

## DOWNLOAD PDF THE EARTH GODDESS (THE PAGANS TRILOGY, BOOK 3)

### Chapter 1 : The Earth Goddess : Richard Herley : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

*Book 3 of The Pagans trilogy, The Earth Goddess, has a different tone than the first two stories. The focus is now on the developing spiritual concepts of this time period ( BC), so not surprisingly, there is a lot less fighting and killing.*

Join me in welcoming her to my blog! Welcome Mab! Tell us about your writing! 1 How do you write? Is everything plotted, planned to perfection? Do you ever change tack as you go along or always stick to a pre-made plan? I change tack constantly! I have a very busy mind and as new ideas pop up, I find I have to adjust what I have done already to allow the new bits to fit in. So, I do plan but I nearly always end up with something wildly different to what I imagined in the first place. Meditation, certain cup for your tea, writing trousers? With up to three children and three cats around the house at any one time, my ritual is pretty much grab what scraps of free time I have and splurge something out onto a page! I have no idea why this helps me concentrate. Other than this, in the day I write by tea; in the night I write by wine and this is when most of the poetry happens. I adore a good box-set binge! Once I get into a fictional series, I get completely absorbed and need to get the next book, at any cost. I recently re-read all the Pratchett books again, and am looking forward to starting on The Dresden Files for another session of self-imposed hibernation. I suffer from chronic and occasionally severe anxiety and depression so I have a real interest in mental health and ways to cope and even thrive with mental health conditions. I write about this a bit on my blog, and lots of my poetry is about struggles with mental health. I play music and sing, and have lots of different influences from traditional folk to prog rock! I have a few tracks on Sound Cloud and hope to add to those soon. Lovely to know your creativity goes beyond writing to music too, fabulous. The SAS survival handbook would also be useful on a desert island! I would very much have loved to have met Stephen Hawking though. He seemed like such a warm, funny person as well as incredibly intelligent and insightful about the universe. There are elements of artificial intelligence and also inexplicable universal energies. The protagonist is a scientist who is trying to make sense of the weird events unfolding around her. My first book was A Modern Celt: Seeking the Ancestors which is an exploration of the relevance of Celtic culture in modern society. My latest book is Pagan Portals: Celtic Witchcraft and this looks more specifically at following a magical path inspired by Celtic spirituality and with the influence of Celtic deities. Essays on Contemporary Paganism.

**Chapter 2 : What Are the Different Pagan Religions? | Pagan Traditions - Beliefnet**

*The Earth Goddess has 32 ratings and 4 reviews. Benjamin said: Well, that was rather calendrierdelascience.com first two books in the Pagans trilogy, The Stone Ar.*

The name may come from the Arabic hadda "to break" or haddat "thunder". He is a god of Battle and Slaughter closely related to Agrona. Agrona - Agrona is a Welsh goddess of war and slaughter. Her name means "hidden one". Her consort was Amun. Many of her aspects merged with Neith. Amun - Amun was King of the Egyptian Gods. He was later combined with Ra to be Amun-Ra and became even more powerful. Anubis - Anubis is the Egyptian God of the dead and the embalming process. He presided over the embalming of Osiris when he was killed by Seth. Priests would sometimes wear masks of Anubis when performing embalming rituals. Aphrodite - Aphrodite is the ancient Greek Goddess of love, beauty, sexual ecstasy, consuming passion of all sorts, fertility, the marriage bed, romantic love, protective love, desire, vengeance for lovers scorned or deceived. Apollo - Apollo is the ancient Greek God of light, enlightenment, prophecy, plague, medicine, archery, poetry, dance, reason and herds or flocks. The deer and the cypress were sacred to her. In later Hellenic times she occasionally assumed the ancient role of Eileithyia in aiding childbirth and in Roman times she came to be identified with Diana. It is said that Artemis helped her mother Leto birth Apollo immediately after her own birth. Aten - Aten was associated with the Sun God Ra. He is imaged as a golden disk with descending rays ending in hands. During the reign of Akhenaten, Aten was made King of the Gods and there was a movement toward a sort of Monotheism in Egypt. Athene - Athene is the Greek Goddess of wisdom, philosophy, strategy, strategic warfare, handcrafts especially weaving , horses, vehicles, courage, inspiration, civilization, personal strength, justice and skill. She is he protector of clever and loyal women as well as clever and heroic men. He is pictured as a man with a double crown. His name means "all" or "perfection" or "the complete one". He was the first God to exist on Earth. He rose from the waters of chaos Nun and created the rest of the Gods. Baba Yaga - Baba yaga is a Russian Goddess who takes the form of an old crone. She rides through the air on her mortar and pestle. Bast - Bast, also spelled Bastet, was a cat-headed protectress of the Pharaoh. She was usually seen as gentle, but would rise up lion-headed and ready for battle if the Pharaoh was threatened. She was offered sacrifices of cats and of images of cats. It is a title, and an epithet applied to many Gods who may be identified as "Lord" including Enlil , Marduk and Malak. The Feminine form is Belit. Bes - Bes is the ancient Egyptian protector of infants and pregnant women. He also protected against scorpion and snake bites. He was imaged as a small, dwarfish person wearing a lion skin or having features of a lion. His image was a popular amulet of protection. Brigid - The Goddess Brigid is a multifaceted Goddess who was revered under many names throughout the Celtic world.

