

CORRELLIAN WICCA

LESSONS FOR THE

FIRST DEGREE

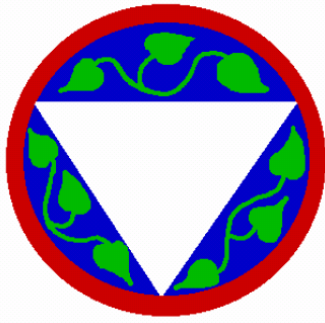


Prepared by Rev. Donald Lewis-Highcorrell

Adapted for South Africa by Rev. Raene Packery

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 Rev. Don Lewis.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the author



INTRODUCTION

So you want to be a Witch?

What is all this witchcraft stuff, anyway?

Does being a witch mean you can point your finger and make things happen? Does it mean you can learn to fly on a broom and turn people into toads? Well, not quite.

Witchcraft, or WICCA, is a religion. Wicca is not primarily about magic, though it does use it. Wicca is about your place in the Universe and your evolution as a spiritual being. Wicca is about moving forward on your personal spiritual journey - about learning, growing, and becoming the most you can be.

Wicca is a religion. Wicca is a way of understanding and interacting with Deity and the Universe. It is a life-affirming path of growth and expansion.

Wicca is based on reverence for Nature and Her cycles, respect for the Earth and all Her creatures. Wicca reveres the natural forces of the Universe and sees them reflected in the world around us, and in every person and thing.

Wicca has great reverence for Deity, Who for us has both a Mother and a Father aspect. Wiccans approach Deity through many names and forms, both masculine and feminine, drawn from all over the world and from every age. We often compare Deity to a diamond with many facets; each name or image for Deity is like one facet on the diamond. Each facet may be considered separately and all are beautiful in themselves, but all are aspects of the single stone.

Wicca believes that Deity comes to each person in the way that is best understood by

that person, and that this is different for different people. Wicca believes that the relationship between a person and Deity is highly individual, personal, and subjective.

Not everyone will have the same understanding of Deity, because not everyone is in the same place, or able to understand from the same level or perspective. Because of this no one has a right to judge another person's relationship with Deity, because each person is different.

This is why we respect all the names and forms that have been used to honor Deity through the centuries -Deity needs them all in order to come to all people in the way they can best understand.

The most common way for Wiccans to approach Deity is in the form of the TRIPLE GODDESS, Whose three forms are Maiden, Mother, and Crone, and Whose symbol is the Moon. Her consort is THE GOD, Who rules the cycles of the solar year and is called among other things Lord of the Dance. His symbol is the Sun. They are viewed as POLARITIES, opposing but complimentary powers, like the Eastern concept of Yin and Yang.

Wicca has a very strong moral base. By "moral" we mean treating each other in an honorable and loving manner. Wicca has only one law which all traditions agree on; DO AS YOU WILL, BUT HARM NONE. In other words how you dress and who you sleep with is not our business -those issues are not what we mean by "morality." But a moral person doesn't hurt other people, and this is the criteria for all moral action; "Am I harming anyone?" If you are, you are acting wrongly.

Wicca is a Pagan, or Native, religion. The word Pagan means "from the countryside" and reflects the fact that Pagans follow indigenous, native religions rather than the Book religions. Pagan religions are built up over millennia as a result of people's observations and experiences - they are living, growing religions which can and do change when change is needed. Pagan religions revere the natural forces and cycles of life, and it is from observation and interaction with these that their beliefs developed.

Wicca is wholly unrelated to the Book religions; Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Satanism. The Book religions are all descended from the supposedly historical bargain between Abraham and Jehovah, which is recorded in their Bible. The Book religions all share common elements; belief in a final Day of Judgment, in a jealous and vengeful God, in the basic sinfulness of humanity (called Original Sin), the superiority of the male sex, and the idea of Hell; a place of eternal torture. Most of all the Book religions believe in the infallibility of their Book, the Bible (and its related books the Talmud, the Q'uran, the Satanic Bible). Though these books were written by humans, the Book religions claim they were written by God - this is the hallmark of the Book religions. Absolutely NONE of these ideas are shared by Wicca. The Book religions have a totally separate origin from the Pagan religions, and a very different history.

