

# ACRIMONY



May 2004

\$3.00

## *Reincarnation*

Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes  
<http://www.Acrimony.org>

# Acrimony

May 2004 - Volume 2 - Issue 9

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## Published by Lava Marketing

Acrimony is published monthly by Lava Marketing. Subscription rates: \$36/year US, \$45/year Canada, \$55/year International. The views expressed in Acrimony are not necessarily those of the publisher, owner, or advertisers. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent of the editor. Letters, manuscripts, stories, materials, artwork, or photographs are welcomed but publisher cannot return items unless sender provides postage-paid addressed stamped envelope. Submission of letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. The Publisher is not responsible for misprints or typographical errors. Send all editorial correspondence to: Lava Marketing, P.O. Box 215, Ontonagon, MI 49953.

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# To the Editor...

Hey! I Love Acrimony!

Just another Vamp

I want to report a correction. In last month's *Ask Jenny* column, Jenny reported that Angel was not being cancelled. Well, she was wrong... After these last 6 episodes, that's it.. Nada.. No more Angel.

Randy Burton

**Yes, Jenny is aware of her mistake and she talks about it in her column this month. From what I understand, Angel is on the brink. WB doesn't know what to do. They did cancel the show. However, there has been a large fan outcry and they are now undecided. So I suppose if you want the show back next year you'd better join the choir and start wailing.**

Send your email and comments to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org)

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# OBSDIAN

## *Palingenesis*



by **Dan Shaurette**

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<http://www.ShauretteNet.com>

*"Who needs the light  
With the darkness in your eyes  
Who needs to sleep  
With the stars in the sky  
It's here in your soul  
I want to be married  
You are my sanctuary."*

*Madonna  
"Sanctuary"  
from Bedtime Stories*

Adam Stone had a good life. He lived in Phoenix, Arizona all of that life. He met his beautiful wife, Cori, over a year ago and they were married almost immediately. They only just celebrated their first anniversary a few days ago.

He had a great job. He and Cori owned and operated a

small rare books store named "Ex Libris". The bookstore was a storefront to their two-story house -- the store taking most of the ground floor.

The bookstore dealt with new and used books. Hard to find volumes. The arcane and unusual. The rare and valuable. He bought and sold books, scripts, and comic books from around the world.

The comics are what he enjoyed the most. His favorite comic was that of the adventures of "Obsidian" -- in all of his outlets: "Obsidian: Defender of Darkness", "Obsidian of Canyon City", and "Obsidian and Ruby" which in the 70's introduced the Dark Avenger's beautiful sidekick Ruby; the inspiration of many a teenage wet dream for Adam as he grew up.

When Adam was young, he wanted to be Obsidian when he grew up. Battling evil with his buxom, copper-haired lover/fighter beside him. But when he grew up, he realized the closest he could come was to hands-down own the largest collection of Obsidian comics anywhere. When he came into

some money, after his parents died, he turned his house into a rare books store.

He placed an ad one day for an assistant, and Cori answered the ad. At first, the relationship was professional, but the two quickly fell in love and got married. Yes, Adam had a good life once upon a time.

A year later, however, the publisher of the now "Obsidian: Dark Crusades" comics, has gone out of business. Adam received the last issue and cried practically all night long as he read the heartbreaking story of how Obsidian finally cleaned up the last of the arch-villains of Canyon City and decided to retire, and left Ruby with an unrequited love's broken heart.

It was all Adam could talk about for days, and that was driving Cori crazy because

he wasn't paying attention to her. She was almost jealous.

One day, Adam woke up to the sound of the shower running. He knocked on the door for her to let him in so he could relieve himself. She didn't answer. He knocked harder and called out to her. He heard nothing but the hiss of the shower running. Then he felt the water at his feet. He looked down as the floor started to get flooded with red-tinted water.

He stepped back in shock, and then steeled himself to ram the bathroom door. He broke through and was overwhelmed when he saw Cori floating in the bathtub overflowing with bloody water; steaming hot water still spraying down onto her lifeless body. He turned away for a second as the fear and revulsion washed over him. He then came

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back to his senses and carefully walked across the slippery wet floor to turn off the water and pull the plug.

As the water swirled down the drain, Adam rushed to the bedroom phone to call 9-1-1. He described the situation then hung up as he waited for help. In the meantime, he found towels to soak up the water making its way onto the bedroom floor.

The paramedics found Adam sitting on the toilet, with the lid down, mumbling to himself in a dazed state. Adam was lost in his own fear, trapped in a dark place, wondering why Cori would have killed herself. When the water drained away, he saw that her wrist had been cut... the razor blade caught in the drain. That image kept flashing back to him in his mind.

He could hear paramedics say, as if in the distance through a tin-can phone, "what a mess" and "sad to see this happen" and "what must he be thinking", but worst of all, "she was dead when we arrived -- hard to tell the exact time of death -- get the coroner down here."

\* \* \* \* \*

It was almost 2 weeks later, 13 days to be exact, before Adam opened up the bookstore to the public again. He

was tired and distracted; by now he was an insomniac. He couldn't sleep, but when he did, he had nightmares about Cori. So, he ended up changing the hours that the store was open, staying open later.

That night, just after the sun set, a beautiful red-head dressed in a provocative black leather outfit that had to have been painted on walked into the store with an old book bound in black leather with gold embossed writing on the cover. She walked up to the counter he was standing behind and gently placed the book onto the countertop.

Adam had a haunting feeling that he knew the woman from somewhere but there was no mistake what book was just brought to him. He caught his breath then asked, "Is this really the 'Book of Palingenesis'?"

The woman smiled a knowing smile and sweetly replied, "Yes, and I'm willing to sell it to you... for a *price*. One I'm sure you are willing to pay."

"And what would that be?" he asked.

"I need you to be the next **Obsidian**."

His heart stopped as he realized with whom he was talking. Was he going mad? Was this really Ruby in his store, asking

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him to be Obsidian?

"*What?!*" was the first intelligent thought that he could verbalize. Then came, "Why do you want *me* to be Obsidian? Who am I to you?"

Her lips curled as she replied, "I know all about you, Adam Stone. I know you are the one man who knows everything about Obsidian, and me. I know you were as shocked as I was that Obsidian retired..."

"Wait a minute... *just wait*. Obsidian is just a comic book character. *YOU* are a comic-book character. This isn't happening."

She slapped him in the face. "Did that feel real enough

to you? Trust me, I'm as real as you are, Adam. If that doesn't convince you, I know something you don't know that you can only reveal if you become Obsidian."

Still reeling from the sting, he cautiously asked, "What's that?"

Her face became cold, "That your wife Cori didn't kill herself. She was murdered."

"That's it. I've gone insane. 'That's right officer, a comic-book bimbo told me my wife was murdered,'" he said, mocking her.

She tried to slap him again, but he caught and held her hand fast. She smiled again

and said, "Very impressive. With moves like that, you will become Obsidian easily. Listen, I don't have all night. Read this book. It will explain a lot to you. Most importantly, it will explain *how* I can make you Obsidian." With that she freed her wrist from his grip and started to walk towards the door. She opened the door, turned and said, "And yes, you have gone insane. That's what I like most about you, Adam." With that, she was gone, disappearing into the night.

