



## **MACHINATIONS**

**(An artful or secret plot or scheme specifically one with evil intent.)**

Loosely based on "The Screwtape Letters" from C.S. Lewis, where Senior demon Screwtape counsels rookie demon WoodWorm on how best to conquer the soul of a "patient" (a man.)

### **Letter # 1**

**Dear Wormwood :** With worry I read your letter, stating your "patient" state of mind. According to you, recently his thoughts have been inclined to consider the eternal . This is a fatal habit that **must** be discouraged and hindered. In obstructing this, remember that he is not a spirit like you, and thus he is slave to some weakness that you must exploit. For instance, I once had a "patient" a very sound atheist, who used to love reading and visiting Museums. One day, a line of thought crossed his mind regarding the fate of his soul. At once, I saw God, our Enemy come to his side and begin whispering in his ear. Believe, when I tell you that I saw my work of twenty years begin to crumble. I did not panic, but attacked where the "patient" would be at his weakest : I asked him to delay any hasty decisions until after he had had a proper meal. The enemy quickly counter-suggested that issues related to eternity should not be put off to a better time. To which I retorted that precisely because of the importance of the decision, it was not recommendable to tackle the issue with an empty stomach, better come back after a hearty lunch and a fresher mind. Once, he made up his mind about waiting, the battle was won. He stepped into the street and into a newsstand where he purchased the day's newspaper and I injected into him a dose of the "real life" and of what is "really important." That "patient" is now safe in Our father's House (Hell.). Attack his flesh, Wormwood and his sense of what is "real." In doing this do not forget that the Enemy has a huge advantage over us: He inhabited once a mortal body, and he uses well that hideous advantage to succor them when they are weak! Above all, confuse him make him see how Christianity is incompatible with half a dozen philosophies and worldviews he already has dancing in his head. And remember to use on him the tremendous weapon of procrastination. "Patients" often forget that soul-battle does not last long and their putting off of thinking about the eternal state of their soul ,works mightily to our advantage. This you can teach him and all your other "patients" specially the young ones. Heaven can wait.

Your affectionate Uncle,

**Screwtape**