



Ask Rose Ariadne
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Green Witchcraft - An Overview

Green Witchcraft is one of the least documented Wiccan traditions, perhaps because its practitioners often also practice other main stream Wiccan Traditions or perhaps because most Wiccan practices are essentially Green by nature. Green Witchcraft is sometimes erroneously confused with Hedgecraft – perhaps because of the similarities that exist between these two traditions in their approach to the Craft.

Like Hedgecraft, Green Witchcraft incorporates the use of herbs in Magick and healing. Both also have a very practical and flexible attitude to practicing the Craft. They differ in that the Green Witch will rarely, if ever, be found worshipping within the confines of four walls, preferring the freedom and the closeness to Deity afforded by nature instead. It is not unusual for urban Green Witches to head out to a park or to the outskirts of a city – not only to worship – but also to re-establish touch with the divinity of nature.

Natural Master Herbalists

Cultivating herbs, vegetables, fruits and growing all sorts of flowers, trees and shrubs are quite usual for Green witches who are fortunate enough to have the required space at their disposal. Those who don't have that luxury, still manage to hold their own by filling pots with lavender, sage, rosemary and basil on their balconies and in their windowsills. They generally also know where to obtain those they cannot grow in the wild. An inherent part of being a Green Witch is an affinity with plants and includes the ability to speak to them and being spoken to by them in return.

It is also the belief of many Green Witches that if you grow and care for your own herbs, the herbs will reward you:

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By lending more power to the spells in which they are used;





- * By offering enhanced fragrance if added as an ingredient to incense;
- * By being more efficacious in healing;
- * By adding extra flavor to any meal.

The affinity with plants means that Green Witches intuitively know how to use herbs in ways different to those you would typically find in herbal textbooks and grimoires. They understand the lore and the uses: Emotional, mental, psychological, physical, ritual and magickal. They also know how to dry herbs, how to create potions, lotions, oils and brews and how different herbs can be used together harmoniously for making incense, for healing and for cooking.

When harvesting leaves, twigs and flowers from plants, Green Witches believe that permission has to be sought from the spirit of the plant first, that the plant has to be in perfect health, that no more than fifteen percent should be harvested at a time and that a gift needs to be offered in return to thank the spirit of the plant.

Tools of the Craft

Real Green Witches do not buy tools at all. Like the Hedgewitches, they favor making their own. They believe that by making your own tools from the materials found freely in nature, you will be better attuned to your tools and that the tools will be better attuned to nature in return. It is for this reason that indigenous materials are preferred above all else. When wood is needed, you are not likely to find a Green Witch sawing away at a branch. They use fallen branches instead.

Whilst most of the tools used in Green Witchcraft are the same as those used in the other traditions, there are two that are different, namely the chalice and the stang. The chalice is generally a horn instead of a cup. The stang is a type of staff. The only difference is that the top of the stang forms an upward pointing V. By planting the stang in the soil, the Green Witch has something like a mobile altar. The horn and so forth can be hung from it during ritual.

Deity

The Deities of the Green Witch would generally be those of the woodlands and the forests. These would normally include Cernunnos, Pan, The Horned God, The God of the Wild Hunt, the Green Man, Faunus, Fauna, Flora, Cerridwen, Dianna and Gaia, amongst others.

Conclusion





The flexibility of Green Witchcraft necessarily means that ritual is flexible too. The rituals of Green Witches that follow other mainstream traditions will be in line with those prescribed by these traditions. If only Green Witchcraft is practiced, to the exclusion of all else, the ritual will normally be fairly 'loose' and spontaneous. Much like the nature of Nature!

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