In his business, Adam has become very familiar with the legends of many rare books. The Book of Palingenesis is the most rare of all of the apocryphal texts to ever be excluded from the canonized Bible. Legends held that a rogue Templar Knight had acquired a copy and vanished mysteriously afterwards. Tales of failed attempts to claim it before and since rival even the quests for the Holy Grail. Even a splinter group of the Spanish Inquisition claimed to have searched the globe in an attempt to find it and destroy it. In the end, it is said, they declared it to be pure myth; a fiction to be sure.

The very idea that someone, a comic book heroine at that, would just drop it off for him to skim in an evening was preposterous. Yet he picked it up and was compelled by curiosity to look through it.

The binding was quite worn and weathered. The pages were not paper but very fine parchment. This was not a book to flip through casually, but gingerly and with care. It was written in English, hand-scribed and illuminated. If it were authentic, it would have been transcribed from at least a Greek source, and from an unknown language before that. The word *genesis* is from the ancient Greek for "birth" or "origin". The prefix *palin* means "back again". Put them together and you get anything from a second creation, to resurrection or reincarnation, perhaps reanimation... *even vampirism*. It described everything that goes against Christian dogma, save the ability of one special man. Everything that could punch a hole into the side of the world's predominant, if fractured, religion.

# Vampyr Chat

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By the time he finished reading the ancient, hand-illuminated tome he had been given, Adam was exhausted. He fell asleep as he completed the last sentence. Shortly into his long-awaited slumber, he began to dream. He saw the whole of the Book Of Palingenesis acted out before him.

\* \* \* \* \*

*"And the Earth was void and Empty  
And Darkness was upon the face  
of the Earth  
Is all of this pain so necessary?  
You are my sanctuary.  
Surely whoever speaks to me with  
the right voice  
Him or her I shall follow,  
As the water falls from the roof.  
Silently."*

*Madonna  
"Sanctuary"  
from Bedtime Stories*

The Creation of Adam... and *Lilith*? *The First Sin*? Not the "Original Sin", but the **First**. Of the betrayal of *Lilith* by Adam, the Angels, and God Himself. What the book failed to say, unless he missed it, was just who it was exactly who committed the First Sin. Perhaps they all did, not just *Lilith*. That was another terrible thing that mustn't be allowed to surface. The idea that Adam was flawed was acceptable, but not the angels and God. Blasphemy and heresy, right here in his hands. So any trace of *Lilith* was erased from the Good Book, second

runner-up Eve was promoted to matron of humanity; the church had its scapegoats, and all was right with the world.

But what happened to *Lilith*? Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Her fury was the First, and it burned so bright even God was singed. Throughout the ages of man she continued to return, in many forms, to either help or hinder Mankind at her will. One of her happy chores was to seduce young men in their sleep, feeding on their dreams. From her we also get our nightmares, and legends of succubae and vampires.

He saw it all. He finally believed. He finally understood. He knew why the early patriarchs of the Judeo-Christian religions tried to destroy this tome. The Inquisition and Crusades may never have happened had this been found. The vampires would never have had to masquerade in the darkness. *The Obsidian Order would never have been necessary.*

In his dream he cried out, "My God! It's all so clear! Holy Shit! I know about it all. They'll kill me to protect the secret, *unless...*" Then Ruby appeared before him, in a flowing, black silk dress that almost, but not quite, revealed her shapely body, and said, "Unless you *drink from me tonight*. All your life you have sought out

the arcane knowledge... especially those lost books of the Bible. But the Apocrypha left you hungry for more, and you thought the Book Of Palingenesis was only legend. You thought *WE* were only legend. Vampires are very real. We are not the foul beasts of Hollyweird. We are the Keepers of the Night. We are not all evil. Some of us champion the Innocent. Obsidian was one of us. He was killed by the Hunters, and his successor must be found. You, Adam, are to be that Dark Avenger. You have been trained since your childhood to be his successor."

He understood, "Through the comic books."

"Yes. It was the only way the secret could be kept in check this long. Permission has been granted to me by the Prince of Phoenix himself, whom you will meet soon, to make you one of us." She seemed to float nearer to him, and eventually less than an inch separated their bodies, ethereal as they were.

"What about Cori?" he asked solemnly.

He understood, "Through the comic books."

"Yes. It was the only way the secret could be kept in check this long. Permission has been granted to me by the Prince of Phoenix himself, whom

you will meet soon, to make you one of us." She seemed to float nearer to him, and eventually less than an inch separated their bodies, ethereal as they were.

"What about Cori?" he asked solemnly.

"Her murder is for you to solve. For you to **Avenge**. Her soul will not rest without *Retribution*. You are the only one who can find out the Truth. Only you have the Thirst for Truth and Justice and now Vengeance that is the *birthright* of Obsidian."

He looked into her crystal blue eyes and asked, "But do I need the Thirst of Blood as well?"

"Vengeance is a dish best served cold," she started as she took his hand and placed it on her bosom above her heart. He felt her lifeless, cold body for the first time. She smiled and continued, "as cold as my dead heart. But even in this cold heart, there is warmth. Even in the Darkness we must live in, there is Light as long as Obsidian defends that Darkness and the Innocents it shelters. As Obsidian, you will slake your Undead Thirst only on the criminals you pursue. You will not be able to take the life of an innocent. If you find their blood spilt, it will have no hold over your Thirst, but their slayer's blood will satiate you two-fold."

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"And what about you? Will you fight beside me and love me as you did the original Obsidian?" he asked moving his hand from her bosom to wrap around her and pull her closer to him. Up against him so close. The chill of her skin against his was invigorating.

"As I have fought with every Obsidian I have created down the years, my beautiful Adam." With that she kissed him. When they came up for air, she asked, "So, Adam, will you join me?"

Gasping, he gave in and said, "Yes..." and he woke up. When he realized he had been dreaming and she wasn't there, he sat up straight and the Book of Palingenesis fell from his lap.

He noticed a Post-It note was attached to the cover when he picked it up that read: "My Love, I'm glad you agreed. But you must train before you are turned. You'll also need your cloak. We shall begin tonight when the sun sets again. Until then, Ruby."

\* \* \* \* \*

The following night, she arrived as she promised, and they began a regimen of exercise and martial arts to hone his skills. He was already in fine shape, but never had formal training in defensive and lethal moves. He often mimicked the style of Obsidian from the pages of the comics, as Ruby hoped he would, so the training went quickly. But the agility and



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stealth he needed would not be trained easily. They would come with the power of her blood.

Night after night they worked, until finally 28 days had passed, and she believed he was ready. She presented him with the famous Cloak of Shadows. A thick, yet remarkably light hooded cloak that was pitch black in color. Light almost seemed to be sucked into it like a black hole. She set it aside, and told him, "You can put it on afterwards."

"After what," he asked.

She only smiled and walked up to him to give him a kiss; a long kiss, which ended with her moving from his lips to his neck. Soon after she bit and began to drink, he lost consciousness as he gave himself willingly.

Like fire, her blood burned down his throat, and yet he didn't mind the heat. In fact, he welcomed it. Indeed, he finally wanted something more than anything else in his life. Such as it was. With the heat -- the thick, salty liquid heat - - came understanding.

Truth. Power. Knowledge. Infinity. Mind-shattering and numbing revelations threatening to crush his puny mortal brain under its weight. The weight of everything that had happened to him, combined with

her blood, cracked his psyche like an egg and fried it as if it landed on a Phoenix sidewalk in July.

