Evil – Where did it come from?*

All spiritual beings started life as angels in heaven along with the rest. Some of them were very powerful and splendid. Then one of the cherubs, who was a prince among the angels, became too full of himself and wanted to be even more important than God. He led a rebellion against God and was thrown out of heaven. The best insight into what happened is in Ezekiel 28.

See also Isaiah 14:12-15 and Jude 6

### *The Names and Character of God's Chief Enemy*

This 'fallen' angel became God's bitter enemy. The conflict between them became very fierce. Our world has always been caught up in it. Satan decided to attack Adam because mankind was the 'crown' of God's creation and meant so much to God.

We don't know his original name. Names and character descriptions always go together in with God, so his various names tell us something about him.

**Satan:** We first find the name 'Satan' in the book of Job, which is one of the very oldest stories in the Bible. It means the adversary or enemy. Job 1:6

**Lucifer:** The name Lucifer is a Latin translation of a word that means 'bright one of the dawn, day star, light bearer, morning star, shining one'.

It refers to his original glory and beauty. Maybe it was his original name? *Isaiah 14:12*

He is still able to disguise himself as an angel of light. *2 Corinthians 11:14*

**The Devil:** We read much about him in the New Testament where he is often called the devil. The word 'devil' means 'the accuser'. *It comes from the New Testament Greek word 'Diabolos'*

He is called 'the accuser' because he plays on people's sense of guilt. He doesn't like us to experience God's forgiveness and he tries to make us feel guilty even after we have admitted to God that we have done something wrong. *Revelation 12:10*

**Apollyon:** He is also called 'Apollyon', which is Greek for 'destroyer' because he destroys whatever good he can. *Revelation 9:11*

**Beelzebub:** is a name used in some translations of the New Testament gospels. It is probably the same as Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, which means "the lord of flies," or, "the lord of dung," or "the dung-god." That rather sounds like a rude nick-name! Matthew 10:22-28

Other titles for him:

- the tempter Matthew 4:3
- the old serpent Revelation 12:9; 20:2
- the ruler/prince of this world John 12:31; 14:30
- the god of this world 2 Corinthians 4:4
- the prince of the power of the air Ephesians 2:2
- the accuser Revelation 12:10
- the prince of demons Luke 11:15
- the dragon Revelation 12:9

### ***Satan's characteristics***

- He is god-like but he is nothing in comparison with the true God
- He has great power but not as much as he would like.
- Although he still has a lot of influence, he can't do just anything he wants.
- He has been defeated by Jesus so he has lost the overall war but there are still a few battles going on that he hopes to win or at least do maximum damage.
- One day he and his followers will be thrown out and he will lose everything.
- He is really proud which is what caused him to rebel in the first place. 1 Timothy 3:6
- He is very powerful but his power is restricted. Luke 4:5-6; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12
- Cunning, good at tricking people, deceitful, a liar:
- He deceived Eve at the beginning of creation and he still tells us lies about ourselves and about God. John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 11:14
- Fierce & cruel, a murderer John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8-9;
- Stories in Luke 8:29 and Luke 9:39 show how cruelly demons can treat people

### ***What do demons look like?***

As spiritual beings, they can be visible or invisible. They can appear in different forms. Many 'ghost' stories are due to their activities, especially in places where people have been holding such things as séances.

### ***How many are there?***

We don't know but it has to be a large number judging from the many stories from around the world as well as in the Bible. In the gospels one man was plagued by so many demons that he was known as 'Legion'. Mark 5:9

### ***Where are they?***

They are restricted in what they can do and where they can go. They are attracted to places where people do really bad things and are interested in them. There are some places where they will not or cannot go as the Holy Spirit's presence is too strong. God is well able to protect us from them but there are people who choose to step outside of his protection.

### **What can they do?**

Even though spirits do not have physical bodies, they can move solid objects. A friend once saw his decanter\* appear to throw itself across his lounge the day after he had had a visitor with a serious alcohol problem. They are behind activities such as levitation and Ouija boards.

