

My thoughts on everything going on:

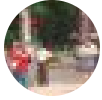
- I believe TST org should have been more promptly and visibly responsive and supportive regarding Black lives and the escalating assaults on trans rights, along with all the violence that has afflicted those and other marginalized communities.
- Lucien isn't responsible for who takes pictures with him, BUT
- He needs to be aware of and responsive to how his public image reflects on our community AND
- His response to calls for clarification on his own beliefs have been milquetoast and defensive, BUT
- TST is not Lucien Greaves.
- *We* are what makes TST what it is, AND
- TST org has (finally) made a formal policy statement on trans rights, AND
- TST org has announced concrete actions in support of trans rights will be made public soon, AND
- I believe we stand a better chance against christofascism in all its manifestations if we're as united as possible, SO
- I strongly support calls for action and reform within TST, BUT
- I also strongly urge NOT allowing one semi-retired man's personal Twitter account to be the straw that fractures a decade of work by thousands of people, including many members of the marginalized groups we're trying to support, such as our SoCC, who are working tirelessly within TST improve our community and our strategic effectiveness.

104

59 comments 12 shares

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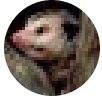
All comments



Tom Quinn

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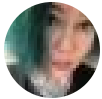
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Melissa Gurr My thoughts exactly.

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Mx Asherah Amare

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Dex Desjardins Also: I do not blame anyone who disagrees with my interpretation or who wishes to leave. The only request I ever make is that they go out and do great things in the world and not spend their energy trying to torpedo the work of those who stay.

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Liz Bradley Dex Desjardins I promise.

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Richard Proctor This was great to read. Thank you Dex.

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Mx Asherah Amare Richard Proctor so was your commentary on it all.

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Richard Proctor Mx Asherah Amare The ramblings of a man emotionally raw in a crisis of identity. But thank you.

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Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins - thank you for posting this. I like you, hope we can and will do better. I also believe the only way to make that happen is continually work on being more inclusive and receptive to the needs of others, and not to tell a community with in tst what they need or should do.

I hope there isn't another schism, but I would understand it if there was.

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Dex Desjardins Darren Ramsay I've seen us all push through so many obstacles and always move on a good trajectory despite stumbling blocks and missteps. I think we can keep that good trajectory going. I feel awful that many in our community are hurting like they are and that more wasn't done sooner to show them the support they deserve and need

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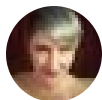


Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins Well we lead by example - as group members, council members, ministers, leaders, whatever. I can't think of a major religion that hasn't went through a reformation or two.

This means too much to me, and I am too stubborn to leave. Especially not when we can see the potential right in front of us.

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Liz Bradley Thank you. It's hard not to want to reverse my decision when you make such a good argument. But this IS just the last straw.

Certain people in TST leadership have hurt me and my friends, and any time we tried to get help, nothing was done.

At the same time, good people have been kicked out or removed from leadership for minor infractions, seemingly for political reasons or personal grudges. It's just too hard to see this happen over and over again.

I know that you mean well and are doing your best. And there are quite a few others who are too.

But I'm all out of fight. I have only ever been punished for standing up for what's right.

Unless certain key people went away (not happening) I wouldn't feel comfortable lending my time and heart to this cause.

I believe you are in a position to make change. And I think maybe even will be allowed to, over time. Keep going as long as you can.

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Dex Desjardins Liz Bradley We all gotta decide when we can keep fighting and when we have to put our energies elsewhere. I'm sure you'll find other ways of making this world better and (hopefully) find time for self care along the way

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Liz Bradley Dex Desjardins Thank you. Take care of yourself, too.

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Toby de Joinville Liz Bradley I dealt with a lot of similar, and it really is exhausting.

I'm at a loss with this one, I genuinely am.

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Illiamshadows Christobal Thank you Dex for this. I appreciate it.
I am not going anywhere for the reasons you stated.

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Mx Asherah Amare Illiamshadows Christobal Yep. My feet are planted firmly. I'll not abandon the very community that lifted me up, when I didn't have the strength to do it myself.

