

## THE IMPACT OF THE NAM ON THE HOME

In the previous article on the NAM (the New Age movement), I defined it (probably as well as it can be defined since it isn't an organized religion); I demonstrated its close link to Hinduism as well as some other eastern religions; I discussed some of the history behind how it infiltrated our western culture; and I dealt with five of its primary beliefs: (1) God is the universe, and the universe is God, (2) the cosmos is completely unified, (3) there's a higher consciousness, (4) there's no distinction between good and evil, and (5) experience is conclusive.

In this article on the NAM, I want to deal with the impact of the NAM; I believe I can truthfully say that NAM influences can be found in every area of life—the family circle, the healthcare field, the school system, the business district, the political arena, and the religious world, but I'll only have time in this study to consider **The NAM and the Family Circle**.

### The ERA Movement

As referred to previously, once a person studies the NAM, there are "so" many things that he can look back on today and see that they didn't just occur by accident, and the vicious attack on the home through *the women's rights movement* is one of those things.

Because the NAM says that God is the universe, and the universe is God, and we are all gods and/or part of the universal godhood, then everyone is equal ... even in authority. Children are told, "If you think it's right, if it feels right to you, then 'just do it', regardless of what anyone else thinks"; so anyone with authority, including parents, becomes a threat (even though God clearly instructs children to honor parents and elders [Ephesians 6:1-2, et al]). Likewise, women are taught that they're equal to men in authority, as well as in other areas, even though the Bible clearly teaches that God placed men are in authority over women: just as "the head of Christ is God," and just as "the head of man is Christ," so "the head of woman is man" (First Corinthians 11:3). The NAM teaches that women will never understand their divine nature until they embrace the goddess within them. (Remember, the NAM holds that if there IS anything sinful, it's ignorance of our deity.)

Within the NAM, women's rights has been classed as part of the neopaganism movement. (The prefix "neo" simply means "new," so neo-paganism is a renewal or revival of paganism.) Neo-pagans reject male-dominated societies and male-exalting religions. (For example, they oppose the idea of calling God, "Father," as the Bible tells us to do [cf. Matthew 6:9]). Even though New Agers generally refer to God as an "it," sometimes they'll be heard to speak of Him as a "she." Is this because they believe He is a she? No, their obvious thinking is that, through eventual compromise, everyone will find the balance of calling God an "it," which is what they want in the first place—they want complete equality or cosmological-unification. (It's no surprise then to read the 1993 estimate that 70% of New Agers are women.) Incidentally, women's rights are connected with paganism because pagans worship female gods or goddesses such as Diana, Artemis, Venus, Aphrodite, Astaroth, Luna, and Gaia.

### Entertainment

**Besides attacking the home through women's rights, the NAM also attacks and influences the home through various types of entertainment. Let's talk about \*movies\* first.**

**Fluke**, a movie for children, promotes reincarnation in opposition to Hebrews 9:27 which teaches that "It is appointed for men to die once," and "after this, the judgment."

**The Karate Kid** series glorifies martial arts as a means of enhancing self-esteem by developing the power that resides in each individual: the martial arts master teaches the teenager and audience that whatever is within you is always right even though the Bible says that "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

The **Star Wars** series is one of the most blatant with it's New Age theme. If asked, the vast majority of the millions of viewers of this series would probably not identify themselves as New Agers, but for lots

of them (many of which who aren't church goers), their concept of God has been identified with a force; instead of the benediction that says, "May God be with you" (cf. Second John 11), it's "May the Force (uppercase 'F') be with you." George Lucas, the producer of this series, is big into the NAM just as Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek, was: George once said, "When you are born, you have an energy field around you.... When you die, your energy field joins all other energy fields in the universe, and while you're still living, that larger energy field is sympathetic to your own energy field" (Eldon Winker, The New Age Is Lying to You, 74). This idea is introduced to us by the Jedi Knight who, like Jesus, has realized and mastered the Force within him: Obi-wan Kenobi, in fact, said, "The Force is what gives the Jedi his power, Luke. It is an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together" (id.).

