

brings up another question: it is written in the Constitution of the United States of America, in the First Amendment, that we, the people have freedom of religion. It is written that, but it is not upheld, if the fact that a person being a Pagan has any bearing what so ever in the decision of that case.

Spells are an interesting part of the Craft, and many people let their fascinations get the best of them. No matter what you thought before, saying a spell does not turn coal into money, nor make something appear out of thin air. Spells for Pagans are the equivalent to prayers for other religions. Nothing bad can happen, nobody can put a curse on you. If you believe that you are cursed, then of course bad things will happen, but that's just your subconscious getting the better of you.

The Book of Shadows is another thing people are fascinated about. There is no one Book of Shadows that has spells in it that has been handed down throughout the ages. Books of Shadows is a collection of spells, and other written material for a person on the journey to becoming a Pagan. It is more or less just a journal.

#### Falsity of Movies Regarding Witchcraft

Anyone who bases their facts and opinions from movies alone are not only ignorant but are lacking heavily in the reality department. If a movie were to be made based upon the facts of Paganism, nobody would be interested in watching it. Only when things are exaggerated and given false pretense does the public feel like watching, and in doing so they learn about something real in a false light. What is represented by witchcraft in movies is pure fantasy, and you must see it as it is. Harry Potter, book and movie, is pure fantasy. J.K. Rowling is just telling a story, she is in no way connecting Harry Potter with real

#### *Continued from Page 4*

Paganism. The movie is more linked to mythology. It is for entertainment purposes only. Anyone who has either seen the movie or read the book would know that there is nothing Satanic about Harry Potter. In the first book alone, it teaches about the love of family and friends and standing up to adversity in the face of evil. It is a story of sacrificial love and good winning over evil. Tell me, how is that Satanic?

It is obvious to me that the parents in Charlottesville did not read the book (or see the movie) themselves. They simply heard the word witchcraft associated with Harry Potter and assumed that it had to be evil. This should not be happening. People should know the facts if they're going to talk about something that is already controversial. To do otherwise is to show ignorance. Nobody wants to be ignorant. If you do not know something - ask. Just because you're a certain religion doesn't mean you cannot respect other religions. Religious intolerance must be abolished and it needs to start now. For centuries, we have seen certain religions persecuted and one day, it may very well lead to the end of the human race. Nobody wants to see this happen. Learn about other religions. You will meet people in your life who worship different Gods. You can teach each other about your religions. Just because you study or learn about different religions, doesn't mean you're being unfaithful to your God.

It is better to die a knowledgeable person, than to waste away in ignorance. If, however, you cannot bring yourself to accept other religions, as Bob Dylan once said, "Don't criticize what you can't understand."

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By the way, the students in Charlottesville got to go see "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

For more information about Paganism and The Craft, I suggest the following:

*To Light a Sacred Flame: Practical Witchcraft for the Millenium* by Silver Ravenwolf

*Wicca: The old Religion in the New Millenium* by Vivianne Crawley

*Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner* by Scott Cunningham

*A Witches Bible* by Janet Farrar, Stewart Farrar

*Teenwitch: Wicca for a New Generation* by Silver Ravenwolf



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