As his mind fractured he became deranged with two personalities. Like all good superheroes, Obsidian has an alter-ego, which is now the mild-mannered, bookish Adam Stone. However, unlike a normal secret identity, Adam will also tend to "channel surf" through other personalities from time to time. When his psyche split in two, it wasn't a clean break; little fiddly bits splintered off. They are the little insane lapses he'll suffer and Adam knows this now. The blood has made this known to him. Or perhaps Ruby told him through their blood bond.

Either way, he can't stop it, or control it. Only his final death can hope to calm the madness. Until then, Obsidian is locked inside Adam Stone. The suffering of those around him and the evil elements in the world will draw him out, and they had best not be around when he is unleashed.

He slept all day after the Kiss, and when he awoke the next night, he found her beside him. He woke her with a kiss, and they fooled around for a bit before she told him that he would need to meet the Prince that night. He was nervous, naturally, but he tried not to let it show.

Upon presentation at Midnight, the Prince kept his word and accepted Adam Stone into his domain -- secretly hoping to meet his Dark Half soon. Little did he know how soon it would be. At the end of the introduction, an explosion was heard from outside. Ruby ran outside and Adam followed. The Prince went as well to investigate.

When the trio made it outside, they found a car had been bombed. The car had chrome spray-paint on it that read, "The Legend of Obsidian WILL DIE!" As the three discussed who might pull such a stunt, a black car without plates screeched around the corner. A window rolled down, and a shotgun loaded with phosphorus shells was fired towards Adam.

Ruby dove in front of him and took the hit full-on, completely scorching her chest to her heart. Adam screamed into the night, "**NOOOooooo...!**" He turned to face the Prince, bloody tears rolling down his cheeks from his eyes which were now blazing red. In between sobs he swore, "If it is... the last thing I do... on this Earth... I will avenge her death. I will avenge Cori's death, and I pledge my services to you, my Prince. I only ask of you two things."

"Name them," the Prince

said.

"First, turn around," He said, in a slightly deeper, calmer voice.

The Prince smiled, shrugged, and then turned around. After a whooshing sound, a tap came to his shoulder so he turned back around, to find a man who somehow seemed taller, or stronger, or just different, but certainly wearing a black hooded cloak that fluttered slightly in the light breeze. "The other thing," Obsidian said, "is never tell anyone my true identity."

"Absolutely. You have my word," said the Prince as he extended his hand. Obsidian started to kneel before him, but the Prince stopped him and said, "A handshake will suffice, Obsidian."

***"With these powers, I could  
be... a Super Hero!  
But first..."***

***The Mask***



# Reincarnation

## *The oppression of a philosophical ideal*



***"All souls were created in the beginning, and are finding their way back to whence they came"***

**Edgar Cayce  
Reading 3744-5**

by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

A few nights ago a friend and I were talking. He had recently broken up with his girlfriend and was in emotional distress. Eventually, the conversation turned to spiritual principles. At this point I began to firmly bite my lip.

I learned a long time ago that I couldn't discuss my spiritual beliefs in normal conversation. In America, where diverse ideology is touted, alternative viewpoints, especially when of a religious nature, often lead to ridicule and contempt.

My grandmother, never caring about someone else's disdain towards her, has her own credo. She would say, *don't cast pearls before swine*. A biblical reference<sup>1</sup> meaning *don't bother sharing knowledge with someone who won't or can't understand what you're talking about*.

However, in this rare instance, I thought it would be appropriate to open up the reincarnation can of worms. I said, "What do you know about reincarnation?"

Although prepared for the invariable response of

**1 "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." [Matthew 7:6, King James Version]**

belittlement, my friend's reply astounded me. He said, "What? That's crazy. I don't believe we come back as flies."

I calmly and methodically explained the basic tenants of modern-day reincarnation philosophy. When I was finished, I was pleased to find that my friend, although not a disciple, had a better understanding of what reincarnation was.

There are differing views on what reincarnation encompasses. Most religions believe reincarnation is a cycle of birth, death, and then rebirth. The original form of reincarnation was created in India around the 9th century BC. The philosophy was later adopted by the other major Eastern religions, Buddhism and Jainism, both of which also originated in India. Chinese Taoism took the philosophy from Buddhism around the 3rd century BC. Slightly thereafter the first Greek philosophical system arose under the teachings of Plato. There is dispute as to whether Plato drew his views from the earlier Greek philosopher Pythagoras or from Eastern religions that were beginning to seep into the Mediterranean. It was probably a little of both.



**Plato**

**"For if the soul existed before birth, and in coming to life and being born can be born only from death and dying, must she not after death continue to exist, since she has to be born again?"**

**From Plato's *Phaedo***

Reincarnation is deeply misunderstood and mischaracterized in this country. This is due in large part to the efforts of the Christian church. Emperor Constantine was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity in 306 AD and in 380 AD, Emperor Theodosius officially declared Christianity the state religion of Rome. It was during this period that biblical passages relating to reincarnation in the New Testament were removed. In 533 AD reincarnation was officially declared heresy by the Second Council of Constantinople. In these early Christian times, some religious sects such as the Gnostics, Manichaeans, Carthari and Celtic Christians taught reincarnation, but they were forced to keep their teachings secret due to fear of persecution. It was not until well after the fall of Rome that reincarnation began to be discussed openly.

Karma is directly linked to reincarnation. Karma is the result of our free will. We bring good karma or bad karma upon ourselves based upon the choices we make throughout our lifetimes. Simply put, every action you take causes a result in the future.

**"As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it."**

#### **Job 4:8, King James Version**

Although Christianity turned its back on its reincarnation roots, many of the world's other major religions still teach it to this day.



Hinduism teaches that at creation a soul is separated from the Divine. The soul is driven to reunite with the Divine, but is not able to until it attains perfection. The process of attaining perfection requires assumption of many different bodies and forms on earth. The soul passes through many lives and deaths. Reincarnation is the means by which a soul reunites with the Divine. This concept is summarily described in the following verse of the *Bhagavad Gita*:

**"Just as a man discards worn out clothes and puts on new clothes, the soul discards worn out bodies and wears new ones."**

#### ***The Path of Knowledge 2:22, The Bhagavad Gita***

Buddhism contains several (and varying) concepts in regard to reincarnation. The reincarnation system *Tulku*, of Tibetan Buddhism, is based on the theory that Buddha's soul never vanishes. Buddha reincarnates in succession throughout time to lead his followers and to accomplish his mission.

Tibetan Buddhism also teaches that Jesus was an incarnation of Buddha. The text, *The Life of the Saint Issa. The Best*



of the *Sons of Men*, is an account of Jesus's travels in India and Tibet. In the New Testament there is an 18-year gap in the accounting of Jesus' life. It is during this period that Tibetan's report Jesus traveled and taught in their land.