**The Indiana Jones** series, another Lucas production, has the Holy Grail representing the divine in all of us, the ark treated as an occultic talisman, and the Sankara stones possessing an esoteric power by which the world can be brought under the rule of one leader.

**Willow**, yet another Lucas creation, but directed more at our children, is filled with a mixture of biblical allusions and occult wonders; it also teaches the idea of "the Force."

**The Dark Crystal**, a movie written, directed, and produced by Jim Henson (the mind behind The Muppets) is essentially a fairy tale promoting monism—that all is God and God is all. Instead of having good overcome evil, it ends with the blending of the two into a cosmic unit—all is one, with ultimate reality in the end transcending good and evil. This ought to remind us of Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil."

**Let's take a brief look at \*television.\***

**Star Trek: The Next Generation** promotes such ideas as a universal mind or energy that flows through all things in the universe, animate and inanimate, and that heals and restores people who are plugged into this life force.

**Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** promotes such ideas as looking for solutions within yourself; in fact, Gene Roddenberry once said that people who believe there's only one true God deserve all the contempt they receive (id., 10).

Cartoons like **He-Man** and **She-Ra** and even "innocent" cartoons like **The Smurfs** and **The Care Bears** promote NAM ideas from transforming the world with vibrations to using occultic powers as the masters of the universe. (Incidentally, note the name "She-Ra": "Ra" is the name for the head Egyptian god, and with the New Age feminist twist, Ra becomes a she.)

**Out on a Limb**, S. McLaine's miniseries, offered a slick and entertaining account of how she came to accept the New Age philosophy, including channeling, spirit guides, reincarnation, and godhood. Shirley said, "I know that I exist, therefore I AM. I know that the God-source exists. Therefore IT IS. Since I am part of that force, then I AM that I AM" (id., 77). For those, like myself, who preach against people assuming to the title "reverend" for themselves against Psalm 111:9, just think how they must feel about someone assuming the title of "I AM who I AM" which clearly belongs to the one and only true God (Exodus 3:14)!

**Allow me, at this point, to say just a few words about \*entertainment personalities.\***

Who will doubt that these people greatly influence millions of people? The lifestyle of popular entertainers strongly influences peoples' thinking, which is why organizations such as The Church of Scientology and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints use entertainment and well-known athletic and political figures in attractive ads to urge people to join their organizations. Make no mistake about it, media is a powerful pulpit for the NAM!

Shirley McLaine has a "great" following because of her books, her TV series, and her seminars; people have rallied around her idea of self-interest: the central belief is that each person is his or her own god, and, as such, everyone determines his or her own destiny. Even John Denver created a great following

with such things as his Windstar Foundation; he was quoted as saying, "Every time I sing, I meditate. Every time I sing, I experience God in me."

**\*Music\* is another powerful instrument (excuse the pun) for the NAM.** (Some call NA music, "Audio Valium.")

At one end there's the hardcore New Age music that creates an inner harmony with the universal energy force and is intended for meditation and healing sessions; at the other end are the jazz-folk-rock combinations that seem to concentrate on artistic expression and financial gain. Much New Age music is intended to soothe the soul and trigger a meditative change in consciousness; in fact, it's designed to enable listeners to focus on each of their seven energy centers.

Permit me to give you a quote right here: F. LaGard Smith very perceptively wrote, "What I find interesting about most New Age music is the way in which it reflects the aimlessness and purposelessness of the New Age message. Largely unstructured and circular in form, it resembles the lawlessness of New Age philosophy and the reincarnational theme of neverending, repetitious life forms. Not surprisingly, then, New Age music often lacks resolution. And just as the line between right and wrong, good and evil, is blurred, so too we find a blurring of tones" (id., 84).

During Stan Elmore's singing school in Harrisonville, Missouri (Oct. 2000), he noted that songs nearly always end on the keytone, giving it the sound of completion; the opposite idea is what Mr. Smith was saying of much New Age music—it's lawless (in that it rebels against the rules of music), and it's reincarnational (in that it has the sound of endlessness). Have you ever been in the car with your spouse listening to a song when, right in the middle of it, he or she changes the station? Or have you ever spent an hour making a tape of a CD just to get to the end and find that the last few notes of a song were lopped off? If you're like me, you feel compelled to at least finish the song in your mind or it bothers you to "no end" (excuse another pun). Well, now that Mr. Smith has pinpointed that idea, perhaps that's why I haven't gotten "into" New Age music (if it can be called "music").