They can perform miraculous signs up to a point. This explains how Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform some miracles in competition with Moses. The Bible warns us to be careful because such spirits are good at pretending to be friends when they are really out to deceive us. They can cause a lot of damage if we let them. Revelation 16:14; Exodus 7 & 8

*\*A decanter is an attractive glass container used for alcoholic drinks such as whisky*

### **Where can we find Bible stories that feature evil spirits?**

- Job was living in peace and prosperity until Satan challenged God that the only reason why he was leading such an upright life was because his life was going so amazingly well. God gave Satan permission to give Job a hard time but he put a limit on what Satan was allowed to do. Job was rewarded for his faithfulness to God during what proved to be an incredibly difficult time. The New Testament reassures us that God will never let us face more than we can handle, even though it sometimes doesn't feel like we can! Job 1 & 2; 1 Corinthians 10:13
- King Saul was troubled by an evil spirit when he stopped following God. When David played his harp, it helped to calm him. 1 Samuel 16:14-23
- Elijah on Mount Carmel with the pagan prophets of Baal. 1 Kings 18  
When we tell the story of Elijah to children, we usually mock the priests of Baal for expecting an idol / non-existent god to take up the challenge. This overlooks what we know of certain present day religions in which the 'priests / witchdoctors / shamen' do make contact with dark spiritual forces. In the presence of a mighty prayer warrior such as Elijah, they did not dare to make an appearance because they knew for sure that God would be there in power.
- Jesus was tempted by Satan a great deal. There is one particular story where we have the details about 3 specific temptations. This came when he was fasting and praying about the special work that he was about to start. Matthew 4:1-11
- An extraordinary number of people seem to have been troubled by evil spirits when Jesus was living on Earth. There is one about a man with superhuman strength who lived a very wild life. He was tormented by so many spirits that he was called 'Legion'. Mark 5:1-20
- Another account was about a boy whose health was seriously affected by a spirit. He could not speak and he suffered from fits. Mark 9:17-29
- Probably the most famous person whom Jesus freed from such spirits was Mary Magdalene. She was troubled by seven of them.
- When Paul and Silas freed a slave girl with a spirit of fortune-telling, her owners did not appreciate it as she had earned money for them through it. Such spirits cannot really tell the future but they are skilled at giving the impression that they can. They are extremely old so they have acquired a great deal of knowledge and understanding of human behaviour. Such insight gives the impression of foresight. They are also skilled at manipulating people. The most they can do is to try to influence events. Only God knows the future. Acts 16:16-18

The Bible warns us to be careful what spiritual practices we get involved with. This is to protect us from spirits who are out to harm us. We are specifically told to have nothing to do with fortune-

telling, mediums, psychics, spiritualism or any form of trying to contact the spirits of the dead.

Deuteronomy 18:10-13

Some Christians do set up stalls at psychic fairs however as they use such opportunities to talk to people who are interested in spiritual things about their experiences as Christians. I can imagine Paul doing the same sort of thing as he used to take any opportunity he could to speak about Jesus.

## **Ghosts and Witches**

### ***Witches – do they exist?***

The popular idea of a witch today is largely based on fiction and old stories.

In the West, there are people who are interested in tradition witchcraft or Wicca, as it is known. Some of these people believe in god and goddesses of nature. Some just want to belong to a cool group that enjoys going into the woods at night, dressed in unusual clothing or in no clothing at all. This can involve acts of worship to spirits who are in rebellion against God.

In traditional cultures there are still witchdoctors and shamen. They often yield great influence in their society. They practice traditional medicine and contact the spirit world.

### ***Spells***

There are people who try to use spells of some kind. Could these have any effect?

Well it probably depends on whether the words are meaningful or not. The Bible says that the tongue is a powerful weapon with the power of life and death. Proverbs 18:21 Anyone can use their tongue to bless or curse people. In Numbers 22 when the Moabites hired Balaam to curse the Israelites, God took this seriously and prevented him from doing so.

### ***Is it ok to tell children stories that feature witches, spells or magic?***

There is a broad range of Christian opinion on this. Some people fear that such stories could encourage children to take in interest in witchcraft

What is the difference between a fictional witch and a real witch?

Well a real one cannot ride a broomstick for a start. They are ordinary human beings who are interested in Wicca. Only a fictional witch or fairy can turn a prince into a frog or a pumpkin into a coach. Only God would have such power and he is unlikely to perform such a party trick. No other spirit would be capable of it. Spirits can perform some minor miracles -Revelation 16:14.

