



Storm Troopers Of Satan

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Chapter 9 The Tibetan Connection

Tibet has always been a land of mystery and magic. To many westerners it has been regarded as a special country, a land of lamas and yogis and miracle-workers with spiritual powers unmatched anywhere else. Although its reputation as a sacred land is very old indeed, the modern interest in Tibet among occultists dates back largely to the days of Madame Blavatsky and her Theosophical Society.

This society became enormously popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many Nazis were keen Theosophists, and many also belonged to another secret tradition derived from Tibet. To this latter group the sinister Haushofer belonged. Blavatsky claimed that she received her secret doctrine from masters who dwelt in Tibet. These masters were superhuman beings, who from time to time intervened to enlighten humanity through chosen mortal instruments.

There were four main occult groupings within Tibet: the Yellow Caps, or orthodox Buddhists, represented by the Dalai Lama; the followers of the Apostolic Succession, who believe in an unbroken line of gurus possessed of spiritual wisdom; the Red Caps, best known as powerful magicians and occultists; and the Black Caps, monastic orders of non-Buddhist Tibetans. The followers of the Apostolic Succession do not believe in God; they speak instead of a 'primordial man'. The feminine principle in nature is spoken of as wisdom; instead of a belief in personal immortality, reincarnation is adopted as the preferred explanation. There is no God, only the 'law of cause and effect'. In Tibetan initiation ceremonies, a psychic process designed to transmit power to the initiate, is adopted. The master gives off a subtle energy, which the disciple 'draws off' during the ceremony and is 'endowed with power'. Meditation, telepathy, concentration and various physically extraordinary phenomena can result from this training and initiation.

The name given by Tibetan adepts to their paradise is Shamballah. The legend of Shamballah lies behind *Lost Horizon*, James Hilton's extraordinary novel about a Himalayan paradise. All the Far Eastern traditions agree that Shamballah

was the origin and source of a vast body of occult wisdom, greater than any other place on earth. The Shamballic tradition in Tibet is closely linked to the Indian Tantric religious systems, which emphasize the role of sexual magic and are known by the sinister nickname, 'the Left-Hand Path'.

According to the myth, Shamballah is a city hidden among mountains, barred in addition by a great lake, and only approachable through a narrow opening in a hard-to-find cave. In the heart of the city is a vast tower, the palace of the king of Shamballah. But the city stretches both up and down; it includes a vast network of underground caves and tunnels, spreading out all over the world. This underground realm within Shamballah is called Agarthi, which means 'inaccessible'.

The ruler of Agarthi was 'the King of the World', who was in direct touch with a supreme higher being and also governed the world by exerting telepathic and psychic powers over other rulers on the surface of the earth. From time to time he actually emerged and met with human agents, instructing them on how to carry out his wishes for the world.

In 1890 the King of the World is said to have uttered a series of prophecies about the next fifty years of world history. He predicted a series of bloody wars and revolutions, after which the people of Agarthi would come up to the surface of the earth and take over.

Not surprisingly, many occult-inclined politicians were fascinated by the possibilities of this legend. One of the first to seek to turn the powers of Shamballah and Agarthi to his own advantage was the mad Russian, Ungern-Sternberg. After the Russian Revolution he became active in the White Army forces of Koltchak in Siberia, and when the Bolsheviks defeated Koltchak, Ungern-Sternberg escaped into Mongolia, with quite a few men and a fair amount of equipment. He installed himself in the Mongolian capital, proclaiming himself king, and becoming a convert to Lamaism. He made extensive use of prophecy and fortune-telling, predicting amongst other things the exact date of his own death. He set up an 'Order of Military Buddhists', which was enjoined to celibacy and to the idea of sinning in order to be able to expiate the sin. He had a vision of an empire stretching from Mongolia to Lake Baikal, allied to a tsarist Russia and a monarchist China. None of these dreams came to pass: instead, Ungern-Sternberg, after a series of bloody persecutions directed particularly against the Jews, rode off to defeat and death at the hands of the Red Army on an insane attempt to reconquer Siberia.