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Jamie Tempter I'm sure this can be seen as towing too heavy a line but myself personally, I'd refrain from the photo op with certain figures. Take their money, let em pay like anyone else who goes to mecca, but at the end of the day I'd be like "yeah, glad you had the opportunity to meet me but you have some growth to do in your positions before we look like homies"

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Dex Desjardins Jamie Tempter Agreed, assuming I knew who they were beforehand. And afterward, if I found out they sucked, I'd acknowledge that they suck

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Jamie Tempter Dex Desjardins 100%

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Jamie Tempter I'm willing to admit myself that I had no idea who this was but people close to me brought it to my attention, so I knew immediately what it had to do with, since all of the people closest to me are trans

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Jay Avesta I don't disagree with you on anything here. But I just can't get past his response to this. Essentially dismissing and gaslighting people while you still have "spokesperson" in your Twitter bio is just ridiculous.

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Dex Desjardins Jay Avesta His response was abysmal. Like an angry 7 year old. I honestly wish he'd retire and start enjoying life already

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Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins I feel like you are able to say that, whereas some of us cannot.

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Dex Desjardins Darren Ramsay I'd hope that's not true. I remember my old co chapter head (in 2018), who had never interacted with him before, threatening to drive to Salem and slap him if he didn't stop tweeting... and he acknowledged that he was acting shitty and stopped Tweeting

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Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins hmm experiences may differ I suppose.

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Dex Desjardins Darren Ramsay I fully acknowledge that I've got boatloads of insulating social capital built up with EM and that it probably affects my perception

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Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins messages like this are why I feel confident in you being one of the spoke people going forward

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Darren Ramsay Dex Desjardins I will also acknowledge I have been a claymore when a rapier was better suited in the past.

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Jay Avesta Darren Ramsay To his credit the worst Lucien ever did was "yell" at me over Twitter DMs when we disagreed, and I think I had a bit of a reputation for not shutting up when they wanted me to. So I don't think anyone needs to worry about voicing an opinion. I could be wrong though so don't quote me lol.

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Darren Ramsay Jay Avesta I wasn't referring to LG in this instance tbf. I honestly don't think I have interacted with him.

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Jay Avesta Darren Ramsay understandable. It's best to be generally cautious.

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Samael Pleasanton I always enjoy hearing your side of things

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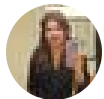
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Ash Patrick Schade Thank you, Dex. I believe improvements can be made as a team with many voices.

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Stacy Rollins Huzzah!

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Bendr Bones Thank you for this. I appreciate being able to go to my congregation with results and answers.

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Rose d'Arc If I may “Yes and” with my own thoughts here... Yes and I think it’s long past time TST make a statement regarding Lucien’s semi-retirement. In my opinion, it’s not worth doing now, because it’d just get the “trans ppl are cancelling everybody!!” crowd riled up and potentially cause more harm, but for too long people outside of TST and even inside it thought Lucien was a full, active spokesperson for long beyond he considered himself one. I think TST shot the community in the foot not stating the amount of distance between TST and Lucien that people who are highly active in TST know to be true. It’s not lost on me that this isn’t the first, second, or third time TST members have had to announce “Lucien isn’t TST/doesn’t speak for me”. His words and actions are going to matter, far beyond any official position. Co-founder is a position you take on for life. Even if TST dies one day, he’ll still have founded it. It’s a lot of responsibility especially considering our religion started as a joke (something I’m very proud of!) so I’m empathetic that this is not what he signed up for originally. But it’s a responsibility he needs to step up to or step down from imo. We have plenty of people dedicating their lives, safety, families, and more to this org, and as it’s founder, in my opinion, he needs to be twice as mindful as the people he’s inspired- especially when those people are under attack for reasons beyond Satanism. I also thinks this incident speaks to his privilege as an ally in general. He said on Twitter he doesn’t have time to research every person he takes a photo with. Understandable. He’s an ally. He doesn’t need to. Not researching a person’s stance on trans issues won’t get him killed. But it will for a good chunk of TST’s membership. It’s a massive privilege to feel safe taking photos with random strangers. It just is. (That said, I’m not sure putting someone with marginalized identities in interviews with the likes of Fox News is the answer either.) It’s his greatest strength and greatest weakness and I think I’d prefer to see it mindfully used as a weapon against bigotry than a excuse for his own ignorance. It’d certainly be a good start to healing the bad blood between many marginalized members and Lucien. Just my two cents.

