

This E-Book is the work of the Druid Nighthawk and has been edited by Robert S

Welcome

I offer my blessing unto you all.

May you find your path and walk true unto yourself.

Observe all around you as you tread life's path. See the leaf on the tree and not just the forest. See each blade of grass not just the fields, each grain of sand not just the beach. For it is only with observation and study that you will fully understand your chosen path.

I am Wiccan, I am a Druid, I am a witch, I am, I am, I am. I am following the true path, and my ways are better than yours. How many times has someone told you their way is best or that their way is the only true way? We all like to think our way is best. Many will even denounce other ways or paths.

When I am asked "what is your path", I tend to answer "my path is not your path but we all walk the same road". What do I mean by the same road? Some paths differ greatly from others. There is a lot we all have in common.

### **We are all pagan.**

The foundation of paganism is about being one with nature. Our religion of nature see's the divine in all things, in all aspects of life and the universe. Every object, plant and animal is part of the divine's presence. This presence has a dark side as well as a light side. Pagans strive to live their lives attuned to the cycles of nature, the seasons, life and death. We all honor our ancestors. We honor a greater force, the force within and around us all, the power of the cosmos.

All religions Christians, Muslims, Judaism etc (fundamentalist or other wise) believe in a patriarchal divine being.

However, in paganism the divine is female as well as male, therefore there is a Goddess as well as a God. These deities are the power of all things around us and within us, they are a part of us. They are not simply substitutes for the Gods that every religion worship.. This is because the Gods of the major religions tend to be super-natural, omnipotent, above nature. Where-as Pagan deities are natural, symbolizing aspects of earths nature or human nature.

Mankind and paganism have gone hand in hand since Neolithic times. Throughout the centuries cultures have changed and alongside these changes, Paganism has adapted and modified to serve an ever changing society. It is grounded in our genetic memory, a natural religion as we live our lives at one with mother earth. We honor and celebrate the solstices and like many other religions the solstices play a great part in our way of life and ceremonies.

We must all work together, to peacefully promote greater understanding of our beliefs, spiritualism and culture.

With this E-book, my web site and those sites that I have investigated myself and given my approval to I hope share a greater understanding and awareness of the pagan way of life. I would also like to help those seeking to join us, those who wish to obtain a greater knowledge of the different paths, thus allowing them to make informed choices as to their journey within paganism.

May you know peace in your heart and joy in your life

Nighthawk

### **What is a Pagan?**

A sacrificial virgin, bloodthirsty sect. Pagans eat young babies. They worship Satan, They go around naked and are sexually promiscuous.

How many of you have heard this, is any of it true? Is the Boogie man real? Is there a monster under the bed? No. And we all know that those are just stories to scare the children. Mankind has always feared what they did not know and or understand. And when faced with the unexplainable men and women will always find ways to color the truth.

So what really is a pagan?

Paganism is founded on nature. It is a spiritual way of life deeply rooted in family and community. We all honor our ancestors and we honor the divine. Whether that divine be male or female it is the power around and within us all. We believe in reincarnation and that all things in nature are sacred. We hold ceremonies such as the solstices. We tend to be forerunners in environmental issues and live our lives as one in harmony with nature.

We do not believe in hell or the devil so why would we worship such. We acknowledge all religions. Each has its place in society. We live in harmony with all faiths and ask for tolerance of our beliefs in return.

Pagans are not just Druids or Wiccans. Many cultures and beliefs can be classed as Pagan, the best example of that is the Native American culture. We rejoice that so many are seeing our way of life as a refreshing alternative.

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great part in our way of life and ceremonies. The world is crying out for help, global warming, ecological disasters and climate change have made many people rethink their way of life. As the world teeters on the edge of disaster, pagans, lead the way in environmental and global issues, they are promoting a greener and more ecological friendly lifestyle.

There are many paths but just one road.

### **What is a Druid?**

A robed man standing at an ancient site performing a ritual.

This is what most people think of when you speak of druids. To some extent this is certainly true but it is only a small part of the whole. Druids do perform rituals to honor solar events such as solstices but there is much more to a druid than ceremonies.

Modern approaches to druidry see more and more women becoming involved in what once was a male orientated path. As well as being priests many druids are storytellers, artists, teachers and/or community workers. Druids seek to gain an inherent understanding of reality, which may be expressed through the natural world, mythology and connecting to the divine.

A druid's path is a green path. They are custodians of the land and nature. They look after the land, learning from it, and imparting their knowledge to others. Druids are the lands spiritual custodians. This respect for the land goes well beyond a simple appreciation of landscape. It is also a respect for the land's local spirits and Gods. The Druids understand the concept of community. They recognize, and live alongside the spirit world. Those local spirits are our neighbors. We are all one with nature.

Not all druids believe in the same things but there are some things all of us have in common. All life has an inherent spiritual aspect. Nature is sacred and should be preserved. Apart from the physical world, we live in co-existence of a spiritual world. Druids believe in reincarnation, that our souls live in the spiritual world until the time comes to be reborn. Reality is flawed by preconceptions imposed upon us by society. Meditation, study and spiritual insight allows one to see true reality.

Druids have a philosophical approach to life. There are no preset gods or goddesses for druids, instead they tend to use whichever gods they feel in tune with, In fact some druids see the divine as aspects of nature instead of a god like figure. Some druids see the divine as being the god of all religions. Politics and the rulers quests for power corrupted and changed the word of the divine, to control their people by fear of a vengeful god.

