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Chapter 1 : Wicca : A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner by Scott Cunningham | eBay

"Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner" gives you a sense that Scott Cunningham is sharing as though the reader deserves his efforts, so he comes across as sincere and genuine as he can. The Book of Shadows portion are some of the practices he had success with personally.

A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner By Scott Cunningham Published in by Llewellyn Publications Scott Cunningham is a leading authority on Wicca, a modern religious movement that falls under the broader heading of neo-paganism neo meaning "new". Neo-paganism encompasses a number of modern groups that find religious truth in ancient practices and beliefs. Some neo-pagans, for example, identify themselves specifically as followers of Asatru, a god from ancient Norse Scandinavian mythology. Others call themselves Druids, whose religion is based on ancient Celtic practices. The Celts were an early ethnic group found primarily in western Europe and the British Isles. Other groups include shamans priests or priestesses who use magic rituals to cure the sick or foretell the future , members of such movements as Goddess Spirituality or Sacred Ecology, and Wicca. Many of these terms tend to overlap in meaning because neo-paganism has no formal theology a system of beliefs and teachings or organization. Living in nature makes every moment a ritual. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, witchcraft usually refers to those who have made a religious error of belief or practice. However, it more popularly refers to worship of Satan, or the devil. Witchcraft has often been mistakenly associated with bizarre rituals that may involve blood, animal sacrifices, unconventional sexual practices, and the like. Throughout the history of Christianity, many women and men have faced the wrath of the Christian church for supposed Satan worship and witchcraft. In , for example, nineteen people, mostly women, were executed after the infamous witch trials in the town of Salem, Massachusetts. The church and the community believed that these people had been practicing black arts as witches. The accused, however, were innocent victims of unfortunate events. Modern practitioners of witchcraft strongly deny that they worship evil or engage in strange practices. They maintain that witchcraft, as practiced by Wiccans and other groups, is an Earth-centered religion that sees the divine in the natural world, including, for example, the cycle of the seasons and the phases of the Moon. Most such groups have a strict code of behavior based on not doing harm to others. While various neo-pagan groups, including Wiccans, follow different traditions and practices, they do have characteristics in common. These groups have little if any official ruling structure; that is, no ruling body has authority over members. Most believers prefer to practice their rituals outdoors when they can, which is consistent with their emphasis on nature. Many practice in secret, largely because many people associate neo-paganism with Satan worship and may discriminate against them, avoiding them or treating them unfairly in other ways. Another characteristic that neo-pagan religions share is that they are generally reconstructed from ancient Western pre-Christian religions that have all but disappeared. In the case of Wicca, several theories have been offered about its origins, but a well-regarded theory is that Wicca evolved from ancient Celtic worship of the goddess of fertility and the god of the hunt. The religion largely died out as a result of persecution treating people unfairly, and often with violence, because of extreme differences by the Romans, the Saxons, and the Norman French. Later, the Christian Church tried to forcefully eliminate Wicca during "the Burning Times," when accused witches were handed over to local authorities who saw to their deaths by hanging, drowning, or, though less common, burning at the stake. This took place roughly between the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries. Neo-pagan groups, including Wicca, tend to have similar teachings. They follow a belief system that is either duotheistic believing in two deities, typically a god and a goddess or polytheistic believing in many deities. Neo-pagans feel close to the cycles of nature. Holy days tend to fall on the first day of each of the four seasons, that is the summer and winter solstices respectively, the longest and shortest days of the year and the spring and autumnal equinoxes the first day of spring and autumn. The emergence of Wicca as a modern religious movement can be traced to the s in England and the efforts of a British civil servant named Gerald Gardner, who wrote extensively on witchcraft.

