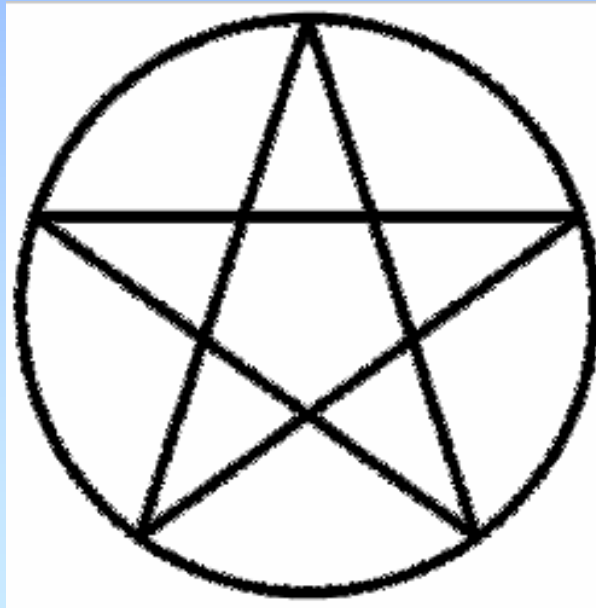




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Wicca

Beliefs and Practices





Wiccan Deities

- Wicca can be considered to worship two major deities: the Triple Goddess and the Great Horned God
 - Some beliefs view these as male and female aspects of great deity.
 - Some beliefs are truly polytheistic, worshipping these deities equally with other selected deities from any number of pantheons.
- Many aspects of Wiccan deities tie into past emphasis on fertility, crops, protection, and survival in untamed environments



Triple Goddess^[2]

- Female – Wiccan
- Described as the Maiden, the Mother, the Crone.
 - Maiden: Youth, innocence, enchantment
 - Mother: Fertility, nurturing, power, stability
 - Crone: Wisdom and death.
- Very powerful, said to be all the other goddesses combined.
- More focused on growth and agriculturally based societies.

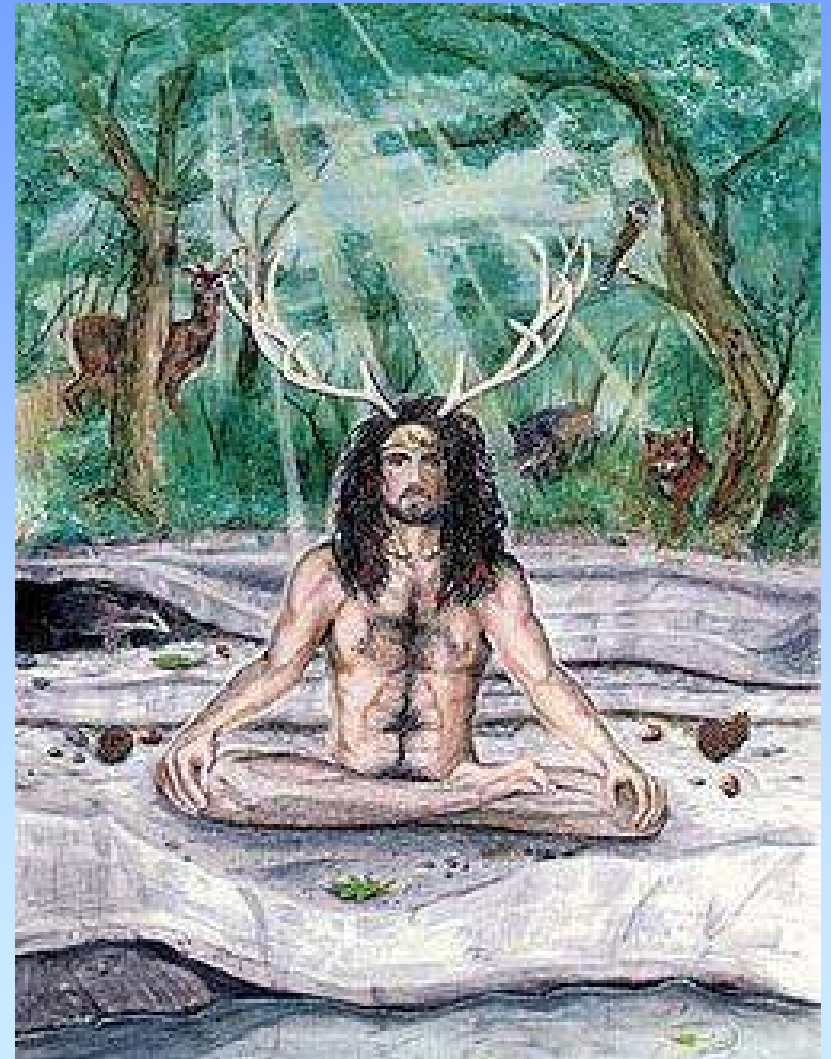




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Great Horned God^[3]

- Male – Wiccan
- Counterpart to the Goddess
- Master of the hunt – Associated with hunting societies.
- Symbolic of the wild animals and unknown aspects of life.
- Grants bravery, strength, adventure, male virility.
- Primal and strong in nature.