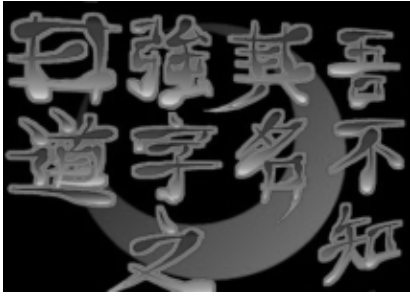
**"Issa is a great prophet, one of the first after the twenty-two Buddhas; he is greater than any of the Dalai-Lamas, for he constitutes a part of the spirituality of the Lord."**

***Teaching of the Buddha Issa, Nicolas Notovitch***



Judaism calls reincarnation *Gilgul Neshamot*. This fundamental belief pre-dates Christianity. *Gilgul Neshamot* was a primary tenant of Jewish religion until the middle 1800's. During this period a more scientific method of thinking invaded Eastern European Jewish culture. The result of this influence was much of reincarnation philosophy was abandoned by Jewish leaders. In Chasidic, Hasidic, and Orthodox Jewish sects, reincarnation is still an important part of their everyday religion. In the *Zohar*, a primary Cabalistic text, it is said:

**"The souls must reenter the absolute substance whence they have emerged. But to accomplish this, they must develop all the perfections, the germ of which is planted in them; and if they have not fulfilled this condition during one life, they must commence another, a third, and so forth, until they have acquired the condition which fits them for reunion with God."**



Chinese Taoism openly teaches reincarnation. An important scripture of Taoism, the Chuang Tzu, states:

**"Birth is not a beginning; death is not an end. There is existence without limitation; there is continuity without a starting point. Existence without limitation is space. Continuity without a starting point is time. There is birth, there is death, there is issuing forth, there is entering in. That through which one passes in and out without seeing its form, that is the Portal of God"**

### Chuang Tzu 23

Islam is a religion of many sects. The Sufis believe the immortal soul continually passes through different bodies. Jalalu 'D-Din Rumi, a famous Sufi poet, wrote:



*I died as a mineral and became a plant,  
I died as a plant and rose to animal,  
I died as animal and I was man.  
Why should I fear?  
When was I less by dying?  
Yet once more I shall die as man,  
To soar with angels blest;  
But even from angelhood I must pass on ...*

Another great mystic Mansur al-Hallaj wrote:

*Like the herbage  
I have sprung up many a time  
On the banks of flowing rivers.  
For a hundred thousand years  
I have lived and worked  
In every sort of body.*

Additionally, it is written in the Koran:

**"And you were dead, and He brought you back to life.  
And He shall cause you to die, and shall bring you back  
to life, and in the end shall gather you unto Himself."**

***The Cow 2:28, The Koran***

It is clear that the vast majority of world religions support a belief in reincarnation. Christianity is in the minority. Despite the rewriting of the New Testament, there exist several passages that show reincarnation existed in early Christian teachings.

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The greatest example of reincarnation in the Bible centers around the story of Elijah. This is one of the few biblical stories that span both testaments. Elijah first appears in the Old Testament, in the first book of Kings. He is one of the greatest of the Hebrew prophets.

Elijah performed many miracles in the name of the Lord. His greatest may have been when he challenged the followers of Baal to a contest.<sup>2</sup> The contest entailed that two altars be built. One to Baal and one to the God of Abraham. Upon each altar was placed an offering. Whichever God was able to rain fire down upon the altar and consume the offering would be declared the one true God.

The priests of Baal prayed and prayed but nothing happened to their altar. When it was Elijah's turn he had the altar doused with water. Elijah knelt and prayed and suddenly fire rained down from heaven and the altar was consumed in flame.

Elijah had demonstrated the power of the God of Abraham. However, he was consumed with anger towards the followers of Baal and he had them all beheaded. This was a mistake and bad karma would follow him in future incarnations.

Many years after the death of Elijah, another Hebrew prophet, Malachi, foretold Elijah's return:

**"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."**

#### **Malachi 4:5, King James Version**

This is the first biblical reference of reincarnation. Malachi prophesizes that Elijah will return and he will precede the coming of the Messiah. The Hebrews were very aware of this prophecy and were constantly looking for Elijah's next incarnation. They knew that when Elijah reappeared the Messiah would shortly follow. Many years later, Jesus' disciples asked if he was Elijah.

**"And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No."**

#### **John 1:21, King James Version**

This demonstrates that the very first Christians, Jesus' own disciples, believed in reincarnation. Furthermore, Jesus tells that Elijah had already come.

**"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."**

### **Matthew 17:11-13, King James Version**

It seems very clear that the old Hebrew prophets and Jesus' disciples all believed in reincarnation. Jesus himself validates reincarnation when he confirms that Elijah had already been reborn.

An interesting correlation is also found here. In first Kings Elijah had the followers of Baal beheaded. In Elijah's next incarnation as John the Baptist, he was beheaded by Herod. The bad karma Elijah created returned and manifested itself in Elijah's next incarnation.

In the New Testament, the story of the transfiguration is an account of reincarnation [Mathew 17:1-13]. This chapter of the Bible is hotly debated. Fanatical Christians flat out deny this is any reference to reincarnation. More progressive Christians hold the chapter up as proof that reincarnation is a valid Christian principle.

Without a doubt, Christians are divided on the topic of reincarnation.



**Edgar Cayce**

In the past century the philosophy of reincarnation has become more widely accepted in the United States. In the 1930's reincarnation was thrust into the spotlight by the work of Edgar Cayce. Later to become known as, *The Sleeping Prophet*, Cayce performed thousands of past life readings. Most of Cayce's work dealt with holistic cures for physical ailments. Cayce often found that physical ailments in this lifetime are the result of bad karma from a past lifetime.

Edgar Cayce was the first psychic to perform personal *readings*, (Or at least to call such an activity by that name), a term that would endure to this very day.

The work of Edgar Cayce led to the foundation of the A.R.E. (Association for Research and Enlightenment) In addition to the International headquarters located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the A.R.E. boasts local chapters in over 25 countries and activities in over 80. Membership is reported to be over 25,000.

In the 1960's the philosophy of reincarnation experienced another resurgence as Eastern religious ideals permeated hippie culture. In the 1980's and 90's an additional revival occurred as new age religious practices began to spread across the country. Prominent figures such as Shirley McClain and Sylvia Browne further increased interest in reincarnation.

All of this may be quite moot. There is most likely no special spiritual advance if a person believes in the concept of reincarnation while incarnated. If reincarnation is, it simply... is. Belief in the philosophy is not required. In fact, belief in reincarnation may very well hinder a soul's ascension. Apathy may overcome an individual if he or she thinks they'll just get another chance to do it all over again. It is for this very reason the Roman Catholic Church declared reincarnation heresy. The Church wanted followers to believe they had only one shot at salvation.

It is not natural for a person to remember their past lives. When a soul reenters a physical body, it removes all previous spiritual and carnal knowledge. It is important that we don't remember our past lives. It is important, because it helps us grow in this lifetime.

***"It is absolutely necessary that the soul shall be healed and purified, and if it doesn't take place in one life on earth, it must be accomplished in future earthly lives."***

**Saint Gregory of Nyssa  
Roman Catholic Bishop  
Approximately 380 AD**



# Bram Stoker's Dracula

## *The Greatest Irish Tale ever told*



by **Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org

If I were alive in 19th century Dublin, without doubt, I would have been a Bram Stoker 'groupie'. The author's accomplishments have had a phenomenal effect on world cinema, theatre, and art. His best-known novel, "Dracula", spawned an entire genre. It established a cult following and set fiction sales records that will never be equalled.

There is no question that of the 18 novels that Stoker penned, the blood curdling gothic novel "Dracula" was the one that made him famous. The enormity of the story eventually grew to eclipse Stoker himself. He became the world's most famous and everlasting Irish author.

Let us consider 19th century Ireland for a moment, and look at the Irish influences that appear in the novel. Stoker was a child during, "The Great Irish Famine" of 1846-1850. He grew up in a seaside environment at Clontarf, Dublin. His family attended St. Michan's Church famous for being host to mummified bodies. There the Stoker family had a burial vault with the suicide graveyard a short distance away in Ballybough. Many Celtic symbols, myths, and emblems appeared in the novel. His work as a court's clerk in Dublin Castle helped him come to know Ireland and her people well.