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Later, in , a number of Wiccans gathered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they drafted a statement containing the principles of Wiccan belief. Wiccans practice rites attuned to, or in step with, the "natural rhythm of life forces," Cunningham notes, referring to rituals that follow "the course of the Sun through its astronomical year" as well as the monthly waxing and waning of the Moon. A waning moon is one where the side of the moon facing west is dark. This gives the appearance that the moon is getting smaller. Wiccans encourage and support responsibility toward the environment. Cunningham points out that "many of us are involved in ecology" "saving the Earth from utter destruction by our own hands. They find power and divine awe in seemingly ordinary aspects of nature, such as flowers and trees. The creative power of the universe is both masculine and feminine and contained within each person: Throughout his book, Cunningham makes clear that every practitioner can be his or her own priest or priestess, performing rituals without the assistance of a class of specialists, a class that other religions would describe as priests in Christianity or rabbis in Judaism or imams in Islam. Wisdom, religion, and "magick" a spelling sometimes used in religious contexts to distinguish it from tricks and entertainment are united in a way of living, or a life philosophy. As Cunningham notes elsewhere in the book, "magic plays a special role in Wicca. It allows us to improve our lives and return energy to our ravaged [damaged] planet. Meaning in the universe comes from fulfilling and affirming life: Cunningham makes clear throughout his book that worship of the God and Goddess is worship of the creative, life-affirming powers of the universe, those powers that sustain and support the universe. Do Witches Carry Brooms? A common image of witches, and one that is reflected every year by children in Halloween costumes, is that they ride on broomsticks. While this is a stereotype, it is one based on an element of truth. Wiccans commonly use brooms as sacred tools, typically starting rituals by sweeping a sacred place where an altar is set up. This sweeping is not just for cleanliness. As part of the ritual, it symbolizes the act of purifying, or making holy, the sacred space for worship. In fact, witches in many cultural traditions were believed to have been associated with brooms. In Mexico before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the fifteenth century, the witch deity Tlazeltlotl was often pictured naked, riding on a broom. The ancient Chinese worshipped a broom goddess they called on to bring good weather. In Europe, witches were believed to ride in the air on brooms, which some at the time believed "proved" that they were allied with the dark powers of Satan. Things to remember while reading Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner: Wicca is regarded as a form of paganism. The modern word pagan has negative associations, suggesting that a person is backward and ignorant. The word comes from a Latin word, *paganus*, meaning "country dweller. People in rural areas tended to hold on to ancient religious beliefs rather than to adopt Christianity. People in cities who did become Christians thought of people outside of the cities as backward. Scholars debate the origins of Wicca. While most practitioners and religious scholars trace Wicca to the s and the books of Gerald Gardner, others disagree about the nature of his role. They believe that Gardner adapted his claims about Wicca from various other authors, religious historians, and even a prominent witch named Dorothy Clutterbuck, who was well know in England at the time. Many neo-pagans, including Wiccans, have adopted the pentagram as a symbol. This symbol consists of a circle with a five-pointed star inside, with the tips of the points touching the circle. It is widely believed that the pentagram is a satanic symbol, but it is not. The circle represents the magic circle used for rituals, and the five points of the star represent the five elements of earth, air, water, fire, and spirit. Excerpt from the Wicca: Wicca is no exception. The Wicca acknowledge a supreme divine power, unknowable, ultimate, from which the entire universe sprang. The concept of this power, far beyond our comprehension, has nearly been lost in Wicca because of our difficulty in relating to it. However, Wiccans link with this force through their deities. In accordance with the principles of nature, the supreme power was personified into two basic beings: Every deity that has received worship upon this planet exists with the archetypal God and Goddess. The complex pantheons of deities which arose in many parts of the world are simply aspects of the two. Every Goddess is resident within the concept of the Goddess; every God in the God. Wicca reveres these twin deities because of its links with nature. Since most but certainly not all nature is divided into gender, the deities embodying it are similarly conceived. In the past, when the Goddess and

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God were as real as the Moon and Sun, rites of worship and adoration were unstructuredâ€”spontaneous, joyous union with the divine. Later, rituals followed the course of the Sun through its astronomical year and thusly the seasons as well as the monthly waxing and waning of the Moon. Today similar rites are observed by the Wicca, and their regular performance creates a truly magical closeness with these deities and the powers behind them. The sight of a perfect blossom in a field of bare earth can instill feelings rivaling those of the most powerful formal rite. The Wiccans are comfortable in communicating with animals, plants and trees. They feel energies within stones and sand, and cause fossils to speak of their primeval beginnings. For some Wiccans, watching the Sun or Moon rise and set each day is a ritual unto itself, for these are the heavenly symbols of the God and Goddess. Because the Wicca see Deity inherent in nature, many of us are involved in ecologyâ€”saving the Earth from utter destruction by our own hands. The Goddess and God still exist, as they have always existed, and to honor them we honor and preserve our precious planet. However, the energies behind them did; they created us. Early worshippers recognized these forces as the Goddess and God, personifying them in an attempt to understand them. Wicca is alive and well and the Deities respond to our calls and invocations. When envisioning the Goddess and God, many of the Wicca see Them as well-known deities from ancient religions. Many of these deities, with their corresponding histories, rites and mythic information, furnish the concept of deity for Wiccans. Others find a lack of names and costumes a comforting lack of limitations. As stated earlier, the Wicca as outlined in this book is "new," although built upon established rituals and myths, firmly rooted within the earliest religious feelings which nature aroused within our species. The Goddess and God are all-powerful because they are the creators of all manifest and unmanifest existence. We can contact and communicate with them because a part of us is in them and they are within us.

