

## MAGIC REVISITED

I had the pleasure, recently, to meet with my grandchildren who were visiting Southern California. They decided they wanted to visit the new Harry Potter World at Universal Studios.

I had heard a story in the lobby of the hotel I was staying: a young man got off the tram (not a fancy limo) from Harry Potter to the Hotel and helped a lady who was trying to get on with the others. She humbly thanked him. Later, his friend turned to him and said “do you realize that was J.K Rowlings the author riding the tram?” She is worth a great deal and yet remains humble. A lesson there.

I was interested in Harry Potter but certainly could not be considered a Potter-head. But on the way to the park the GrandKids looked at my wife and me and said “Grandpa: you are a Ravenclaw; and Grammy: you are a Hufflepuff.” That intrigued me. Obviously the Harry Potter experience possessed complex connections of a very imaginative world that has caught the attention of the new generation. Maybe, I should pay attention.

After flying through Hogwarts Castle on a spectacular ride I really got into the mood. I went to one of the shops and bought a cloak and a magic wand at Olivander’s. Oh yah, a magic wand.

Now, just like a kid, I was going around Hogsmeade performing magic with my wand and making such incantations as **incendio revelio ventum**. And then, to my mild surprise, things happened!

Like Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader, Sherlock Holmes and Mortiarty, Captain Kirk and the Klingons, Harry Potter reprises the theme of Good verses Evil. Intriguingly devoid of computers, the Harry Potter universe uses magic to help the good guys.

Which brings up the question, as I did in a mediation in 2012, was Jesus a Magician or a Miracle Worker — what's the difference?

Miracles always involve God's work and God is not coerced to accede to the request. Unlike magic, miracles do not punish or hurt anyone and there are no lengthy incantations, lists of esoteric name, unintelligible words or recipe of foodstuffs to be boiled

In a way, we are asked to perform miracles as often as we can; that is, through God's intercession remove distress from other human beings.

As for magic, watch the flag in the corner as I wave my wand: **“incendio revelio ventum”**.....(nothing)

I guess I need a little more practice.