Mentally armed with these images and mythology, Stoker had the ideal background to write the novel "Dracula." However, working at Dublin Castle was cramping his passion and love of writing. We can assume by his role as a civil servant that he was trying to please his father. His father too had worked in the old Imperial Service. In the 1870's Bram Stoker wrote a regular drama review for a Dublin broadsheet.

His articles greatly contributed to the dramatic scene in Dublin and eventually paved the way for the founding of the National Theatre.



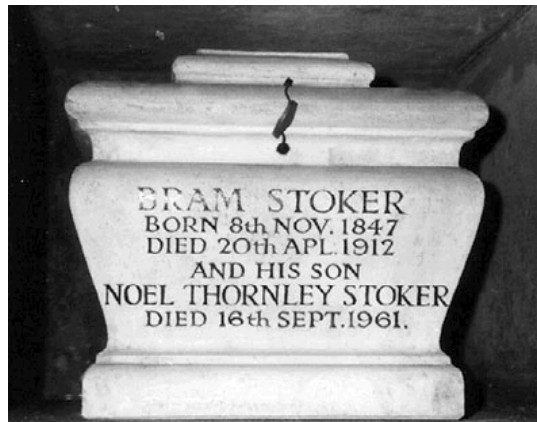
*Starving Irish family in the Irish Famine.  
Photograph Source:  
National Library of Ireland*

In the late part of the 1870s Stoker met the love of his life, Florence Balcombe. They married and then moved to England where he was engaged as a secretary to his acting hero, Henry Irving. Mr. Irving was also the manager of the Lyceum Theatre. From that point forward Stoker's life was busy with the theatre. He rubbed shoulders with many of England's greats such as

William Gladstone and the young Winston Churchill. He toured America eight times with the Lyceum Players and mixed with the American elite: Walt Whitman, Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt. Bram Stoker grew to adore and love America.

After living a celebrated and full life, at the age of sixty-five (which was a grand age for those times), Stoker died in Pimlico, London. He was cremated at Golder's Green Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Florence and their only child Noel (born in 1879). Noel shares his father's Urn as witnessed in the photograph below.

It is presently estimated that Dracula has inspired more than 1,000 films. One of them, "Nosferatu," was the subject of a lawsuit by Stoker's widow. She saw to it that any mention of "Dracula" was removed from the final film.



*Photograph courtesy of Connie Nisinger*

In writing this I realize that I will not be the last person to write about Bram Stoker or his novel. There will be many more articles and many more books or movies written about vampires. Stoker achieved immortality and will live forever in our minds and hearts.



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## *Dracula's Dublin*

If you are ever in Dublin, be sure to stop by the Bram Stoker Center in Clontarf.

"It's a wonderfully different exciting place to visit where the time tunnel takes you from our human world into the land of the undead, vampire land. There you can visit the blood laboratory, Renfield's lunatic asylum and Dracula's very own lair. You will encounter many specimens of the unnatural, the freakish, the grotesque, and the different - with plenty of biting and blood sucking! As you move along, lots of bats, mutilated bodies, rats, creaking doors, untrustworthy windows, execution scenes and graveyards dominate your progress, while suitable background music sounds - ranging from crazy organ music to death wails which serenade the whole building, giving it the perfect Gothic atmosphere," reports a spokesman from the Bram Stoker Center.

The Bram Stoker Center also provides bus/coach trips. Sit back and relax as a guide takes you through all the places associated with Dracula in Dublin. You'll visit such places as the ruins of a church in Clontarf where Stoker was baptised, Trinity College where he was educated, and Dublin Castle where he worked. You'll also see The Gaiety Theatre where he attended many shows, St. Anne's Church where he married, the Shelbourne Hotel where he met Henry Irving, and a stop at St. Michen's Church complete with mummified bodies and the Ballybough suicide graveyard.

The tour winds up with a stop at the Bram Stoker Park in Clontarf. If you are really daring you may want to hang out under the Stoker tree after sundown. Some are purported to disappear forever, never to be seen again.

# Who Ya Gonna Call?

## *A Chat with A Real-Life Ghost Hunter*

by **Stephanie A. Watkins**  
sawnewz@yahoo.com

While ghost hunting might not earn you much - if any - money, by many accounts it's a satisfying avocation for those with the time, energy and "gift" to get in touch with the spirits that walk among us.

Dave Oester, Ph.D., DD, and his partner, Dr. Sharon Gill, crisscross the United States in an RV in search of America's most haunted spots. The doctors' web site, GhostWeb (<http://www.ghostweb.com>), is home to The International Ghost Hunter's Society, where surfers can read about the doctors' paranormal experiences, view pictures of ghosts and register for ghost-hunting classes.

Dr. Oester took a few minutes to talk with Acrimony about this alternative and most unusual activity.

**Acrimony:** How does one get into this line of work? Is ghost hunting a viable career path for people interested in paranormal phenomena?

**Dr. Oester:** We got into this line of work because we moved into a haunted house along the Oregon coast back in 1991 and gained experience living with several ghosts. Most of the ghost hunters we have trained over the years have turned to writing as a source of income, the others have offered walking ghost tours in their area. We do not charge for investigations and we do not exorcise ghosts as we do not believe that spirits can be removed.

The vast majority enter this field because they want to learn about life after death by studying the spirits of the dead and what lies beyond the grave. Ghost hunting is not a viable career path in and of itself. However, those interested in the paranormal can achieve successful results in writing and establishing tours of haunted sites, telling the history and the spooky portion that relates to those sites.

**Acrimony:** You travel all around the country in search of ghosts and haunted places. What are some of the more puzzling phenomena you've experienced?

**Dr. Oester:** We have been investigating ghosts for over twelve years, with the last four years on the road traveling across America twice a year. We have not found any puzzling phenomena as the public would envision from Hollywood films. Almost all ghostly phenomena's are rooted in common behavior, just as humans act in normally rational behavior. The exceptions are reported in the news as deviants of society.

However, in the ghostly realm, we see basically the same characteristics found in every haunting across America. What is puzzling is the human behavior pattern of labeling hauntings as being demonic. Demon possession occurs with those who experience emotional health issues, or those seeking limelight and fame. We have never encountered demons or demonic creatures in over one thousand field investigations, but we have encountered ghosts with attitude problems and people with zealous religious intent, but never demons.

**Acrimony:** You write books, give lectures, and teach classes on ghost detection. Are all of us able to see ghosts and spirits? Or are some of us better equipped than others?

**Dr. Oester:** Most children have imaginary friends, which are really spirits/ghosts. When the children reach age 10 or 12

there is a hormonal change in the pineal gland and most children lose the ability to see and hear the dead. The few who retain this ability are the same ones who can see and hear the dead today as adults. Sharon and I are unable to see or hear the ghosts with our natural eyes and ears, but through digital cameras and digital recorders, we are able to record their presents and record their voices. We teach people that ghosts are simply people without physical bodies; they have intelligences, emotions and personalities.

**Acrimony:** Do you receive many requests for exorcisms or house blessings?

**Dr. Oester:** Yes, however, we do not do exorcism or house blessings as this is a violation of the natural order. Ghosts cannot be expelled by exorcism or blessings, but are generally angered and show that anger in negative behavior. The living has no control over the dead and the any religion of the living has absolutely no power over the dead.