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Chapter 2 : Wicca - Guide for Solitary Practitioner: Scott Cunningham: calendrierdelascience.com: Books

"Wicca: A guide for the Solitary Practitioner" by Scott Cunningham is an amazing book that was recommended by several wiccan/pagan youtubers on youtube. This is actually my first wiccan/pagan related book that I've ever read in my entire life.

Initiation and self-dedication Making magick with runes and other tools. If you have some experience in Wicca already, Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner may be too simplistic for your needs. It offers little of the depth of Wiccan philosophy that, say, The Spiral Dance presents so meaningfully. However, its collections of chants, recipes, rituals, etc. And, it includes a handy index. A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner This is a completely erroneous idea, fostered by the belief that magic is somehow supernatural, as if anything that exists can be outside of nature. It is a harmonious movement of energies to create needed change. If you wish to practice magic, all thoughts of it being paranormal or supernatural must be forgotten. This is what makes Wicca a truly participatory religion. When completed, the circle is a sphere of energy which encompasses the entire working area. The word circle is a misnomer; a sphere of energy is actually created. The circle simply marks the ring where the sphere touches the Earth or floor and continues on through it to form the other half. Part 68 by Scott Cunningham. All bold text, my emphasis. A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner: It only takes a second to share the good stuff with other seekers. If You Liked Wicca: Please subscribe to receive reviews and exclusive articles. Sex Magick For Women reveals the sensual aspect of spiritual worship. Buy It Now Power vs. Force explores the nature of true power, which is always of the spirit. As Hawkins demonstrates, force is only on the material level, and so is constantly needing to be justified and backed up with rhetoric. Power, on the other hand, never needs justification Books, Audio This Wicca Resources list includes all the books, audio, and video sources listed elsewhere on the Wicca Spirituality website.

Chapter 3 : Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner by Scott Cunningham

Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner by Scott Cunningham Cunningham's classic introduction to Wicca is about how to live life magically, spiritually, and wholly attuned with nature. It is a book of sense and common sense, not only about magick, but about religion and one of the most critical issues of today: how to achieve the much.

Chapter 4 : Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner - Scott Cunningham - Google Books

Product Description. Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner is Scott Cunningham's classic introduction to Wicca. Modern Wicca, derived from an ancient Earth-based spiritual tradition, places a heavy emphasis on the practice of faith through the lens of nature and the physical form.

Chapter 5 : Cunningham's Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner * Silver Chalice Ezine

Wicca A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner Author: Scott Cunningham Created Date: Z.

Chapter 6 : Book Review " Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner " Little Witch, Big Coat

Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner, has been the classic introduction to Wicca for a whole generation of solitary Witches.. Cunningham's unadorned style and clear instructions on the very basics of the Witchcraft are as useful today as when the book was written.

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Chapter 7 : Wicca (Audiobook) by Scott Cunningham | calendrierdelascience.com

A practical and positive introduction to Wicca, Scott Cunningham presents Wicca as a gentle, earth-oriented religion, dedicated to the Goddess and God, without all of the pseudo-history of other books.

Chapter 8 : Scott Cunningham - Wikipedia

Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner is the essential primer from one of the best known authors on Wicca. Focusing on the importance of individualism in your spiritual path, Cunningham explains the very basics of Sabbats (holy days), ceremonies, altars, and other nuts and bolts of Wicca that a solitary practitioner may have trouble.

Chapter 9 : Living Wicca: A Further Guide for the Solitary Practitioner by Scott Cunningham

*The late Scott Cunningham is probably second only to Ray Buckland when it comes to the volume of information he has published on Wicca and witchcraft. As a college student in San Diego, Scott developed an interest in herbs, and his first book, *Magickal Herbalism*, was published by Llewellyn in*