Ungern-Sternberg's exploits were described by another White Russian, Ossendowski. Ossendowski also escaped from the Bolsheviks and fled into Mongolia, where he met the mad despot. Ossendowski believed that the King of the World would bring about a new age, sweeping aside the hated Bolsheviks in Russia and spreading the gospel of Agarthi across the Western world. For Ossendowski, the centre of the king's power was Agarthi, whose subterranean radiance dispersed itself out across the world. The Tashi Lama had been the King of the World in a previous incarnation. Many Tibetans expected him to return as the long-expected Buddhist Maitreya, the new Buddha.

In 1923, a number of fateful 'coincidences' happened. In the first place, Hitler made his bungled Munich putsch. That same year, Moeller van den Bruck published his book *The Third Reich*. In the very same year, a German called Muhle founded an occult-political movement which proclaimed the imminent advent of a thousand-year Reich. Another one was the beginning of a series of travels by one of the twentieth century's outstanding white magicians, Nicholas Roerich. And the final 'coincidence' was that the Tashi Lama was forced to leave his monastery and escape into Mongolia. There he met men who had been deeply influenced by Ungern-Sternberg's teachings, and were ready to listen to the Tashi Lama when he made similar pronouncements. Nor were there doubters when he claimed that he was in direct touch with the underground hierarchy of Shamballah. We shall deal with Roerich's exploits soon; but for now we shall consider the activities of the Tashi Lama.'

In the first place, he spoke of a great war, 'the war of Chang Shamballah'. The warriors of Shamballah would soon rise and take possession of the whole earth. The King of the world was waiting for the right moment to strike, but he would come. When he did come again, he would restore power to Asia and end the powers of the white race for ever.

The Shamballah/Agarthi myths entered Nazism, like many of its occult doctrines, through the influence of Haushofer. The mentor of Hitler had learned his powers through his membership of a Japanese secret society called the Order of the Green Dragon, which he had joined in Japan, though its origins were Tibetan.

One member of the Green Dragon tried to control the various forces - liquid, electrical, gaseous, metallic etc. - in the human body. They also wanted to gain power over time. One of their most important rituals was that designed to control the vital energy within plants. By a process of magical concentration the initiate was supposed to be able to make a blossom appear within a few minutes. Haushofer was one of only three Europeans who have ever been permitted to join the Green Dragons. In the event of failure in his mission, the member of the order is required to commit ritual suicide; and, after the failure of the Nazi 'mission', that is exactly what Haushofer did.' The ideas of Haushofer and his Vril Society emanated from a variety of sources, but was entirely composed of Satanists. Its membership included Japanese, Indians, Turks, Sinhalese and Tibetans, as well as Germans. The Vril Society was dedicated to research into Atlantis, the origins of the Aryan race and the reawakening of the magical powers which lay dormant within those of Aryan blood. This research, so the members believed, would enable initiates to become possessed of superhuman powers, of the same kind and stature as those enjoyed by the King of the World."

In the cosmology of the Vril Society, the earth itself is a living organism, a vast psychic consciousness to which every single aspect of inner and outer life belongs in a relationship of mutual interdependence. The breathing of the subtle body of the earth is the breath of life which guides and shapes the whole process of evolution upon the planet. In the year 1909, they believed, the date at which a new cycle in human evolution began, the rebirth of magical powers would usher in a new era in human history. And 1909 was the very year in which Hitler had first stood in the Treasure House at Vienna and gazed so longingly upon the Spear of Destiny.'