***This is Ms. Watkin's first contribution to Acrimony***

# Way To Go For the Show!

Again I take my pen and think,  
About the words I hear,  
It's another thought or blink,  
Glimpse I could not steer...

Another dream of paradise,  
Another wasted dream?  
Another way to say it nice,  
Another thought, so dim?

I'm so dreamy I can't tell,  
'bout the way I feel,  
My visions I could not sell,  
She knew they were not real.

She made up her mind then,  
Like curses, she always did,  
She hit me in the heart again,  
Left my soul to bleed...

She smiled and she laughed to me,  
Gave me her silky hand:  
"I want you mine to be",  
Cunningly she said...

She gave me her hand and word,  
Looking me in the eyes deeply,  
She gave me half the world,  
And she prevailed majestically:



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"I thought I was the one you loved,  
So you said to me,  
Never noticed if you lied,  
Left my soul to bleed..."

So she looked at me and, smiling,  
Took the other half,  
Stole the world where I was dwelling,  
Thought I'd lose myself...

Stormy skies of silky red,  
Dusty clouds and hazes,  
They're our love's shred:  
See as the decay places...

Black waters of deepest love,  
That depict my stormy face,  
I may never look above,  
To your skies, God's embrace!

Blue skies upon a stormy world,  
You are the blue in the red,  
But you only left the shred,  
And nothing better I could hold...

How could I hold the dust?  
Of what we once had,  
So leave me here in lust,  
Leave me in the storm, sad...

Stolid, vain, gray and pink,  
Maybe you're just hollow...  
Only words that I could think:  
Only ones you could follow!

So sing the song of the rain,  
Say the verses of the snow...  
Keep me pleasant company,  
Way to go for the show!



**Marcus Armand Forsythe**  
**Romania, Transylvania**  
**lestat7@freemail.hu**

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but at what cost?*



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# Stroll Through an Old Irish Graveyard



by **Pamela Logue**  
pam@acrimony.org

Ireland is rich with history and culture. One afternoon while in Downhill, I took a stroll through the Downhill Presbyterian Graveyard. Downhill is in the northwest of Ireland. I took a few photographs of things that caught my eye. Many of the stones date back to the late 1700's.



***The Downhill Presbyterian Graveyard  
Downhill, Ireland***







The eccentric bishop of Derry and earl of Bristol, Frederick Augustus Hervey built a castle near Downhill in 1774, and this is a picture of his mausoleum. It is said that the Bishop used to watch his clergy compete in horse races for the best parishes on Downhill Strand at the bottom of the cliff. Nowadays, rumors of Devil Worship and Black magic are abundant as headless sheep and other

animals are continuously found in and around the area of the Bishop's graveyard and castle.

Next month we'll take a visit to another Castle, which was visited by the Spanish Armada on the North West Coast.



### **How to submit your work to Acrimony**

Acrimony encourages and thrives on reader contribution. Acrimony will pay you \$10 for each article, \$5 for poetry, and \$5 for comic strips, satirical cartoons, or other artwork which is published. Space in Acrimony is severely limited and Acrimony cannot guarantee publication of all content submitted.

There are 3 steps to getting your work in Acrimony.

1. E-mail your content to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org) or mail it to Acrimony, P.O. Box 215, Ontonagon, MI 49953.
2. Include an email or written letter stating that you own all of the rights to the content and grant Acrimony the right to publish the work.
3. Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free at <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

# Calendar

## **May 1st Beltane, Cetsamhain, Kalends of May, Rowan Witch Day**

Today is the festival of Beltane. This is when plants are in full growth. It is a time of mystical union. Beltane was originally a Celtic festival. It is a celebration of the Goddess and the horned god. Maypoles are a remnant of the old observance of Beltane. Beltane is often marked by bonfires.

Cetsamhain is an observance that is exactly opposite to Samhain.

Rowan Witch Day is a Finnish festival of the coming of summer. It is in honor of the goddess Rauni.

## **May 2nd Floralia, Elena**

Today is a sacred day for Elena (or Helen), the goddess of the holy road. She is Elaine of Authurian romances. The Welsh Sarn Helen are her roads.

## **May 3rd Floralia, Bona Dea Eve**

Tonight is the eve of the festival of Bona Dea, the Roman good goddess. In ancient Rome, a woman's festival was held on this night.

## **May 4th Bona Dea, Veneration of the Thorn, Sheila Na Gig, Faeries Day**

The hawthorn tree of the good goddess is honored on this day. Sheila Na Gig is an aspect of the goddess in Ireland.

This is also Faeries Day in Irish tradition. An offering of food and tea is traditionally left in doorways to placate the faeries and prevent them from stealing the children of the house.

## **May 7th Nones of May, Thatgelia, Helston Furry Dance**

On this day in ancient Greece, the festival of Thargelia was held in honor of Apollo. It took place on the island of Delos.

A floral dance is traditionally performed at Helston in Cornwall on this day. It includes a representation of the horned god as Robin Hood. It is one of the last surviving medieval festivals of Spring.

**May 9th      Lemuria**

Today is the first day of the Roman festival of Lemuria. This is when hungry spirits of dead family members might visit their former homes.

**May 11th      Lemuria**

Today is the first day of the Roman festival of Lemuria. This is when hungry spirits of dead family members might visit their former homes.

History notes that on this day in 1659, the puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony banned the celebration of Christmas, describing it as a pagan festival and a great dishonor of God.

**May 12th      Celtic Tree Month of Saille Ends****May 13th      Lemuria, Celtic Tree Month of Huath Begins**

Today is the final day of the Roman festival of Lemuria, when the hungry spirits of dead family members might visit their former homes.

**May 14th      Runic Half-month of Ing Begins, Midnight Sun**

Ing is the male consort of the earth mother goddess. His rune is the symbol of light. This month embodies the energy and growth of midsummer.

In parts of Norway, this day is the Festival of the Midnight Sun. It is in honor of the Norse goddess of the sun.

**May 15th      Maia and Mercury, Vesta, Cold Sophie, Ides of May, Goddess Month of Maia Ends, Scottish Quarter Day**

Today is sacred to Maia and her son Mercury, the goddess of the full moon.

Today is also sacred to Vesta, the goddess of the hearth.

On the Ides of May, the Vestal Virgins of Rome performed a rite to ensure the supply of water for the coming year. It involved the sacrifice of straw puppets in the Tiber.

Maia was the daughter of Atlas and Pleione, one of the seven Pleiades.

**May 16th      Brendan the Navigator, Goddess Month of Hera Begins**

Legend has it that Brendan the Navigator, and Irish priest, was the first European to find North America.

Hera is a Greek goddess, the daughter of Cronus and Rhea. She is said to protect all women who have not slept with her husband Zeus.

**May 17th Dea Dia**

Today is the festival of the mother of the universe.

**May 18th Apollon Day**

Today is the festival of Apollon, for the Greek and Roman god Apollo. Apollo was the god of achery, agriculture, animal husbandry, crops, cattle, farmers, shepherds, sheep, poetry, medicine, prophecy, and ethics.

**May 20th Festival of Mjollnir, Kallyntaria and Plynteria**

Today is the festival of Mjollnir, Thor's hammer. Tradition holds that this is a good day for ritual contests and battle.

On this day in ancient Greece, the festivals of Kallyntaria and Plynteria were held, in honor of Athena. Athena was the patroness of war and of wisdom. The observance of this festival involved the cleaning of statues and other stonework.

**May 23rd Rosalia**

Today is the Roman festival of roses, in honor of the goddess Flora. Flora is a Roman goddess of flowers, the ripening of fruits, and of youth and its pleasures.