WICCA AS A SPIRITUAL PATH

In taking these lessons you must understand that you are not just learning some interesting things about magic and Pagan religion, you are undertaking a spiritual journey. If you apply the things you are taught and persevere in your studies, it will change you on the deepest levels of your being; you will learn about parts of yourself that you may never have known existed (your Higher Self, your Astral body, your Chakras and your aura, to name only a few), master psychic skills you've only read about or seen in movies (clairvoyance, divination, psychometry and many more) and, learn how to use magic to take control of your very Destiny. You will develop strengths you do not now know that you have, and you will in time face your deepest fears; and vanquish them.

Wicca is a path of transformation and growth which will challenge you and lead you to a renewed and enriched existence. Of course you don't necessarily get all of this just from these lessons. You have to do the work, and you need to continue your studies beyond just the First Degree to master all this. But these lessons will build a strong base to grow from.

WHAT WILL YOU GET FROM THESE LESSONS

If you complete this course of 12 lessons, you will be eligible for initiation into the First Degree of Correllian Nativist Wicca.

The First Degree is the lowest degree of membership in the Clergy of a WICCAN TRADITION. Wicca is composed of many traditions most -but not all- of which recognize each others initiations. If you choose to take the First Degree initiation -and you are not obligated to - you will become a Priest/ess of the Correllian Tradition. The Correllian Tradition is a SYNCRETIC and highly philosophical Tradition of Wicca, which stresses the inherent unity of all Pagan traditions and the synchronicity of all spiritual paths. We believe that Deity is in all things, therefore all paths can lead to Deity.

Wicca is not an exclusive religion. Because we believe all paths lead to Deity, we do not believe that one must belong to any given faith or tradition to be a good person or to grow spiritually. Nor is it necessary to belong to only one. Being a Correllian initiate does not mean you can not also be an Isian, Druidic, or Dianic initiate as well -or any other Tradition you might wish to study or join. You must however respect our tradition as a member and follow Correllian practices in Correllian temples -but what you do other places is your own business. Your private beliefs and conscience are your own business and we have no desire to dictate them to you. Wicca is about learning to make your own choices, and the Wiccan traditions exist to provide a framework in which to learn and grow. Wicca seeks to open your thinking, not to limit it.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A WITCH

You want to be a Wiccan.

To be a Wiccan is to move at one with Deity. To be a Wiccan is to honor Nature and all that is in Her. To acknowledge the life in all things, and be in harmony with it.

To be a Wiccan is to work with the seen and the unseen. To learn the magical secrets of stones, of plants, and animals - to speak to the faeries and the spirits and to hear their replies. To be a Wiccan is to use every tool available to grow, to learn, to become the best that you can be.

To use magic, meditation, and ritual to overcome all limitations, all fears, all imperfections, and to move always in harmony with Deity, always to the good, always in accordance with your highest self.

This is what it is to be a Wiccan. If knowing these things you still want to be a Wiccan, then these lessons will help you make a good beginning.

CORRELIAN WICCA

Traditionally it takes a minimum of a year and a day to achieve a Wiccan degree. Sometimes it takes much longer. These lessons have been formulated with this dictum in mind. These lessons are meant to be done at the rate of one a month. Twelve lessons following a month apart require at least a year to complete. This allows the student plenty of time to digest the information, which is quite wide-ranging in nature.

A brief outline of the 12 lessons is as follows:

- 0) Introduction (You are here.)
- 1) Magic.
The first lesson is about magic; what it is, what it is not, and how to use it.
- 2) Cosmology.
This lesson talks about the nature of Deity, Universal energy, and the soul.
- 3) Personal power,
This lesson explains the Psychic Tide, the Wheel of the Year, and what these have to do with you.
- 4) The Altar.
This lesson talks about the altar; how and why to build and use your own.