Hitler became an initiate of the Vril Society himself and absorbed its teachings eagerly. He believed that in the very near future the newly enlightened race of Aryan supermen would be able to travel in time, both backwards and forwards. As well as recovering the primitive history of the race, they would be able to glimpse the future destiny of humanity. 'What today is known as history,' Hitler said, 'we will abolish altogether.' Hitler also believed that this process would lead to the opening of what he called 'the Cyclops Eye', which lived in the pineal gland and would unlock forever all the secrets of time. In future, men would perceive the world psychically as easily as they now did through their physical eyes. As Hitler himself put it:

Creation is not yet completed. Man must pass through many further stages of metamorphosis. Post-Atlantean man is already in a state of degeneration and decline, barely able to survive. All creative forces will be concentrated in a new species. The two types of man, the old and the new, will evolve rapidly in different directions. One will disappear from the face of the earth, the other will flourish. This is the real motive behind the National Socialist Movement! I am founding an Order. It is from there that the final stage in human mutation will emerge - the MAN-GOD!'

Hitler, like Haushofer, believed that the Secret Chiefs were based in Tibet. In the beginning, so the Vril Society taught, men were simply mirror-images of the gods. Then a hierarchy of powers arose, who tried to persuade man to resist the plans of the 'angelic orders'. These spirits became known collectively as Lucifer, and operated on a psychic level. They cut the 'umbilical cord' between people and the gods, leaving humanity rudderless and open to their suggestions. But then a second process of development took place, within the material world, to which another group of spirits from the Satanic realm turned their attention. These second group of spirits were collectively known as Ahriman. Their job was to cut people off completely from all contact with the higher levels of consciousness, and to persuade them that the three-dimensional world of matter which they inhabited was the only reality.

According to the Vril Society, after the fall of Thule its survivors migrated eastwards, through Europe and Asia, until at last they settled in Tibet. These survivors of the magical elite of Thule lived in two caves underneath the mountains, where they pursued their magical activities. After 5,000 years the 'good' oracle died out, and only the black magicians were left to spread their teachings all over Tibet. Their shrines continued until the Chinese invasion in 1959, when the Communists made the suppression of Tibetan Lamaism their first priority. By the beginning of the twentieth century, Tibet had become a sacred land to many Western occultists. The members of the Thule group and the Vril Society both spoke of two secret orders following left- and right-hand paths respectively. The oracle of Agarathi sought to create false leadership in all nations of the world - which must have pleased the Nazis. The oracle of Shamballah tried to promote materialism and keep men in ignorance of their true spiritual nature and destiny. Through the urgings of Haushofer and other members of the Vril Society, the Nazis sent out a whole series of expeditions to Tibet. Every year from 1926 to 1942 the Germans sent out parties which contacted Tibetan initiates with the firm intention of getting

them to help the Nazis in their aims of the occult subjugation of the rest of the world.

In 1929, three years after the Nazis had first made contact with the monks of Agartha and Shamballah, a Tibetan colony was established in Germany, with branches in Berlin, Nuremberg and Munich. Apparently, however, only the monks of Agartha were willing to help the Nazis. The initiates of Shamballah preferred to work through the Freemasons. The monks from Agartha were known in Germany as 'The Society of Green Men', because of their strong links - for hundreds of years - with the Green Dragon Society of Japan, to which Haushofer himself belonged. Indeed seven members of the society joined up with the German-based group. In Berlin, Hitler met regularly with the leader of the Tibetan community, a monk notable for his feats of clairvoyance and precognition. He was nicknamed 'the man with the green gloves', and on three separate occasions correctly predicted, in the press, the precise number of Nazi deputies elected to the German Parliament. He also foretold the exact date when Hitler would become leader of Germany, and even the date when the Second World War would begin.

This level of successful prediction soon attracted wide interest among the Nazi occultists. Himmler, as well as Hitler, became deeply interested in Tibetan Lamaism. He set up an occult training college at the Berlin section and ordered members of the SS leadership to attend courses there, especially in magic. As a result of his contacts with the group, Himmler set up the Nazi Occult Bureau. This incorporated into one organization the Thule group, the Vrili Society and the German branch of the Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO) - Aleister Crowley's magical order. The Nazi Party anthem was inspired by Horst Wessel, a keen Hoerbigerian who had helped to organize the Storm-Troopers in the 1920s, and in 1926 was shot dead by the Communists. A German poet and occultist called Ewers wrote a song, 'The Horst Wessel Hymn', which became the theme song and sacred anthem of the Nazi Party. And Ewers openly said that he joined the Nazis because he saw it as 'the strongest expression of the Powers of Darkness'.