**May 24th Mothers, Hermes Trismegistus, Festival of Artemis and Diana**

This is the Celtic festival of the three mother goddesses, who bring prosperity and a full harvest. They are often symbolized as a maiden, a mother, and a crone.

Today is also the feast of Hermes Trismegistus, the patron of alchemists.

A celebration in honor of Artemis was held today in ancient Greece, and later in Rome for Diana. Artemis and Diana were goddesses of the moon, and are also associated with forests, springs, childhood, and the chase.

**May 25th Apollo**

A festival for Apollo took place on this day in ancient Greece.

**May 26th Sacred Well Day**

This day marks an observance for the spirits of sacred wells.

**May 27th Diana of the Wild Wood, Three Fates, Friggablott**

On this day in ancient Rome, a festival honoring Diana of the Wild Wood took place. The evening of the celebration was dedicated to Prosperina and the Three Fates.

In Norse tradition, this day marks an observance for the goddess Frigga.

**May 28th      Pythian Games**

Every four years on this day the Pythian Games were held at Delphi in ancient Greece in honor of the serpent goddess Python.

**May 29th      Ambarvalia, Mars, Oak Apple Day, Runic Half-month of Odal Begins**

Today is the Roman festival of Ambarvalia, sacred to Ceres, the goddess of grain, growing plants, and the love of a mother for her child. It's a time of purification.

Farmers in Rome honored the god Mars on this day.

In England it's Oak Apple Day, which commemorates the escape of Charles II from Cromwell by hiding in an oak tree.

The run Odal signifies ancestral property.

**May 30th      Festival of Frigg, Whitsunday, Queen of the Underworld**

Today is sacred to the Norse goddess Frigga, the queen of heaven and consort to Odin, or Wotan.

In rural tradition this is Whitsunday, for brewing Whitsun ale and for creating love-bowers.

Today marks the beginning of a two-day Roman festival in honor of Hecate and Cybele, goddesses associated with the Underworld

**May 31st      Queen of the Underworld**

Today marks the second day of a two-day Roman festival in honor of Hecate and Cybele, goddesses associated with the Underworld.

## *Sky Watch*

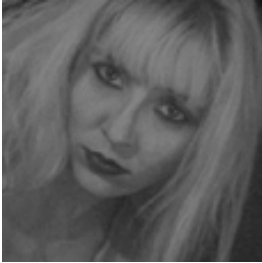


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# Ask Jenny!



by **Jenny Slocum**  
lilwhip@acrimony.org

Dear Jenny,

Do you cyber?

xoxo,  
Cyberman

Dear Cyberman,

Do I cyber? Hmm... Do I play online (<http://www.undernetvampires.com>) or hunt cool downloads? Yes. Do I "cyber-sex"? No! Why in the world would anyone want to watch that! Ok, watching might be interesting, but I would rather have/watch real sex. And not online. And if YOU watch it online, what does it do to the porn industry? What would happen to the economy of poor men and women who make porn movies? So stay off that cyber site and SAVE OUR PORN STARS!

Dear Jenny,

I just read your April column and you are wrong! Angel has been cancelled. After these last 6 episodes, that's it! No more Angel. The WB dumped them like a sack of dirty diapers.

Signed,  
WB hater

Dear WB hater,

Yes, they had a press release just shortly after my reply went to press. You want to save Angel? Go to [www.savingangel.org](http://www.savingangel.org) and get a banner for your webpage. Or a postcard. Or donate to help the cause! Another fine Angel site to visit is: [www.cityofangel.com/main/index.html](http://www.cityofangel.com/main/index.html). MAKE Your voice be heard and help WB change their minds before we change the WB channel!!

Dear Jenny,

Was Princess Diana's death an accident or was she murdered?

Curious about Di~

Dear Curious,

Murdered. I do not believe anything about her death to be an accident. And her book says (ok, so I read it... Sue me!) even years before, she thought she would be killed in order to keep her silent. She knew too much, and was loved by too many to pose anything but a threat to the royal family.

Dear Jenny,

I was over at [www.passion.com](http://www.passion.com) (which is a singles site) and I was deciding whether or not I wanted to join. I was looking at some profiles and about half of the ones I was looking at had naked pictures. This didn't seem normal. Women don't usually advertise themselves naked. Do you think maybe they're hookers using this site to find lonely guys?

Signed,  
Lookin for love

Dear Lookin,

Why do you feel online dating is the way to go? Are

you ugly? Why not expand the places you go to meet people and do it the old fashioned way? I will admit to trying an online thing once (or twice). But people LIE! So it comes down to being lied to in person, or getting to know someone and finally meeting them, and THEN being lied to. As far as hookers... Well surely their pimps can afford computer access. Unless they are really funky-looking hookers. Or from Russia. Toodles! :)

Dear Jenny,

You need some color.  
You look a little pale.

Signed,  
Get some rays

Dear Get some,

Ok mom... I told you not to email me at this address!  
SHEESH!

Dear Jenny,

I was raised to treat women properly. I have never hit a woman, cheated on a woman, and have always done my best to respect women in every way. This behavior has gotten me nowhere. Every woman I have dated has left me for a man who treats her badly. I am sick and tired of women saying they want to be

treated one way when they really want to be treated another.

Love me tender

Dear Elvis,

It is true, most girls want that. But think of it this way... The main reason we like the "bad-boy" is because they are great in the sack. That is the reason most chicks put up with a guy's crap. So ask yourself, can I rock a woman's world? By all means, open my door, get up when I enter a room. But behind closed doors, become the wild stud I crave. Do all these things, and women will not only belong to you... They will be fighting FOR you! So remember, don't be mediocre if ya wanna poke her!

Dear Jenny,

Your picture is hot. You look like a Barbie doll. Are you a real blonde? Are you married? Do you have kids?

From,  
I wanna be Ken

Dear Ken,

I WISH I looked like Barbie! What does a girl gotta do to get some Barbie boobs?? No I am not married. I am not really sure I want to ever be married. And why do you ask? Are you hot? As for being a real

blonde, you would have to ask Miss Clairol. \*wink\*

Dear Jenny,

Hello :)

Jennie Breeden used to have a wonderful RPG-related comic (and other RPG stuff) on her web-page. Now it's nowhere to be seen. Do you have any idea what happened to it or where can we find it?

~Super-sad Super-readers

Dearest Super-sad,

As luck would have it, THE sexy artist Diva herself gave me the answer to your question! She has reported her RPG comic is still up at [www.geebasonparade.com](http://www.geebasonparade.com) and the complete Devils Panties can be found at [www.drunkduck.com/thedevilsanties](http://www.drunkduck.com/thedevilsanties). So go there now! POST-HASTE! And a BIG thanks to you sweet Jen!!!!



*Jenny's column is run exclusively in Acrimony. Email your question to her at [lilwhip@acrimony.org](mailto:lilwhip@acrimony.org)*

# Horoscopes

by Michael Ramses



**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19): Aries begins the month with its running planet Mars in a sextile alignment with Neptune. This type of alignment typically lends to an increase in spiritual matters. You'll ponder and consider where you are in your life and what is good and bad. While this can be beneficial, it can also become engrossing. Try not to become distracted from your everyday duties.



**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): Change isn't always easy. Usually it's a little easier on Taurus than on other signs of the Zodiac. That's good, because you've got some big changes coming your way. Family members have repositioned themselves and this directly affects you. The only question, is how will it affect you in the long run? Will you go with the flow or will you paddle down another stream?



