

Bitavhati Madinkha d'Maninaye  
**THE MANICHAEAN WORLDWIDE ORGANISATIONAL COMMITTEE**  
“To Promote the Unity of the People of the Religion of Light”

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**Concerning Official Publications and Web Sites of the Mother Church**

To our dear brethren of the Religion of Light, Shlama!

In a previous letter dated 20 July 2012 (*“On the Subject of Authentic Manichaeen Literature and Web Sites”*), the Manichaeen Worldwide Organizational Committee discussed the need for brothers and sisters to use caution in accessing certain literature and web sites claiming to be “Manichaeen.” The letter dealt with those who produce such materials who are not members of the Manichaeen Church. We now wish to address how the Mother Church views official publications and sites produced by our own brethren.

The Manichaeen Worldwide Organizational Committee wishes to clearly state that some publications written and/or produced and printed by individual brothers and sisters are not always authorized or official publications of the United Manichaeen Assembly. While it is encouraging that brethren wish to share the Message of Light through the printed page and through other media, it is important that texts do not give the impression that the publication is an “official” publication of the Manichaeen Church, unless it is a translation of an original authorized publication or official web site.

The Organizational Committee has requested web designers and programmers to reorganize the current content, design and use of certain domain names considered by the Committee as “official.”

As a reminder to the brethren and to the public, the Committee can not and will not endorse personal web sites and/or blogs and social networking sites (with the exception of MithraNet.com) as being “official” Manichaeen sites.

It has come to our attention that some publications and blog sites associated in some level with the Manichaeen Church do not contain the most accurate information or doctrinal statements of the Holy Church. We also wish to state that just because a cleric of the Church has written a book, an article or maintains a certain web site, it is not necessarily considered “official” by the Mother Church.

As such, those sites and publications are considered as “personal” and might very well contain personal opinions or the cleric's or other author's current understanding of a doctrinal point.

One incident in particular was an article written last year in Arabic by a cleric. The article was touted as an

official publication of the Manichaeen Church, yet it contained some serious doctrinal errors that are not shared by orthodox Manichaeans anywhere in the world. After the cleric was shown his error by the brotherhood known as the Defenders of Truth, the individual would not relent and in his pride he continued to teach error to the congregation in which he was appointed as a shepherd. The individual was in violation of numerous anathemas and as a result he was excommunicated. Other cases have involved clerics writing on subjects with which they have no knowledge or experience and pushing personal opinions as "official" teachings or statements of the Mother Church. As sad and as shocking as it may sound, this is a reality that we all must face and deal with in the proper manner.

Some clerics and individual lay members, whether they are among the Elect or the Hearers, have mistakenly believed that they are spiritually guided in their writing. While there is a guiding process that many clerics and other writers experience, their writings do not always exclude personal thoughts or opinions that we often find contaminating the presentation of the Pure Teaching. This would indicate that the writer was not as "inspired" as the writer thought he or she was. Individual brothers and sisters within the Church, including translators, and the public, are then left with the mistaken thought that such presentations of the Message of Light are endorsed by the Mother Church when in fact they are not.

When the Church's official web site link to personal sites, blogs or social networking sites, it should not be construed as being "official" in any manner. Such links are provided as a courtesy to our site visitors so they can access additional content provided by Manichaeans who have access to the internet.

Additionally we ask that our dear brethren not use the term "official" in association with the name "Manichaeen" or its different lingual variations and spellings. In other words, we request that brethren not use phrases on their personal sites and blogs that would indicate that the site is an official or authorized Manichaeen site in an attempt to indicate that the site is somehow endorsed as being an authorized official website of the Mother Church, the Patriarchate, the Arkhegosate or the Khaganate.

We also wish to state that at the time of the writing of this letter, the only two publications considered as "official" by the Mother Church is the Holy Book of Light and the Teaching of Mir Isgadda (the latter being in two editions - one is extracted from the Holy Book itself and the other an expanded version). Over a period of time the Committee will be reviewing all Apostolic Letters, Encyclicals and other writings of senior clergy to ensure clarity on the topics that each of these writings cover.

During the initial review period of previously submitted documents, some publications will be removed from the Church's sites and will not be available for viewing or downloading. The removal of any publication during this time does not indicate that the publication in question has doctrinal errors, but that it is under review and close scrutiny by His Divine Presence, the Manichaeen Worldwide Organizational Committee and the Defenders of Truth. There are currently no less than 300 print and digital publications that have been marked for review.

For brethren who submit articles or other forms of media for inclusion on official Manichaeen sites, such materials may take up to seven days for the review process before appearing on any of the Church's sites. His Divine Presence has provided some very strict guidelines which editors will be abiding by very closely.

Currently the only domain names endorsed by the Organizational Committee as being "official" are the following:

**www.manichaeen.org** (and all content within this domain)

**www.marmani.org** (the website of the Arkhegosate/Bitšultana and Mother Church)

To this end we have also requested designers and programmers to establish sub-domains within "manichaeen.org" that will facilitate the presentation of Portuguese, Spanish and other language materials that have been translated by various brethren from official documents and web pages.

While the Mother Church encourages the use of the Manichaeen social network at mithranet.com, it can not be responsible for every statement made by any cleric or spiritual leader on that web site. Unless the content is a direct quote from an official publication, all statements made by clerics or laity, Elect or Hearers, are viewed as personal thoughts shared by the individuals using the social network.

We trust that each of our dear and precious brethren will understand the need for the Organizational Committee to make these statements. We wish for the Message of Light to be presented in the best possible manner and by as many brethren as possible, but the public must understand that the only authorized or official materials of the Church are issued through a careful and very strict review process established by His Divine Presence through the instrument of the Manichaeen Worldwide Organizational Committee.

As always, if you have questions about this subject or wish to ask about certain teachings or statements found in various publications and on different web sites, please do not hesitate to write to the Organizational Committee. Your communications will always remain confidential and His Divine Presence ensures the brethren that they will not be chastised for making such inquiries.

Please know that each of you are in our prayers as you continue to work in behalf of sharing the Message of Light with all nations.

*On behalf of the His Divine Presence and the Bitavhati Madinkha d'Maninaye,  
your brothers, in sincerity,*

*The Maninaye Worldwide Organizational Committee*