The founders of the Nazi Party comprised two men, who soon recruited others. But with the decision of Hitler to join the party, it acquired member number seven. The seven founders of Nazism, then dreamed of changing life on Earth. Each man believed that he was in direct league with the 'Powers of Darkness'. Even the magical oath which bound them together was one derived from Tibetan sources. The Norse god Thor was supposed to have been a survivor of the ruins of Thule, and come from Tibet through the Gobi Desert into Europe.

Surprisingly, certain rumours of Nazi occult activity began to filter slowly out of Germany. John Buchan, in his novel *A Prince of the Captivity*, warned of the dangers of Nazism, in particular its combination of political power with the dark workings of Satanism. Kipling, who had used the swastika for years as his own personal symbol, instructed his publishers to remove it from the covers of his books. And Saint-George Saunders published two remarkable books in which he said openly that the source of Nazi Satanic activities was Tibet.

Until 1942 both the Tibetan magicians and Haushofer himself were held in high regard by Hitler. Then, ironically, in the same year that the hollow-earth experiments were proved unsuccessful, the Russian broke the back of the German army at Stalingrad. From then on Hitler no longer believed in the magic of Agartha. Haushofer's own influence over Hitler also declined, being replaced by that of the even more sinister figure Friedrich Hielscher. This man belonged to a still higher order of black magicians than Haushofer, and had attained an even more exalted degree of initiations. Even Himmler was afraid of him, and described him as the most powerful man in Germany after Hitler. Under Hielscher's cold Satanic direction, Hitler turned from the unsystematic harassment and murder of individual Jews to the full horror of the Final Solution.

Another of the astonishing 'coincidences' which keep cropping up throughout our story concerns the extraordinary exploits of Nicholas Roerich. Between 1923 and 1928 Roerich went on a series of travels throughout central Asia, accompanied by his son George. In 1926 - the same year that the Nazis sent their first expedition to Tibet - Roerich was also in that country. He spoke with many Lamas and other Tibetan occultists and mystics. They spoke of the imminent arrival of the Maitreya, the Buddhist Messiah, and imparted to Roerich the spiritual meaning of Altai. It seems that, among other things, the chief mountain of the Altai range was regarded as the dwelling-place of the gods. The Bear and Orion were singled out as being constellations associated with the esoteric wisdom of Altai. The seven stars were seen as the seven Wise Ones, and were also associated with the Mongol legend of Gesar, the Mongol Maitreya, despite his being a warrior rather than a sage. And Gesar was always linked in legend with the Tibetan stories of Shamballah. Beluka, the principal mountain in the Altai range, has also been put forward as the possible

origin of the legend of Mount Merou, abode of the gods. And from Tibet, from the Altai range, civilization gradually began to spread outwards.

Both black and white magic are possible; one can always choose whether to follow the left- or the right-hand path. But magic in itself is morally neutral. Tibet held within itself both black and white magicians, and it was, of course, those initiates dedicated to the dark powers of evil who helped Hitler and the Nazis. But other powers existed in Tibet as well, and Roerich, among others, made contact with them.

Roerich himself said, in his book *The Heart of Asia* that Shamballah was the fountain and crown of all true wisdom. 'If you wish to understand Asia and to approach her as a welcome guest,' he wrote, 'you must meet your host with the most sacred word - Shambhala.' Roerich and his expedition were based in the Himalayas and had extensive contacts with wise men in Tibet. Roerich became a vehicle of transmission for a Mahatma Morya, who taught a system of Agni Yoga, based on the Kundalini power. Roerich states that a Lama passed through an underground passage in order to reach a sacred place. And the borders of the 'hidden land' were marked out carefully with occult symbols.