**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): You're intertwined with Cancer this month. The two of you will rely on each other quite a bit. Gemini and Cancer make good friends but poor lovers. Hopefully you're friends. Your dualistic nature is hard on Cancer. As a friend they can overlook a lot. As a lover they take your nature too much to heart. If this is a business dealing, things will work out well. If it's romantic, nip it in the bud.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): You're intertwined with Gemini this month. That crazy Gemini can be a real handful sometimes. Just when you think you've got them figured out they go and change everything up on you. Try to realize that it is just their nature. Most of the time (most), they're not out just to hurt you. Your dreams may be more prophetic than normal this month. Pay attention to them.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): You're finally starting to settle into the New Year. It's about time. It's May! Time to get down to business and do what needs to be done. No more being lazy! Everyone has challenges to overcome and you just need to realize that you'll do just fine. Family members will be there

when the going gets tough, however sometimes it is best to go at it alone.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): There is trouble on the horizon. Things you have been shying away from are coming to the forefront. It's time to drop the procrastination and step up to the line. If you delay any longer you'll be facing real difficulties down the road.

Be aware of this!



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): This has been a cyclical year for you, and it is only May! Why are you going in circles? Knock it off. You rule your destiny. You can't blame it on anything else, no matter how much you may want to. Toss away the crutches and stand

on your own two feet. If your love life is a problem, go at it alone. If your career is in the toilet, change direction immediately. If personally and emotionally you are in distress, grab yourself by the bootstraps and stand up! You're a Libra damn it!



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Learning to love freely is difficult. Scorpio tends to have a streak of selfishness and this will get in the way of love. When your fear of being hurt is overcome, many great things can be accomplished. Secrets are another

stronghold of the scorpion. Be careful! Secrets of the Scorpio are rarely necessary or beneficial. What is bundled up inside often bubbles up and escapes on its own!



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Sometimes you need to stop talking and listen. Sagittarius is usually a joyful sort. It's not hard to do, just close your mouth. Others enjoy your company, but sometimes they need to get things off their chest. This month

try to listen more. There will be great rewards in the future.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** If you got over your nostalgia problems last month, May will be just fine. If not, you're in for another roller coaster month. Things have changed for you. They have changed deeply. You can either lament this, or move on. The latter is the better choice. If you have already moved on, the world is your oyster. You're in position to make some great moves in May!



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Time to settle down a little bit in May. There was a joy-filled whirlwind last month and that's okay. Sometimes we all need diversion from reality. Now is the time to focus on the present however. Everything is in good form, so things shouldn't be too difficult. Just don't get distracted and all will be well.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** The gentle Pisces swims gently upstream looking for the answers to life's mysteries. When they aren't found, depression can set in. Be wary of that this month. You have little to be depressed about! There have been a number of positive changes in your life this year. Career, love, and family are all in excellent standing. And if you think they're not, it only takes minor change to bring greater harmony.



*Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.*

<http://www.MichaelRamses.com>

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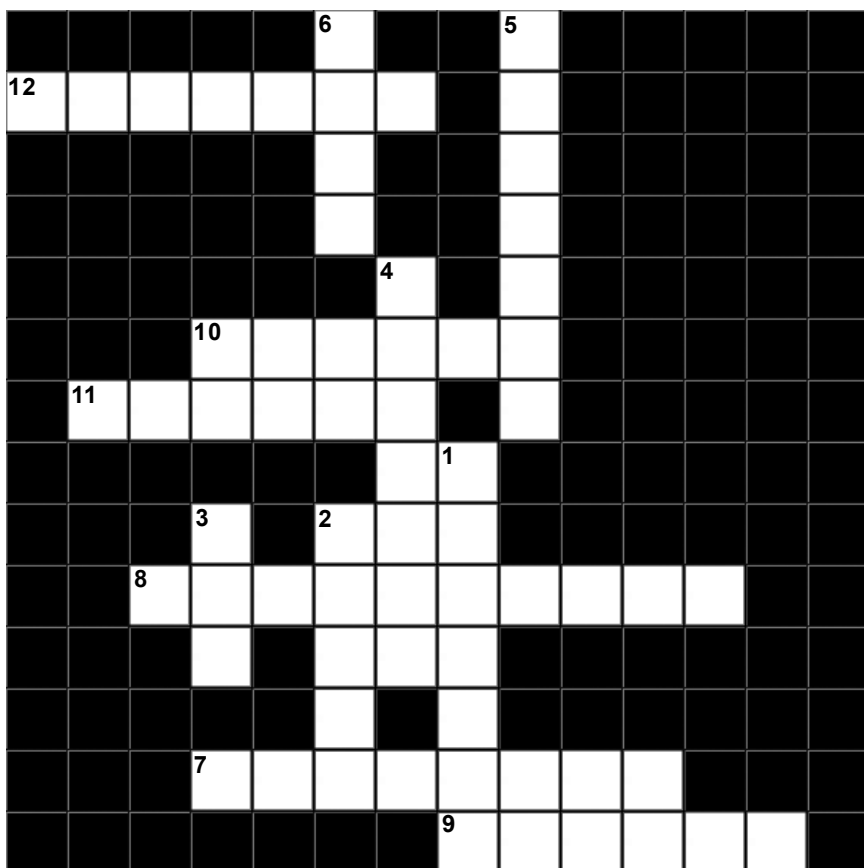
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# Gothic Crossword



## Down

1. Fred was transformed into her against her will
2. Method of gothic speak
3. Dracula in flight
4. TV show with 3 witch sisters
5. Neptune's weapon
6. Great composer of the Baroque era

## Across

7. Cute little angel
8. Legendary hunter
9. God of achery, agriculture, crops, medicine, prophecy, and ethics
10. Greek serpent goddess
11. The good witch
12. Legend has it this Irish priest was the first European to find North America

# Blood and Water



by **Jennie Breeden**  
 jennie@acrimony.org

<http://www.thedevilsphanties.com>

## Brain Teaser

I am the fountain from which no one can drink.

For many I am considered a necessary link.

Like gold to all I am sought for,

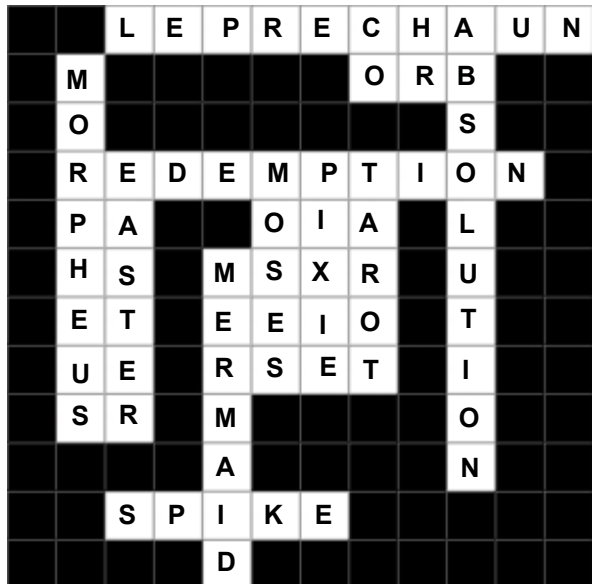
But my continued death brings wealth for all to want more.

What am I?

## April Brain Teaser

The nail would be at the same height since trees grow at their tops.

## April Crossword



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