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Wiccan Holidays^[4]

- 8 Major Holidays (Sabbats)
 - Yule (Winter Solstice)
 - Imbolc (Brigids Day)
 - Ostara (Spring Equinox)
 - Beltane (Fertility. Crops)
 - Litha (Summer Solstice)
 - Lughnassad (Harvest)
 - Mabon (Autumn Equinox)
 - Samhain (Spirits and Winter)
- Represent changing of the seasons and agriculture





Wiccan Magic

- Wiccan magic makes extensive use of the five elements: earth, wind, water, fire, spirit.
- General philosophy is that the magic can be effective through personal power, or through beseeching the aid of a powerful deity.
- Magic is often done through some form of ritual, ranging from informal to highly formal.
 - Informal rituals: simply repeating a phrase
 - Formal rituals: elaborate process involving a ritual space, tools, robes, and a strict set of words to speak.



Wiccan Rituals

- Tools
 - Athame (Wind)
 - Cauldron (Water)
 - Candle (Fire)
 - Pentacle (Earth)
- Dress
 - Skyclad or robes
- Purpose
 - Holidays or a specific desire. (life changes)





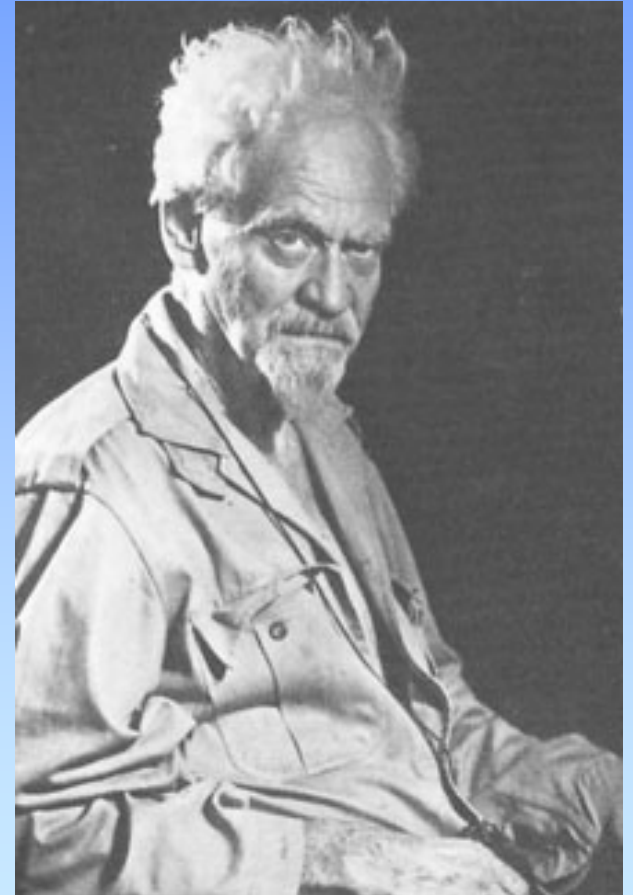
Wiccan Mores

- “An it harm none, do what ye Will”
 - Common interpretation: Will = Higher Will
 - NOT an excuse to do whatever you want
- Law of three
 - Everything returns three times.
 - Golden rule.



Wiccan History - Gardner

- Modern Wicca entered the public eye in 1954 when Gerald Gardner published a book titled High Magic's Aid
 - Gardner claimed much of the information he gained from a Wiccan coven that he joined in 1939 and this coven descended from old Wicca.
 - Wicca originally began with the Celtic culture.
 - Isolated Wiccan covens have survived underground throughout time and have resurfaced in recent times.





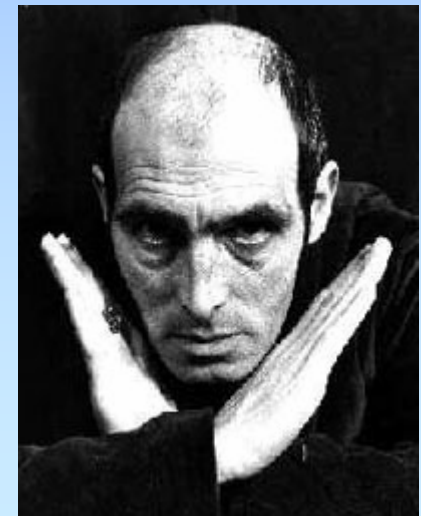
Wiccan History – Counterpoint

- Others believe there is no surviving tradition of old Wicca and that modern Wicca is a reconstruction.
- This community is largely composed of solitary practitioners



Alexendrian Wicca

- Established in the 1960's by Alex Sanders
 - Found mostly in the U.S. and Canada
- Based on Gardner Wicca
- Included elements from Kaballah and Enochian Magic
- “If it works, use it”^[8]
- Required initiation into a coven





Dianic Wicca

- Based on the U.S. feminist movement in the 1960's.
- Founded by Zsuzsanna Emese Moukesay.
- Specifically focused on the feminine aspect and rejected the Great Horned God.
- Only women allowed in covens.
- No connection to Gardnerian Wicca.



References

- [1] <http://www.religioustolerance.org/witchcra.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horned_God
- [3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple_Goddess
- [4] <http://witchway.net/days/days.html>
- [5] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZYGnjb77-k>
- [6] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfteHKgRJRE>
- [7] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerald_Gardner
- [8] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandrian_Wicca