Among the huge snow-capped mountains of Tibet, Roerich tells us, there lurk, as if waiting for the discovery of one who truly seeks, hidden valleys of astonishing beauty and pulsating with life. Hot springs feed lush vegetation among the secret valleys, surrounded by impenetrable walls of rock and snow and ice. Sometimes the guardians of these valleys could be seen, and were often described as 'snowmen'. Could this, we wonder, be the true origin of the Yeti legend? It is surely significant that one of Roerich's paintings features a 'snow maiden', clasping a bow in her hand as she stands among rocks and snow, yet almost naked. Roerich also draws attention to the vast labyrinth of caves and underground passages that exist in Tibet and the Himalayas. 'From these caves,' he says, 'subterranean passages proceed far below Kinchinjunga. Some have even seen the stone door which has never been opened, because the date has not arrived. The deep passages proceed to the splendid valley.'

The valley of which Roerich speaks is, of course, the valley of Shamballah. According to reports by both Roerich and Ossendowski, the underground tunnels of Shamballah were hundreds of kilometres long. Ossendowski also spoke of 'strange cars' which hurried along these underground tunnels.

In "*he Heart of Asia*" Roerich speaks of the strange experiences of a Chinese doctor who travelled through the Gobi Desert and 'severe uplands' to the valley of Shamballah. He found there a school of yogis intent on studying the ancient wisdom of mankind. The account the doctor gave struck Roerich as being similar in most respects to his own descriptions of Shamballah. The doctor described many 'scientific wonders' and experiments in telepathy, psychical use of the will and the influence of psychic and magical powers over distances.'

Ossendowski claimed that the network of caves and tunnels housed the remnants of the surviving Atlantean elite. They apparently lit their subterranean fastnesses by some kind of artificial light. 'In underground caves,' he said, 'there exists a peculiar light which affords growth to the grains and vegetables and long life without disease to the people.'

The Tibetans claimed that the enlightened ones enjoyed transcendental powers, which gave them dominion over space, time and matter. They could make their body any size or height they chose, and could materialize in any place they wished. Five perfect men were said to preside over the destiny of the world. Once a year they met together in a Himalayan cave to decide on the destiny of the planet. Under these enlightened ones were the hundreds of initiates who made up the inhabitants of Shamballah.

According to George Roerich, Nicholas's son, who accompanied him on his series of expeditions, for centuries the Tibetan Lamas have tried to stay in constant contact with the king of Shamballah. The present Dalai Lama's brother refers to the existence of Shamballah as a simple fact of experience. And the Mahatma Morya, speaking through Nicholas Roerich, calls Shamballah 'the city of science'. He adds the following:

In our community one can meet many nationalities and different professions. The geographer can be set at ease. We do occupy a definite place on the earth. The conspirator can be comforted; in various parts of the world we have a sufficient quantity of co-workers.

But this was written when the shadow of Nazi black magic was passing across the world. Who were these co-workers?

To judge from Roerich himself, they were benevolent; but it seems clear that there were also other, darker currents among the initiates of Tibet. And Roerich himself may even have met some in his travels. But he makes, in a calm, factual manner, the astonishing statement: 'We know that some high lamas went to Shambhala, how along their way they saw the customary physical things. Moreover, we ourselves have seen a white frontier post of one of the three posts of Shambhala.' And Roerich also tells us that the search for Shamballah and communion with its king has been the true goal of all followers of the Kalachakra, or Tantric path.

In 1945 the war was at last coming to its inevitable end. Germany had been defeated, and only small pockets of determined resistance to the Allied advance remained. In Berlin itself, Russian soldiers fought hand-to-hand with German youths; but as they overcame the last flickers of resistance, in the eastern quarters of the city, a strange sight met their eyes. To their astonishment the Russians came across large numbers of Tibetan corpses. They were dressed in German uniform, but had no badges or insignia of rank. In neat, orderly rows they lay upon the ground, each one with a ritual knife which had pierced their stomachs. Rather than surrender to the Russians and add further to their disgrace, they had chosen to commit ritual suicide.

