
“These eight words the Rede fulfill: An it harm none, do what ye will.”
- Doreen Valiente

This week we began to explore Wicca and Neo Paganism, including their similarities and differences from other religions. We discussed the agrarian roots of these nature-based spiritual paths and also some common myths around their practices and sacred symbols.

Some of the comparisons drawn included: Christian Trinity => Triple Goddess; Goddess/God => Yin/Yang; Magick/ritual => Manifesting/ceremony; Multiple Goddesses/Aspects => Hindu Gods/Goddesses; The One-The All / the Tao. *Did you realize there were so many similarities between Wicca/Neo Paganism and other faiths?*

On Sunday, I spoke of Witchcraft as the practice of Magick and Magickal skills. I also spoke of Magick in comparison to New Thought manifesting. *Do you think these might be the same thing?*

Have you ever had worry or unease in the past when faced with a Pentagram or hearing people talk about Wicca or Witchcraft? Where do you think that stems from—religion, movies, something else?

Now that you know that the Pentagram is based on Sacred Geometry and the golden ratio like the Fibonacci Spiral (**a spiral is also a sacred symbol in Celtic neo paganism*)—and that Satanism is not an offshoot of Wicca, *how does that affect your previous notions about the Pentagram and the inverted Pentagram?*

Wicca is referred to as “The Old Religion”, but it was actually ‘invented’ in the 1950’s. *Did you know this was a modern construct built on an attempt to recreate the old ways of pagan folklore and nature-based living? Does knowing that the religion is new affect your perception of it in any way?*

While Wicca is highly individualized, for many Witches, the concepts of both emanence and transcendence exist simultaneously without conflict—including both physical magick (herbalism, midwifery, crystals) and mysticism (Visions, dreamwork, psychic work, spiritual journeys). *Do you believe there is spiritual essence in all things physical and non-physical? How do you feel about the Pantheistic view of Nature as inheritantly Divine? Is the physical world something to transcend or something to experience as spirituality embodied—or both?*

Was there anything that you heard that surprised you? For example, did you know that Wicca and Neo Paganism don’t necessarily involve Goddess worship?

In reassessing a nature-based spiritual path and some of the benefits, such as reverence in everyday living (cooking, nature, gardening), grounding/balance, confidence/empowerment, and honoring the feminine body and her cycles as sacred, *are there any Wiccan or Neo Pagan practices or benefits that you could see might serve you? What is most important to you about your own “religion”, spirituality and practices? Are there any gaps that you perhaps hadn’t thought of before?*