Surely the more important issues in selecting stories for children are the type of role models provided and the overall ethics. What do stories such as Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk really teach? Perhaps the fact that Cinderella is portrayed as beautiful and the sisters as ugly with our modern preoccupation is of more significance than the idea that she had a fairy godmother.

### ***Are there such things as ghosts?***

Well it depends on what you mean by a ghost. Some stately homes like to have a couple of 'ghost' stories as for them it is part of being a tourist attraction. Some ghost stories are just myths but paranormal activity does exist.

However as in the TV Scooby-Doo stories where there is always a baddie behind the ghost mask; many ghosts are not what they seem to be. There are places where a door has been opened to the spirit world and one or more spirits can then come and go as they please. They may

sometimes pretend to be a human soul. This is not difficult when they have access to plenty of information about them/us. These spirits are thousands of years old and are very intelligent and knowledgeable.

### ***Is it possible to contact dead people?***

There are just two accounts in the Bible where God allowed the spirit of a human who had died to meet someone still alive. The witch/medium at Endor was terrified when Samuel's spirit really did appear instead of her usual 'spirit guide'. For all the experience she had with the occult, something like this had never happened. Saul had really been trying to make contact with God who was refusing to speak to him due to his disobedience. In desperation Saul turned to a pagan witch even though he had done his best to drive them out of the land. Perhaps due to Saul's true intentions, God intervened.

In the New Testament, Jesus introduced 3 of his disciples to Moses and Elijah. Jesus could contact the spirit world more easily and safely than anyone else. Perhaps a case of 'Do not try this at home'.

### **Making Spiritual Connections**

When we tell the story of Elijah to children, we usually mock the priests of Baal for expecting a non-existent god to take up the challenge. This overlooks what we know of certain present day religions in which the 'priests / witchdoctors / shamen' do make contact with dark spiritual forces. In the presence of a mighty prayer warrior such as Elijah, they did not dare to make an appearance because they knew for sure that God would be there in power.

We get uptight about Halloween and anything to do with the occult but we mostly need to be far more wary of the many other ways in which the enemy can get a foothold in our lives. Halloween is perhaps the annual/only reminder for some of the existence of a spirit world.

Those who follow some kind of New Age religion can be more aware of its existence than many Christians. Rob Frost tells some interesting accounts of New Age followers who in seeking spiritual enlightenment discover Jesus.

It is harder to connect with God's Spirit than any other but it is SO WORTH IT!

Have we so lost sight of God's love and power that even we do not realise how much he has to offer us in comparison with local/modern culture?

Do we want to deepen what we have? How can we do that? (Accept that some may not be ready to move forward in their spiritual journey yet)

### ***How to strengthen spiritual connections***

Prayer – how can we bring this alive?

Meditation – how can we chill with God?

Fasting – increases spiritual awareness but health issues need to be considered especially with adolescent aged children.

How can we have a healthy spiritual life within our modern lifestyle?

## **Real Stories of Unwanted Spiritual Activity**

### ***The Green Lady***

When Clarendon School moved from North Wales to Haynes Park, Bedford, they discovered a few 'squatters' in the building. One Sunday morning a 'green lady' was seen near the back stairs by a very level-headed sixth former. A senior member of staff could hear voices in her room which stopped when she played Christian songs that were based on Bible verses. There were also disturbances in one of the libraries. The staff quickly invited a local church leader over to the school to deal with the problems. The buildings always had a lovely atmosphere from that time onwards.

### ***Alice's Lodger***

On another occasion the local church leaders were really busy so our home group prayed to evict a ghost that Alice, a member of our group, had often seen in her spare bedroom. Jesus had shown that it is not always necessary to be in the same place. As we all had very young children it was more practical to pray from our usual meeting place.

### ***Voices in the chimney***

When 13 year-old Colin who lived across the street from us, told my Dad that he had been hearing strange voices whispering when no one else was at home, the last thing my Dad wanted to do was to frighten him; for we knew that the family that had lived there previously had started holding séances in the house following the death of a teenage son who had been killed in a motor bike accident. This had opened the door for spirits to visit the house even after the family had moved out. They could not harm Colin or his family because they themselves had never become involved with anything to do with the occult but few people want to live with that kind of thing. No one else in his family had spoken of this and may not have understood.