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Diama Luciano Rose d'Arc damn well said

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Marina Hand Thank you so much for this. My thoughts on the matter are still conflicted but that's for ME to deal with. TST is still a brand new org and we're going to misstep. That being said: moving forward I think it behooves our future spokesperson (if there is one) to weigh the same rules congregants place on themselves in regards to when/how to be public about TST. We're under a microscope and we have fought for every centimeter of legitimacy we've earned. None of us want to see it lost. We're in this boat together and we're going to own our mistakes and make them right. It's what we expect from ourselves, it's what we look forward to from the org, and it's happening.

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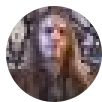
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Leonis Abaddon While all of this is absolutely poor timing (during Pride month and all), I am pretty stoked that Satanism as a whole cannot be shattered so easily. We might hop from TST to CoS or independent or whatever... but you still know, by being the absolute fucking rock star that you are, you pick whatever banner you feel right with and march on because that's the right thing to do. There is simply too much screwed up BS in this world to let this distract us. Reminds me of a family squabble at a kid's birthday or perhaps at a funeral. The squabble may be 1000% justified, but I would be waiting until after that event if at all possible. In that case, it's general respect. In our case, however, it's all the lives of so many truly beautiful people who are not sure if they will get to see tomorrow and under what conditions. Hail Satan and let's keep kicking ass fam

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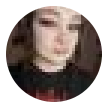


Braden Rhys So I've heard Lucien is "semi-retired" or whathaveyou - and that's fine. For him, I guess. The problem remains that he's singularly the most visible and known individual in the Satanic Temple regardless. I'm pretty sure that whatever following he has on Twitter and Patreon etc. aren't going to suddenly unfollow him because he's moving on from the public-facing spokesperson position. To all intents and purposes, he's still very much the "public face" outside of the official TST accounts. So if things like this occur, even if it's done "on his free time" or "in an unofficial capacity", it's going to provide pretty poor optics to the sizeable followings who see it - regardless of his current status. His enemies will, of course, lap up and magnify every misstep.

I'm sure, Dex, that you know my views on TST leadership over the past few years. I'm not one to shout about it from the hilltops (because that's hardly productive and the bridge has long burned), but there are just times when people are hurting where I can't always turn a blind eye and ignore it either. I don't and won't tar everyone in TST with the same brush because of the dubious antics of a few, and I absolutely recognize that there are a good number of dedicated and sincere people in the ranks who genuinely wish to achieve good things on scales/agendas small and large - including support of the trans community. It's just unfortunate that public spectacles like this only undermine their efforts, forcing various congregations and persons like yourself to post up disclaimers in order to damage control the situation while those who feel slighted or neglected are walking out the door.

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Christine Gagne This is the response I had hoped to receive, instead of getting blocked on Twitter but I'm glad you made this response.
Thank you, this was all we ever wanted.

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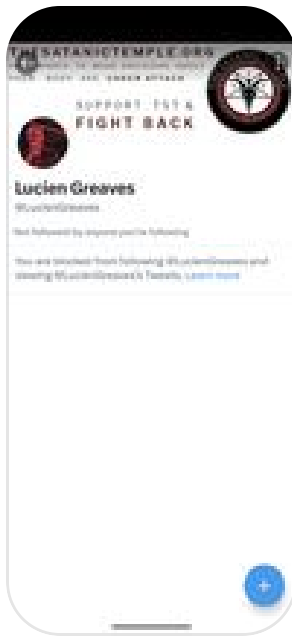


Dex Desjardins Christine Gagne Douglas blocked you on Twitter?!

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Christine Gagne He did



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Dex Desjardins Christine Gagne JFC.....