Haushofer also followed the Tibetans into ritual hara-kiri, in accordance with the oath he had sworn on joining the Japanese Green Dragon Society. He first killed his wife and then himself. No cross or gravestone marks the place where Haushofer, initiate of evil, lies buried. Whatever secrets he had, died with him.

One final twist to the tale of Tibet and Shamballah and their association with the Nazis is that a number of top Party members, including Martin Bormann, are said to have escaped from the doomed ruins of Berlin through secret underground passages and travelled by them as far as South America. The curious thing is that there really are traditions of secret tunnels in South America, and that the legends link them with Europe and even Shamballah and Agartha themselves. Amazing as it seems, the Nazis may actually have succeeded in making their way through the underground passages to Agartha and Shamballah. Who knows what other forces of light or darkness may even now be dwelling deep within the hidden recesses of the earth?

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In 1918 von List formed a secret society of initiates to study the runes, an early European form of the modern Roman alphabet. Von List claimed that the runes were derived directly from an arcane group of German magicians who dated back as far as Arminius, the German chieftain who had beaten the Roman army in the time of Augustus. He argued that this occult order had left clues to its existence in place-names, among German mystical and occult writings and in the stained-glass windows of Gothic churches. He subscribed to the ideas of the mysterious Fulcanelli, who claimed that the Gothic churches conveyed, through a hidden code, the secrets of alchemy. Von List claimed that these could be decoded and would open the way to the transmutation of base metals into gold, the nostrum which would heal all ills, and the elixir of life. Such men as Paracelsus, Boehme and the German mystic Meister Eckhart-- not to be confused with Dietrich Eckart - knew the secret, and their writings could be decoded by fellow initiates, using the methods of the runes.' Members of von List's secret society later infiltrated the Nazis; and, curiously enough, the runes became one of the SS's chief preoccupations.

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If we cast our minds back to the scene in the Habsburg Treasure House, with both Stein and Hitler standing before the Spear of Destiny, we can perhaps understand how strange powers can intervene from time to time in human affairs. One has only to contrast the humility and love which Stein felt in the presence of the Spear with the arrogance, hatred and lust for power which it evoked in Hitler, to realize at once that there is a profound difference between a black magician and a white one. Stein worked for the power of good, serving the light; while Hitler attempted to plunge the world into a state of total and permanent darkness. As with the word-sword, so too the Spear has the power to heal or to slay. No clearer indication of Hitler's Satanism can be given than his determination to use the very spear said to have pierced the side of Christ as the channel for a dark-current, which came close to ending civilization on Earth.

Between Stein's way of viewing the Spear and Hitler's there could, indeed, be no compromise. One either serves the light or the dark forces. Hitler consciously and deliberately sought to serve the powers of darkness and evil.

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Himmler conceived the idea of the SS becoming an inner elite of men serving the blood, who should be able to prove pure Aryan descent for at least five generations. For their headquarters, he wanted to build a castle in Westphalia, staffed by this same inner sanctum. Out of this castle would step forth the new Teutonic Knights, but this time men whose ideals were not the chivalrous ones of service and courtesy, but those which glorified strength and the Aryan blood.

On the ruins of an ancient medieval fort, Himmler laid the foundation stone of what was to become known as the Wewelsburg. Its less flattering nickname among SS members was Black Camelot. This castle was built by hundreds of slave workers from a concentration camp, who worked on starvation rations and cowered under the whips of the SS guards. They built a palace for Himmler's dark initiates.

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Himmler required members of the SS to attend ceremonies in worship of the Hammer of Thor, among other things. He also substituted the summer solstice for Christmas as the chief 'holy day' - if one dares to use such a phrase - and presented his members with midsummer presents. All senices of marriage, baptism and burial were, in the case of SS members, performed, not by a priest or vicar, but by the local SS commander. Himmler also believed strongly in polygamy, and intended to introduce it if the Germans won the war. 'Marriage as it is today,' he declared, 'is the Satanic work of the Roman Catholic Church. Our present marriage laws are absolutely immoral. After the war monogamy will cease to be enforced upon promiscuous mankind. The racially pure blood of German heroes will be transmitted to as many offspring as possible.

