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In the Hofberg Library in Vienna, Austria, there is a spear believed by many to be the one used to pierce the side of Christ. One day when Adolph Hitler was in his early twenties, he overheard a tour guide point out the spear to a group of guests and say, "This spear is shrouded in mystery; whoever unlocks its secrets will rule the world." Later Hitler said that those words had changed his whole life.

Hitler, you will recall, spent four years in Vienna, living in flophouses and drawing sketches to earn enough money to stay alive. He spent all of his free time in the Hofberg Library, reading books on history and the occult. He became an expert in Eastern religions and was known to purchase such books in used bookstores and then resell them so that he could buy more.

After hearing the comment about the mystery of that spear, Hitler became fascinated with it. He read all he could about its history, trying to determine whether it could. indeed, be traced back to the time of Christ. He soon discovered that there were many spears that vied for the dubious honor of being the one used to smite Christ's side. Nevertheless. he became convinced that this one did have awesome powers for good or evil. He traced it back to the time of Constantine and believed that the emperor had had it in hand when he conquered Rome in A.D. 312.

In all, Hitler believed that fortyfive different Roman emperors or kings had used this spear. He noted that when they had it in their possession they were victorious; when it fell from their sphere of ownership, their empires crumbled, sometimes within

a single day.

Young Hitler was mesmerized by this object. He stood staring at it for hours, inviting its hidden powers to invade his soul. He believed this ancient weapon was a bridge between the world of sense and the world of the spirit. He felt as though he himself had held it in his hands in an earlier century. He was bewitched by its mysteries and power.

Walter Stein, who befriended Hitler in those days, was also moved by the sight of that historic spearhead. Trevor Ravenscroft spent twelve years studying with Dr. Stein and gives this description of both men standing before the spear:

Adolph Hitler stood beside him [Dr. Stein] like a man in a trance, a man over whom some dreadful magic spell had been cast. His face was flushed and his brooding eyes shone with an alien emanation. He was swaying on his feet as though caught up in some totally inexplicable euphoria. The very space around him seemed enlivened with some subtle irradiation, a kind of ghostly ectoplasmic light. His whole physiognomy and stance appeared transformed as if some mighty Spirit now inhabited his very soul, creating within and around him a kind of evil transformation of its own nature and power. (Trevor Ravenscroft, The Spear of Destiny [York Beach, Me.: Weiser, 1982], p. 64)

Of course, Dr. Stein could not have foreseen that some day Hitler would channel the mighty power of Lucifer, having invited these powers to control him. So captivated was Hitler by this spear that Dr. Stein says he would almost experience "a total eclipse of self-consciousness" while standing before it.

When Hitler left Vienna to go to Munich, he soon surrounded himself with those who were dedicated to the pursuit of occult experiences and phenomena. The original members of the National Socialist Party (dubbed "the Nazis") were hard-core satanists who introduced him to deeper levels of "spiritual perception."

Hitler's chief mentor was Dietrich Eckart, who, through the rituals of black magic, enabled Hitler to be transformed into a totally demonized being. Eckart claimed that he had received a satanic annunciation that he was destined to prepare the vessel of the Antichrist, the man who would be inspired by Lucifer to conquer the world and lead the Aryan race to glory (Ravenscroft, p. 92).

Adolph Hitler avidly read the blueprint for world conquest in *The Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion*, by Ralph Manheim. This writer predicted that an Antichrist would arise and persecute the Jews. Indeed, the author gave exact descriptions of how the skins of Jews would be turned into household articles. These predictions were fulfilled to the letter once Hitler came to power.

Young Adolph assumed the uncontested leadership of the Nazi party in 1921, the year he celebrated his thirty-third birthday—the same age at which Christ began His official career.

By now he had been taken through deep levels of occult transformation. He was, as we shall see, thoroughly demonized. Like the Antichrist to come, he was completely possessed by evil powers.

Those who knew Hitler were well aware of his occult powers. August Kubizeh, who lived with Hitler in those early days in Vienna, said, "It was as if another being spoke out of his body. . . . It was not a case of a speaker carried away by his own words. . . . I felt as though he himself listened with astonishment and emotion to what broke forth from him" (Ravenscroft, p. 3). He himself seemed to be listening to what he was saying, as if hearing it for the first time.

Rauschning, who was at one time one of Hitler's associates but later defected to the West and became an adviser to Churchill, observed, "One cannot help but think of him as a medium . . . beyond any doubt Hitler was possessed by forces outside of himself . . . of which the individual Hitler was only the temporary vehicle" (Gerald Suster, Hitler: The Occult Messiah [New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981] p. 120).

His satanic control was so complete that many saw his body as only