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Dama Luciano I just hate to see the backbreaking, tireless, constant, endless work everybody does here for free every single day for this community, and this fucking jackass of a guy just walks around not giving a single speck of a shit about it. Its so frustrating that you and so many others have been such paragons of leadership and commitment, and this fucking obtuse loser can just go on the internet and ruin every single one of our reputations instantly for the next 6 months

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Dex Desjardins Dama Luciano It's pretty fucking obnoxious

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Diamo Luciano Dex Desjardins And ironically enough i get their perspective, why should they be forced to step down from an organization that started as their intellectual property and all that, but there are two answers to that conundrum. They either need to rise to the moment and realize that this is a historic movement now that has gone beyond them and they need to let it go and try something different, or we need to find a way to preserve the society of congregations sans TST. In my opinion.

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Dex Desjardins Diamo Luciano The third option I hope to see is them just not interfering with the campaigns or congregations

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Diamo Luciano Dex Desjardins i mean as far as malcolm goes that option probably works, but I dont see how lucien continuing to be a public representative figure for us is still a good idea. Hes been the main source of our drama for years, what is preventing him from fully retiring?

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Bawb Rhoss That's as good a response as a Media Director could make, and honestly, I would rather see you as the official spokesperson for TST than LG.

But the instant rage is what mainstream society and capitalism have ingrained in the Zeitgeist that we exist in. That same Zeitgeist infects everything that even has the potential to become a bureaucracy and is at risk of enabling personal fiefdom creating.

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Diamo Luciano Bawb Rhoss People have said for YEARS that Chalice and or Dex should probably have a national spokesperson role if there needs to be one (I am people)

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Bawb Rhoss Diama Luciano hey if that happens then maybe TST as a whole can look at their middle management crisis.

Details of which I am not going to throw out for public consumption.

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Rose d'Arc Bawb Rhoss Diama Luciano I am also people! I think Dex and Chalice represent the current state of TST better than Lucien does. I trust Lucien to speak to the early days of TST (pre Hail Satan), and core values and that's about it. TST has evolved so much in just the past 4 years, and Lucien has had little to do with that evolution. It's been congregations, campaigns, and Ministry doing the bulk of that work. What TST is, and what TST will become is beyond Lucien. Has been for a while now, imo.

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Bawb Rhoss Rose d'Arc people really need to not hold him up as some sorta TST Jesus. From what I have heard about the guy, he didn't want the publicity at first. Fame does weird shit to your head, like, really weird shit, and if you don't have someone keeping you grounded... ,

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Rose d'Arc Bawb Rhoss 1000% that. I think a lot of confusion, especially from the outside in, comes from people applying Christianity to TST simply because Christianity is so overarching in the West. Lucien must be our Jesus, must be our Pope, must be our Preacher, above all reproach. But the truth is he's just a guy. A dude. He co-founded this religion but we, Satanists, made this religion what it is now, and we shape what it will become. This isn't Christianity and thank fuck for that!

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Rose d'Arc Bawb Rhoss as for fame, this is why I specifically run my (non-TST) spokesperson/press work by friends and comrades I trust to check me. Having anxiety about the spotlight isn't enough to keep you from getting addicted to it. It's important to have people grounding you.

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Saga Lucia Thank you for your words, Dex. I echo what Rose said above and want to add that while Lucien may have indicated he's done talking about this on his Twitter statement, if this topic comes up from congregation members, the general public, etc. in the course of a conversation with someone, we ministers, leaders, campaign organizers, etc. are the ones who have to talk about it, defend our stance, and whatnot.

To me, it felt very much like a gut punch when we got the ministry missive just a little while ago too, reminding us that we have an obligation to care for the well-being of our communities. We not only have to defend ourselves when situations like this come up, but also look after our communities. It would have been nice to have been met in the middle with action taken sooner as you stated in your post, if only to help overall with caring for all of TST's members and easing frustrations if possible.

I digress... again, I appreciate you taking the time and effort to share your thoughts. Thank you.

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Aleister de Naglowska I couldn't agree more, Dex Desjardins