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From Hitler, Himmler had learned about homeopathic remedies. Before long he had discovered the accounts of Steiner's experiments and conceived a diabolically sinister plan in his own mind. If rabbits could be controlled in this way, Himmler reasoned, why should it not be possible to treat the Jews in the same way? A whole branch of the Nazi Occult Bureau was set up to investigate the possibilities.

In 1943 Himmler ordered the first experiments to be carried out on human subjects. Before then, rats had been used. Jews at Buchenwald were injected with the potentised ashes of male Jews. These experiments went on until 1945. The SS, on Himmler's instructions, scattered Jewish ashes from the concentration camps across the entire land of Germany. Even with the Allied armies driving on deep into Germany itself, the SS was still carrying out these disgusting experiments." Another fringe medicine obsession of Himmler and indeed the Nazi occultists generally was what the Victorians called 'eugenics'. This aimed at the selective breeding of a superior race and the gradual elimination of inferior racial elements. An SS doctor wrote to Himmler in a fever of excitement. He had discovered a plant, he wrote, which induced irreversible sterility but without otherwise injuring the patient. This would enable the Reich to use the Bolsheviks and Jews as slave labour, but without any danger of their breeding.

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It seems that, no matter how barbarous the men in charge of the machinery of death and destruction were, their helpers

were just as eager to assist them in their lunatic ends. In their own way, the concentration camp doctors were even more evil and depraved than the monsters they served.'

Within a year of this kind of mad systematic cruelty, Haushofer fell from favour as a result of his World Ice Theory Bureau's inaccurate weather forecasts for the Russian campaign. The new guru became the sinister Hielscher, who somehow managed to slip through the net at Nuremberg when other Nazis were put on trial for their crimes against humanity. Under Hielscher's malignant influence, Hitler pushed on to a new phase in his insanity - the Final Solution. Under this programme, the deliberate and systematic extermination of Jews for the 'crime' of being non-Aryan was put into operation. No one will ever know the exact numbers of people who suffered death at the hands of the absurd Nazi occult-racial theories, but the Poles - who were also deemed an inferior race - lost a quarter of their population; the Romanies, again seen as racially inferior, lost around a million people; and the Jews, of course, had six million of their people murdered. All in all, the numbers of victims sacrificed to the occult-racial Nazi mythology was around 10 to 12 million.

But the extermination of races believed to be inferior, horrifying and disgusting as it is, has been well documented already. It is hard to dwell long in this miasmal swamp of men who seemed incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, kindness and cruelty. Let us turn now from the murderers and study the madmen. Often, of course, they were one and the same.

Another obsessive preoccupation of Himmler was the Lebensborn, the SS maternity organization. Like much else in Nazi doctrine, this was also anticipated by the monstrous Lanz. Lanz urged the necessity of setting up human-breeding farms so that Aryans - particularly Germans - could mate with other Aryans and thus 'eradicate Slavic and Alpine elements from Germanic heredity'.

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'I will tell you a secret,' Hitler told Rauschning, 'I am founding an order. It is from there that the second stage will emerge - the stage of the Man-God, when Man will be the measure and centre of the world. The Man-God, that splendid being, will be an object of worship. But there are other stages about which I am not permitted to speak.'

Members of the SS were deliberately isolated from the rest of humanity. Their initiation took place in a series of stages, culminating in the notorious Ceremony of the Stifling Air. From this moment onwards, the SS member was dedicated body and soul to the commands of his order. As Hitler said,

We do not want to do away with inequalities between men, but, on the contrary, to increase them and make them into a principle protected by impenetrable barriers. What will the social order of the future be like? Comrades, I will tell you: there will be a class of overlords, and after them the rank and file of Party Members in hierarchical order, and then the great mass of anonymous followers, servants and workers in perpetuity, and beneath them, again all the conquered foreign races, the modern slaves. And over and above all these there will reign a new and exalted nobility of whom I cannot speak. But of all these plans the ordinary militant members will know nothing.