My Dad dealt with the situation firstly by suggesting that the sounds might only be the wind in the chimneys but he also gave Colin some clear guidance on how to pray 'just in case' it was more than that. So the next time Colin was home alone, he went into each room in turn, opened a window and prayed as my Dad had directed him. Opening a window is a symbolic gesture as much as anything. I expect my Dad also prayed into this situation even though he did not visit the house. Colin never heard the voices again.

We would not usually have advised someone so young to deal with something like this but sometimes we have to be both calm and practical. Although no one would have seen Colin as a great spiritual warrior, he was in a healthy relationship with God and he had the support of an older spirit-filled Christian. These are the two most important things here.

When Jesus sent out 72 of his followers in Luke 10, they didn't see themselves as great spiritual warriors either but they saw God's power at work as they prayed.

Luke 10:17-20 When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy... NLT

When a primary aged child in my after school Bible club told me that he sometimes saw 2 children in his bedroom, it was impossible to know if he had a vivid imagination or had seen spirits. I dealt with it by asking my husband to pray with me against any unwholesome spirits in that house.

### ***How much of a threat are dark spirits?***

In some religions people want to be possessed by a spirit and they do all sorts of things to encourage that. That's all a bit dramatic and remote for many of us in the West. The enemy seldom frightens us by having demons jump and down in front of us. His attacks are usually much more subtle and are aimed at our individual weaknesses. There are times when anyone can be prone to being influenced by an unhealthy spirit of some kind. We often make choices about whether to walk towards or away from such influences. These are ordinary everyday choices about things like whether to change the TV channel, avoid certain internet sites, not make jokes at other people's expense etc. They are the sort of choices that we need to help young people begin making at an early age.

The more we make negative choices, the easier it is for an unhealthy spirit to gain a foothold and influence us. One obvious but extreme example would be someone who develops a drinking problem and finally becomes an alcoholic. Even Jesus had to battle with Satan at times. Satan tried to influence him when he was tired and hungry, through well-meaning friends and through stirring up people against him.

In one episode of Merlin, Arthur gave in to the temptation to contact his dead father. It led to a lot of trouble. In the story it was the person who had blown the magic horn who had to send the spirit back to the spirit world. In real life it is possible to allow spirits in but it is only Jesus who can send them back to where they belong.

It isn't just holding séances that open the door to allow evil spirits to have a presence in your life. Other things can do that too.

Don't go looking for trouble but if you come across it, there is no need to fear.

It is harder to deal with our own personal weaknesses than the occasional unwanted spirit within a house.

It is not difficult to connect with the spiritual world. It is harder to connect with God because he is holy but he made it possible and encourages us. "Seek me and you will find me" is a frequent message in the Bible.

Other - unholy - evil spirits are very willing to connect with people who take steps to contact them. Once someone has opened a spiritual door to such a spirit, it is impossible to get rid of it. Only Jesus can do that and those who may pray in his Name. To do that you have to be in a good place with God.

Jesus gives us the power to defeat Satan in our lives and the lives of those for whom we pray.

Whether you are dealing with some kind of fear or other problem in your own life or whether you are dealing with the unwanted presence of a bad spirit in your front room (as with some friends of mine), the way to pray is similar.

Through Jesus' hard won victory on the cross, Christians have the power to deal with Satan's attacks in whatever form they come. We do not have to fully understand why this is so, we just have to believe it and the power of **His Victory** and **His Name** becomes like a sword in our hands.



**How to pray if dealing with dark spirits - some guidelines:**

Where possible pray with at least one other Christian

Open your heart, mind and spirit to God and pray as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Do not rush. Take time

With a personal problem start by confessing it to God

There is no set formula but you could pray something like this...

Jesus we pray that you will give us the power, authority and wisdom to take command over this problem/situation.

Declare: Jesus has defeated Satan and he's right here with us now.

Take authority in a calm voice. There is no need to be dramatic and no need to shout.

Say something like: In the Name of Jesus I command you spirit ... to leave this place now and never return. We reject you ... and all that you represent.