Druids often fit themselves into their local pantheon of Gods and spirits, so a British Druid could worship ancient Celtic deities, while an American Druid may honor the divine in the form of the local Native American concept. Alternatively, each individual Druid may simply align themselves with which ever pantheon of Gods they feel the most comfortable with or simply worship the divine one seeing other god-heads as simply more faces of the divine one.

For Druids, being at one with nature also means a respect for the heritage and magic of the land that can be found at sacred sites, some made thousands of years ago by our distant ancestors. They connect us to our ancestors and our ancestors' spiritual practices. Respecting these heritage sites means better understanding of the wisdom of the land as it was known to our ancestors.

Druidry is the lore of trees, stars, animals and places they develop a spiritual connection to and the world around them and this, in turn, creates a relationship of respect for mother earth...Walking the Druid path isn't simple. It takes years of study and hard work. In modern day Druidry there is a series of advancements. The title of "Druid" is reserved only for those that have advanced to the highest level. There are three such stages of advancement, known as Bard, Ovate and Druid.

### Bards

A Bard is one who has learned the ways and stories of the Druid path, as well as possibly local and personal tales. A Bard is expected to learn great myths and legends by heart, so that he can recite them as needed. It is also common for a Bard to learn different aspects of lore, such as tree lore and animal lore, and in some cases a Bard would even be expected to learn the lineage of his people (either within his Druidic order or his community).

### Ovates

Ovates are masters in herbal lore with insight into the mystical and medicinal properties of various plants. This is not really witchcraft, but the Ovate does recognise that some plants may be utilised for their magical properties. In this way the Ovate gains a closer understanding of nature and in many ways become a healer and apothecary too.

### Druids

Becoming a Druid means that you have reached the highest rank on the path and may now be regarded as vastly learned in the ways of the land, community and the Other World. A Druid is considered wise enough to teach others who are on the path and act as an adviser, judge and overseer.

## **What is Wicca?**

Wiccans are ordinary everyday people. they come from all walks of life, from all spectrum of society and from all over the world. Most are individuals seeking a personalized practical religion that can be adapted to suit their own needs and criteria. Wicca is a wonderfully diverse religion that meets those needs.

There are many differing paths and traditions contained within Wicca, each with its own brand of ritual and magic. Perhaps the single most common theme among all these traditions, is an overriding reverence for life, nature, and the environment, as seen through the Goddess and God.

There are 2 guiding principles all wiccans adhere to:

The wiccan Creed.

"Though it harm none, Do what thy wilt". This is not a ticket to do whatever they want, more that it allows them the freedom of thought and actions to ascertain the truth, to communicate with the divine and to determine how best to live their lives, if by doing so they cause no harm. This can also be taken as a cautionary reference to the one fundamental law governing magic and its use.

The Three-Fold Law".

This states that whatever they do, whether it be for good or for evil, it will be returned to them, but magnified three times over. Therefore witches accept responsibility for their own actions and are especially careful about how they use their magic, for to hurt someone or to cause distress, a spell is returned to sender three times better or worse.

Wicca is spiritual religion, based on nature and the divine. They believe the divine force or power is the source of all. Therefore, the world and all aspects within the world, "nature" and "life itself" in particular, are considered sacred.

Wiccans believe the Divine to be manifest in the form of a Goddess and God. As they emanate from the same source, both retain equal power, hence equal status. By manifesting the power in two deities, Goddess and God, the natural balance of opposites, cause and effect are retained. Each opposite is essential to maintaining the balance and rhythm of life on earth.

Wiccans celebrate 8 major rituals each year called "Sabbats".

Imbolc (February 2nd),

Beltane (April 30th),

Lughnasadh (August 1st)

Samhain (October 31st),

Ostara (Spring Equinox, March 21st),

Litha (Summer Solstice, June 21st),

Madon (Autumn Equinox, September 21st),

Yule (Winter Solstice, December 21st).

### **What is a Shaman?**

Shamans believe that everything has a spirit and is alive. The tree has a spirit. The rock has a spirit. My drum has a spirit, and yes, even this computer has a spirit. If everything has a spirit and is alive, we humans then find ourselves in a position of equality rather than dominance. If you follow this logic, you begin to realize that shamanism is a radical act. Shamans don't follow the laws of man; they follow the

laws of spirits.

They don't dominate the earth and its creatures; they strive to live in harmony and balance. Our ancient ancestors all over the world discovered how to maximize human abilities of mind and spirit for healing and problem-solving. The remarkable system of methods they developed is today known as "shamanism," a term that comes from a Siberian tribal word for its practitioners: "shaman" (pronounced SHAH-mahn).

Shamans are a type of medicine man or woman especially distinguished by the use of journeys to hidden worlds otherwise mainly known as myth, dream, and near-death experiences. A shaman is one who goes into an altered state of consciousness at will. While in this altered state, he or she makes a conscious choice to journey to another reality, a reality which is outside of time and space. This other reality is composed of three layers: The lower world, the middle world and the upper world and is inhabited by helping spirits. The shaman is able to establish relationships with these spirits and to bring back information and healing for the community or the individual.

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For more information on the subject of Paganism follow these links

<http://themysticcollection.ca/index.html>

<http://tarotcardreadingsbyrobert.com>