Hitler, in short, planned to rule the earth as Vice-Regent of the Powers of Darkness. The concentration camps were based as much on his Satanism as his racism, for the inmates were held to belong to the class of slaves, and as such their only function was to serve the master race, itself serving the ends of the Dark Gods of the Cosmos.

Among other lunatic activities which the Occult Bureau contemplated were stealing the Holy Grail.

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By April 1945 every German knew that the war was finished. But, in the Berlin bunker, Hitler and his inner circle

brooded darkly over a possible magical way out of their situation. Hitler knew that he had no military hope for victory now, and in his desperation he turned to the ultimate remedy of a black magician caught up in extremity - he formed a pact with Satan.

We, of course, do not have to believe in Satan ourselves to agree that many people do. Hitler, clearly, was one of those who did believe. Under the terms of a Satanic pact, the magician agrees to pay the Devil a price in return for his infernal help. The usual price is either the magician's own soul or a blood sacrifice. And, since Hitler had sworn his soul to Satan years ago, only blood sacrifice remained open to him.

In this mood of despair and anger, Hitler screamed at his remaining generals: 'Losses can never be too high! They sow the seeds of future greatness.' Hitler summoned Speer in order to give him orders for a policy of complete destruction. 'If the war is to be lost' he told Speer, 'the nation will also perish. There is no need to consider the basis of even a most primitive existence any longer. On the contrary, it is better to destroy even that and to destroy it ourselves.'

Hitler gave orders that every town and factory in Germany was to be burned to the ground. All bridges were to be blown up, all dams undammed, all rolling-stock and coaches destroyed - indeed everything was to be smashed by the iron fist. Speer, despite being ordered to implement this insane policy, balked at the idea. Not being a magician, only a civil servant, he did not understand that Hitler had made a pact with Satan and that the sacrifice of the German people was the price he was offering in return. Speer simply agreed and then promptly failed to carry out Hitler's orders. Even so, Hitler did manage to murder large numbers of people. We have seen already how he ordered the flooding of the Berlin underground, as a result of which, 300,000 people lost their lives. He gave instructions that all remaining prisoners be killed, and that his own brother-in-law and his former surgeon be murdered. All traitors were to be immediately executed. As Trevor-Roper puts it: 'In his last days, Hitler seems like some cannibal god, rejoicing in the ruin of his own temples. Like an ancient hero, Hitler wished to be sent with human sacrifices to his grave.'

In spite of Hitler's attempt to buy Satanic assistance by his final frenzied orgy of death and destruction, the military position worsened. Many Nazi leaders left Berlin on the night of 20 April. But Hitler stayed behind, still frantically working on magical escape routes from his situation.

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For Gardner was steeped in occult lore and learning. He was already known as the author of a book on the history and folklore of the Malay Aris, a weapon used in Malaya. He belonged to a Rosicrucian fraternity in Hampshire, known as the Fellowship of Crotona. One of the members of this fellowship, Mabel Besant-Scott, was the daughter of Arnie Besant, who had succeeded Blavatsky as the leader of Theosophy. This woman belonged not only to the Fellowship of Crotona but also to Co-Masonry, a form of Freemasonry which is not recognized by the English Grand Lodge. Becoming friendly with her, Gardner discovered that behind the front of Co-Masonry, she was actively involved in a functioning coven of witches, in the New Forest.

Gardner found, on his admission to the coven, that most of its members were extremely elderly. He became alarmed at the prospect of the religion which immediately attracted him being in severe danger of dying out. Some years later this fear was to lead him into betraying his oath of secrecy and publishing two books on the history, rituals and beliefs of witchcraft. But that lay in the future. It was then 1940, and Gardner was a junior member of a coven of witches, all of whose members were deeply concerned about the anticipated invasion of Britain.

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The United States also took a great interest in occult matters, possibly because President Roosevelt was himself a Freemason. But it also owed quite a lot to the success of German occult activities.