We pray to you Almighty Father God that you will send your Holy Spirit to fill this place with your peace and your presence. Come Holy Spirit, come.

Continue to pray **as the Holy Spirit** leads. Thank and praise God.

What I have done in such situations:

I make sure that my relationship with God is healthy

I try to pray with at least one other spirit-filled Christian.

use the authority given to us by Jesus to take command and calmly use a strong bold style of praying rather than a 'please God help us' style of praying.

**Don't Fear, Don't Give In**

*Nor give place to the devil Ephesians 4:27*

In every person's life there are the works of Satan, lurking behind the scenes trying to take centre stage. And just like the pantomime villain, Satan himself has many disguises. It says in the Bible he can morph into 'an angel of light' (2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJV). But whatever satisfying or appealing things Satan may offer up on his platter, his endgame is always the same: 'to steal and kill and destroy' (John 10:10 NIV). Destroy what? You name it: peace of mind, destiny, relationships...

Satan may be waiting in the wings of our lives, but the good news is you have power and authority to resist him and rest in the victory over him that Christ has won. How? In two ways:

1) Don't fear him. 'God guards you from every evil, He guards your very life' (Psalm 121:7 TM). It says 31 times in the NT that we are 'in Christ'. For Satan to get to you, He needs to get through God first!

2) Don't give Satan house room. Laying down the welcome mat for him to wipe his feet in your thought life won't help. Sinful thoughts usually come before sinful actions. So, just as you have been placed 'in Christ', be sure to remind yourself that Jesus is living inside of you. Keep close to Him in prayer.

**What now?**

Take charge. Learn a verse by heart, so that when sinful thoughts come into your mind, you can get into a good habit of replacing them straight away with ones fit for our King.

Word 4U 2Day 11 Aug 2012 <http://www.ucb.co.uk>

## **Glossary of Spiritualist and Spiritual Words**

**Astrology** ~ was started by the Chaldeans of Babylon about 5000 years ago and was part of their pagan religion. It is an attempt to predict the future by studying the positions of stars and planets.

Astrologers said that the Age of Pisces – from the crucifixion to 1900 had been an age of sorrow tears, death, pessimism and scepticism. They foretold that the Age of Aquarius (from 1900 onwards) would be at time of universal peace, love, brotherhood and tranquillity. Instead we have had more violence and war than any previous age. It is surprising that people still believe in astrology.

Our future is not based on some fixed destiny found in the stars. The Bible says that the stars are a display of God's creative power. Psalm 19

Astrology is completely different from astronomy which is a real science

### **Clairvoyant or Fortune teller ~**

A fortune teller is someone who predicts the future for people. They use such things as **tarot cards** or **crystal balls**. They 'read' **the palms of people's hands** and more traditionally 'read' **the tea leaves left in someone's cup** after they have finished their cup of tea. Clairvoyance is a French word meaning clear-sighted or second-sight.

Most fortune tellers are simply good at reading people's characters and body language and asking the right sort of questions. They make some clever guesses and say the kind of general things that happen to most people.

Similarly there are people who study **astrology** and write **horoscopes** which make predictions according to people's star sign. They work in the same kind of way. It's usually very general and the sort of thing that will mostly happen to most people at some point.

Sometimes such people practice some kind of spirituality where they try to contact spirits whom they believe can give them knowledge that is hidden from them and also forecast the future. These people are sometimes known as **mediums** or spiritualists. The spirits they contact do possess a great deal of knowledge. They cannot see our future because our future depends on the choices that we make. As we have free will, this has yet to be written. They may attempt to influence our choices through their predictions and they delight in planting fear into us. Once someone has contacted a spirit, it can be difficult to get rid of it and it can be very oppressive.

Only God has sufficient wisdom, knowledge and foresight to know the future, especially as he has the power to influence it as no other spirit can. He is always ready to give guidance to those who ask him. Isaiah 46:10 – Only I can tell you the future.

Daniel 2:10-11 Nebuchadnezzar's dream – story shows that no one could read his thoughts except God who had given the dream.

