

## AN ASPECT OF WITCHCRAFT

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When I was a head teacher at a private school, I was, among other things, a SENCO.

This means that I was a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator. I was also one of two staff to whom students could go for help with any problems.

One Monday morning, two girls came to me in a state of extreme agitation and said the matter was very personal. I asked the other SENCO, Joy, to join me before the girls told me anything.

The girls were both fourteen years of age. They told us that their respective parents were deeply into witchcraft and that they had said that it was time for their daughters to be initiated into the local coven. Being under the age of sixteen, the girls were still under the control of their parents, and forced to go despite their protests.

It was a middle of the night event. Everyone had to hold hands and dance naked around a roaring fire in a clearing in the forest. The girls protested but were stripped by a couple of witches. The girls complained and, among their complaints, they said that they did not want to see their parents naked nor did they want anyone to see their own nakedness.

But the event went ahead and the two girls were both terrified and ashamed as they danced naked and were forced to jump up and down around the fire. Some of the groups were chanting something indistinct and men were looking closely at the two girls with obvious sexual pleasure. At the end of the dance, some men took some women and young girls into the forest for sex.

Our two schoolgirls were saved this ordeal. One of them said, "Dr Wright, we know that you sometimes do night walks to raise funds for charity. You could have seen us!"

The other girl said, "We saw naked men leaping about with their private parts swinging around and older women with ugly breasts bouncing."

The question arose as to whether such events were legal and were the two girls being forcibly subjected to child abuse. What rights did they have?

Does this not show that witchcraft, or this aspect of witchcraft, is wrong?

We had a teacher at a State school, Janet, who was prim and proper and always wore black long dresses that swept the floor.

One Saturday, I took the senior boys out for a hike to raise money for the NSPCC and we got lost. The boys hooted with laughter as it was my fault. The signpost had been pulled out of the ground. We walked along a cliff path and, as we looked down, there was a nudist beach. About forty people were there completely nude. And one of them was Janet.

What were we and the boys to do or say to Janet at school?