5) The Airs.
This lesson tells about the Four Quarters, the elements, and all of their magical associations.

6) The Circle of Art.
This lesson talks about the nature of ritual and its uses.

7) Invocation.
This lesson talks about the nature of "The Gods" and how to interact with them, and identify or choose your own special patron.

8) Garb.
This lesson is about magical tools and clothing.

9) Symbols, Omens and Divination.
This lesson, as you might imagine, is about how to interpret symbols and omens.

10) Basic Energy Work.
This lesson is about working with the spiritual energy of the body, and of living things.

11) Herbs, Oils and Incense.
This lesson is about the history, nature, and uses of oils and incense.

12) Stones and Crystals.
The final lesson introduces you to the rich world of stones and crystals.

Each lesson will have several parts:

The Lesson itself

Exercises - to develop your psychic and magical skills.

God of the month - to acquaint you with Wiccan ideas of Deity and some of Deities many forms.

Spell of the month -to help you learn a variety of useful magical techniques and rituals.

Glossary - to explain terms which may be unfamiliar.

Written test - to make sure you understand.

THE CORRELLIAN TRADITION

So what is the Correllian Nativist Tradition, and what makes it different from other Wiccan Traditions? Usually when people ask this they are expecting a liturgical answer -some special beliefs or ritual forms that are unique to Correllianism.

Correllianism does put an unusually strong emphasis on the philosophical aspects of Wicca, and on the spirituality and inner mysteries of the Wiccan religion, but liturgically our beliefs do not especially differ from those of other Wiccan Traditions. Rather it is our attitudes toward the Pagan community and its future that tends to set us apart.

The Correllian Tradition is dedicated to the advancement of the Pagan people. We believe strongly in the need for increased communication and co-operation between Pagans everywhere, from all Traditions. We stress the importance of the Pagan Clergy as teachers and facilitators, and the need for a strong public presence.

The Correllian Tradition emphasizes celebratory as well as initiatory Wicca, and is strongly committed to accessible public ritual.



The Correllium, symbol of the Correllian Tradition showing the vault of heaven with a double line representing Air and Light (Fire), the cross of the Four Directions representing Earth, and a wave representing Water. The whole represents the Unity of Existence.

TRADITION LEADERSHIP

The leading bodies of the Correllian Tradition include; The Witan Council, which is made up of all Temple Heads, Elders, and Officers of the Tradition; And the Correllian Council of Elders which includes the Heads and Officers of the Tradition, and its most respected members.

The First Priestess and First Priest are considered to be liturgical Joint Heads of the Tradition, and function as Heads of the Correll Mother Temple.

The chief administrator of the Tradition is the Chancellor, who represents and is empowered to act for the Tradition's leadership as a whole.

In addition to the Chancellor, First Priestess and First Priest the Tradition's leadership includes the First Elder who is responsible for primarily ceremonial duties, particularly in regard to the succession.

The Correllian Nativist Tradition South Africa is a Religious Organisation designated by the Department of Home Affairs to nominate and appoint clergy as legal marriage officers under the Civil Union Act (Act 17 of 2006). The CNT (SA) is run by one elected Executive Officer (Registrar), chosen at the discretion of the Chancellor to handle all administrative functions in South Africa.

All Correllian Temples in South Africa hold legal status through the CNT (SA) and operate independently under the leadership of the Temple Head.

GLOSSARY

WICCA - Wicca is a nature-based Pagan religion focused on the worship of the Mother Goddess and Her consort and the observance of the cycles of Nature and the Universe. Wicca is highly eclectic, drawing from many sources both in its origin and in contemporary practice. Wicca also acknowledges and seeks to develop the higher powers of the soul, through the practice of magic.