**Another form of entertainment is \*reading.\*** (Yes, reading is still considered a form of entertainment.)

Sales show that millions of people find New Age books educational and entertaining: for example, after McLaine's miniseries aired, B. Dalton Books said that sales in its occult and astrology sections jumped 95% the next week (Ron Rhodes, *New Age Movement*, 31). New Age books include an almost endless list about such things as channeling, astrology, female spirituality, neopagan religions, native American shamanism, divination through the use of tarot cards, and even The Tao of Pooh for children of all things. (Webster says that "Tao" refers to "the unconditional and unknowable source and guiding principle of all reality.") Truly, as Solomon said, "Of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12).

Let's don't forget about comics (a modern-day misnomer since they aren't funny anymore); one "comic," for example, speaks of the "mantra," a Hindu incantation and has this as part of its reading material: "The eternal warrior has died many times before. An elite foot soldier in the eternal battle between good and evil has been reincarnated into the neverending fray over and over again. By this time he has been brought back as a woman permanently. And to make matters worse, her only ally is the man who killed her in the first place" (David Jeremiah, *Invasion of Other Gods*, 89).

**One more form of entertainment is \*fantasy role-playing games.\***

**Psychic World** is a game that "Call[s] on your basic psychic powers to overcome dangerous monsters and deadly machines. Along the way, pick up your psychic powers—the powers of ESP can overcome the power of evil" (id., 79).

**Phenomenon—The Game that Goes One Step Beyond** promises those who are twelve and older "The Extra Sensory Party," offering to teach them telepathy, clairvoyance, dermal vision, and psychometry; the promotion reads, "Phenomenon ... gives you a chance to explore, unlock, and develop your psychic ability during a fun, fascinating game" (id., 80). Now...

## What am I saying with all this?

Am I saying that we sin by being or allowing our children to be involved in any or all these forms of entertainment? No. The main point of all this is to warn! Just as Paul said of sinners in First Corinthians 5, without leaving the world, we cannot completely avoid all things New Age, so it's important to know what to look for; the key is in purpose, intent, and perception: we should be aware of what's out there that Satan is using to get us and our children with.

Personally, I think one of the most important things we can do is pinpoint and teach. For example, if you're watching something with your child (especially a small one) wherein you see some New Age belief being promoted, take time during commercials or pause the tape and explain in no uncertain terms that those things are make-believe and that the Bible teaches us differently about reality. If, for instance, someone on TV is encouraging us to look inside ourselves as the remedy for anxiety and perplexities of life, then go to the Bible to share the truth of the matter. According to the Bible, when a person looks inside himself, what he'll find is what Paul said he found in Romans 7:18: "I know that in me ... nothing good dwells." However, when a person looks deep and honestly within himself and sees his sinfulness and acknowledges his own helplessness and hopelessness (Romans 5:6), then he'll be open to the power of God's grace to work in his life, and he'll agree with Jesus who said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you" (Second Corinthians 12:9)—His grace is what makes us perfect. Then, by God's power and grace through Jesus, the image of God in a person will be renewed: Ephesians 4:22-24 reads, "Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness." Such a person will experience a radical transformation, not through meditation, listening to New Age music, or other occultic means, but in view of God's mercy he'll be "transformed by the renewing of [his] mind" (Romans 12:1-2). Renewed and transformed by God, a person will then be able to "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow" the real I AM who is "the light of the world" (Luke 9:23 & John 8:12).

## Conclusionary Remarks

Because we cannot go out of the world, one of the most important things we can do is counteract all the negative things our children see and hear in the world—we must ground them: Paul wrote, "The Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one" (Second Thessalonians 3:3); but this will only happen when the necessary knowledge has been instilled and prayers are made—such as when Jesus taught us to ask God that He would keep us from temptation, and "deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13).

Since there's no doubt that the NAM is attacking our homes, let's do our best to defend them!

[Tony E. Denton, December 2000. ASiteForTheLord.com]