**Destiny** ~ that which happens to someone, thought of as determined in advance by fate.

**Fate** ~ a power thought to control all events and impossible to resist.

**Fortune teller** ~ see Clairvoyant

**Halloween** ~ This means different things to different cultures. I will write an article on it one day.

**Horoscopes** ~ see Clairvoyant

**Hypnosis** ~ this is where someone allows another person to take over control of their conscious mind. Sometimes this is done for medical reasons and sometimes for entertainment. Many Christians believe that it is dangerous for us to drop the guard of our conscious mind and that it can open a door for an unhealthy spirit to cause depression, headaches or similar problems.

**Levitation** ~ this is where someone is raised off the ground by an unseen spirit. They may be surrounded by a few people who are supporting them using just a few fingers each but nothing with any strength. This isn't dangerous physically but it is dangerous spiritually.

**Meditate / meditation** ~

from Latin *meditat*- 'contemplated', from the verb *meditari*, from a base meaning 'measure';

to think calm thoughts in order to relax or as a religious activity

the act of giving your attention to only one thing, either as a religious activity or as a way of becoming calm and relaxed

**Mediums** ~ see Clairvoyant

**Occult** ~ From the Latin word 'occulta' = hidden things

**Ouija board** ~ see séance

**Pagan** ~

From Latin pagus = 'country/rural district'.

Paganus = 'villager, rustic', country-dweller,

Paganus also meant 'civilian', becoming, in Christian Latin, 'heathen' (i.e. one not enrolled in the army of Christ)

A person who has pagan beliefs

The word 'pagan' is also used as a general insult meaning 'ignorant' or 'uncivilised'.

**Paganism** ~

Ancient religions which worshiped many nature-related gods. They used to follow some very barbaric practices. There has been a revival of interest in them in recent times but mostly without the more barbaric side.

Belonging to a religion that worships many gods, especially one which existed before the main world religions:

Relating to religious beliefs that do not belong to any of the main religions of the world:

**Palm / tea leaves reading** ~ see Clairvoyant

**Prophecy** ~ In specifically Bible/Christian terms, this can be any kind of message from God. In wider terms it usually refers to a foretelling of future events by divine inspiration

A statement that says what is going to happen in the future, especially one that is based on what you believe about a particular matter rather than existing facts:

The ability to say what is going to happen in the future

A **séance** ~ is where a group of people meet together with a medium in order to make contact with the dead. Sometimes they are trying to contact a dead relative. They may use a **Ouija board** which has the words 'yes', 'no' and the letters of the alphabet on it. The spirit moves some kind of object to point at these in order to communicate with the group. It often works and it's dangerous.

A meeting at which people attempt to make contact with the dead, especially through

Origin: French séance, from Old French seoir, from Latin sedere 'sit'

**Shaman** ~ a person regarded as having access to and influence in the world of good and evil spirits. Typically such people enter a trance state during a ritual and practise divination and healing

**Spirit guide** ~ a spiritual being which is believed to give guidance. They are not sent by God. This is a term used by Western Spiritualist Churches, mediums, and psychics to describe a spirit that supposedly acts as a guide or protector to a human being. They believe that some spirit guides are of human descent, possibly those who have lived many former lifetimes, paid their karmic debts, and no longer need to reincarnate. Others they believe, are spirits who live as energy in the cosmic realm, or as light beings. They are not sent by God.

**Tarot cards or crystal balls** see Clairvoyant

**Trance:** from Latin *transire* 'go across'

When a person's conscious mind has switched someone is not completely conscious of and/or not in control of themselves and of what is happening to them

A half-conscious state where you can't get a response from someone, typically as induced by hypnosis or entered by a medium

**Vision:** something seen in the imagination or a dream; an experience in which you see things that do not exist physically, when your mind is affected powerfully by something such as deep religious thought or drugs or mental illness. Sometimes spiritual people have a vision during a time of fasting or meditation.

### **Witchcraft /Wicca**

In the West, there are people who are interested in tradition witchcraft or Wicca, as it is known. Some of these people believe in god and goddesses of nature. Some just want to belong to a cool group that enjoys going into the woods at night, dressed in unusual clothing or in no clothing at all. This can involve acts of worship to spirits who are in rebellion against God.

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Word 4U 2Day is produced by UCB. Free issues are available for the UK and Republic of Ireland.

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