CORRELLIAN WICCA - Correllianism is highly philosophical and syncretic in its views, believing that Deity comes to the individual from within, and that religion exists to help that process, not to replace it. Correllianism believes that all of the indigenous, or "Pagan", religions of the world are equally worthy and share fundamental concepts which are universal in nature, while manifesting external differences appropriate to their respective

cultural origins, and that Pagan religions must stand together and acknowledge each others worth. In previous years Correllian Wicca was called Nativist Wicca, and it is still formally termed Correllian Nativist Wicca.

TRIPLE GODDESS - The three forms of the Triple Goddess reflect the three phases of the Moon. Maiden (Waxing Moon), Mother (Full Moon), and Crone (Waning Moon). The Triple Goddess is the form of the Mother Goddess most often found in Wicca and underlying most Wiccan thought. Her symbol is the Moon, and She is also represented by the Earth itself (often spoken of as Her body), by the sea, or by the whole of the Universe. Her spirit suffuses all things.

THE GOD - Consort of the Goddess, the God is represented by the Sun, and is Lord of the cycles of life. He is seen as the God of vegetation and of the forests, but also as Lord of animals. He is represented as dying and being reborn each year in cycle with the seasons.

POLARITIES - The concept of Polarity is the idea that the Universe is held in balance by the interaction of two equal but opposite forces. These are variously described as Darkness and Light, Spirit and Matter, Yin and Yang, Goddess and God. Everything which exists is made up of both these qualities to varying degrees.

DO AS YOU WILL, BUT HARM NONE -The Wiccan Rede, considered the oldest and most sacred Wiccan "Law." Many Traditions have "Laws" or rules of their own, but the Wiccan Rede is the only one that most all Traditions agree on. All Traditions do not however agree on the exact meaning of the word "harm."

WICCAN TRADITIONS - "Tradition" in the Wiccan religion is the term used to describe an individual denomination, as distinct from others. There are many Wiccan Traditions including the Gardnerian Tradition, the Alexandrian Tradition, the Seax-Wicca Tradition, the North Wind Tradition, the Blackstone Tradition, the Lothlorien Tradition, to name just a few of the larger ones. There are also many small Traditions. All are equally worthy and all, in theory at least, respect each other equally. As membership

in any Wiccan Tradition is wholly voluntary, it is never appropriate for members of one Tradition to "pass judgment" upon the practices of another Tradition, except in regard to whether a given practice is the right for oneself as an individual.

SYNCRETIC - Syncretism is the likening of disparate ideas in the belief that they express a common truth. In religion syncretism is the idea that the different religions of the world all reflect the same basic truths, in differing ways –and that these differences are essentially external rather than integral to the true meaning of religion. Syncretism is a dominant aspect of historic and contemporary Pagan religions. The hallmark of syncretism is the likening of Deities from one area to Deities from another.

Thus at the dawn of human history the Egyptians likened the southern Amon to the northern Ra, seeing them as the same Deity. Similarly the Egyptians likened Ptah, Seker, and Osiris, seeing them as one – a practice which extended throughout Egyptian religion. Much later the Romans likened the Celtic Cernunnos and Secullos, the Germanic Odin, and their own Mercury –seeing them all as one Deity. The highest expression of syncretism in the ancient world was the worship of the Goddess Isis, which in later periods taught that all Deities were expressions of the same Divine power, expressed as polarities –but this was by no means an exclusively Isiac view. The short-lived Priest Emperor Elagabalus created the most concrete example of syncretism in the form of his Elagabalium, a Temple raised to all Gods as One.

IMPERIUM - "Imperium" refers to those things which are under one's direct power or which fall in one's natural sphere of influence. Thus the imperium of an Astrologer includes subjects related to the stars and their influences, while the imperium of an herbalist would have to do with the medicinal and magical uses of plants. The term is of particular importance to offices which one might hold, where it makes reference to one's sphere of authority.