## DOWNLOAD PDF THE EARTH GODDESS (THE PAGANS TRILOGY, BOOK 3)

### Chapter 3 : Pagan Gods And Goddesses - Witchipedia

*The Earth Goddess has a different tone than the first two books of this series (reviewed here and here). The focus is now on Religion, so not surprisingly, there is a lot less fighting and killing. The focus is now on Religion, so not surprisingly, there is a lot less fighting and killing.*

The Mother Earth creation story, along with the nurturing role of women in peaceful hunter gather groups is established. During that period there is evidence of Goddess worship presented. Before Greek culture established male warrior dominance, when the Goddess religions of the Minoans on Malta and Crete flourished. Many artifacts are presented depicting unique Goddess worship, religion and culture. The documentary then traces the ways in which the Greeks turned the traditional worship of Goddesses into the worship of male Gods. These practices seem to be more in sync with nature and Mother Earth than later male dominated religions like Christianity. Initially in places like Bath, England the Romans appear to have respected the local traditions and religious beliefs. The healing waters from the hot springs were thought to be a gift of the Earth Goddess. There was no room in the Christianity of that period for powerful women. All types of things were blamed on women including plagues and failure of crops. A strong case is made for the notion that female sexuality is evil. Violence and sex are linked. Female spirituality is branded as witchcraft and connected with the devil. Part three begins with story of the Great Egg, Mother Earth, which cracked open and gave birth to many children creating the Rainbow Family that spread around the planet. The documentary interviews women who call themselves witches, women scholars, and others who have revived Goddess Worship and Goddess religions. Rural or pagan rituals, that may date back to prehistory are part of the new God Worship tradition as seen in this part of the documentary. It also looks at the Goddess in nature and Mother Earth as a way of saving the planet from destruction. It obviously advocates female spirituality. It presents historical information that leaves little doubt that Goddess Worship and religion centered around female divinity have been suppressed over the ages. This educational documentary sheds light on the status of women in society today as a result of history. It offers a view of women that needs to be understood in the world today. Like many strong advocacy documentary efforts there is a tendency to present facts without a great deal of substantiation beyond generalizations. Assumptions based on these ideas become somewhat vague in places. Speculation of prehistoric cultures and their religious practices appears to be based on beautifully carved statuettes of women that embody the traditional attitude of prehistoric people toward women. This interpretation is what may have been. To the credit of the documentary evidence is presented that indicates that prehistoric people did respect and worship female spirituality. It makes a convincing case for female spirituality and the actual role of women in religion, life and possibly saving Mother Earth, our home, from destruction.

**Chapter 4 : The Earth Goddess (The Pagans Book 3) eBook: Richard Herley: calendrierdelascience.com: I**

*This is the third and last book of the Pagans series, and as much as I admired the first two, I think this is the best. It's a magnificent ending, even if not a happy one, and beautifully written, as Mr. Herley's books always are.*

It was shown on some television networks, and received awards, and fired many hearts, but it remained largely within a specialist community of seekers and had seemed destined to remain that way as quickly changing technology left it sitting on shelves. However, it seems that this spiritual heritage has a strong urge to be, and its release as DVD in these times of intense global networking promises a reception by a now much larger audience: I offer that although this may be so, the material is relevant to any and all beings concerned with the regeneration of life. The male, in the oldest of human cultural traditions, was usually included amongst such aspirants, and always had a role in the support and nurturance of the female regenerative capacities "and so may anyone. This role need not be a subordinate role as is sometimes thought, and does not succeed when it becomes a dominating possessive role, as it commonly has. It is best rather when supportive of this central task of all genders "indeed that of all species "regeneration "Creativity. Women are half or more of the human race, and play a central part in the web of life: Our times seem to require some focussed attention on what real power might be, and how it might be exercised and supported. Goddess Remembered offers a vision of a way of being "a way of relationship "with other and place, that honours the miracle of life and its organic power. Whilst many argue about aspects of this evidence, it is also apparent that current paradigms wherein female imagery is backgrounded and nature is seen as a resource to be exploited, are not ethical or functional. So much of the world we live in is driven by objectification and fear, and most religions seem to exacerbate the problems. As it says in the conclusion of this film: If we listen to the echoes, they have much to say. The second film in the series, *The Burning Times*, covers the territory of what happened in relatively recent human history. It is pointed out how very civilized this was in comparison to the tactics of the later Christian empire, whose jurisdiction covered more widespread territory "throughout Europe and further, and into the hearts and minds of the people for generations. Over a period of a few hundred years of terror and death, the religion of the people "Paganism "was turned upside down, and the Christian devil was conjured into it. The christianisation of Europe involved a holocaust "with eighty-five percent of those condemned being women. *The Burning Times* tells some of this story and of how we live it yet still: There have been no monuments yet built in their memory. There is little official or popular recognition of the integrity of the indigenous tradition that was decimated. This film is a monument "of the best kind. It is moving to hear this told so well, with art, interviews, historical fact, prose, and song. It begins with an old Celtic story about the Earth as Mother and her rainbow children who spread out across Her. In the story as it is translated, the rainbow children promise to stand together for Her if ever the Mother needs them. But perhaps, as it tells in the film, it is more about remembering that they need Her, coming full circle and feeling Her again. Charlene Spretnak speaks of regaining just even a quarter of the reverence for the Earth as our ancestors felt. Native American Seneca elder Twylah speaks of knowing the history of Earth not merely the history of the human "that the Sacred is the Earth, inseparable from each unique bodymind. Full Circle documents how such ritual, and rituals related to moments of personal and cultural transitions, may be and are, experienced as a bonding force, creating a knowledge of belonging. The Earth, the Moon and the Cosmos "it is mentioned "have rituals: Change happens from the inside out. As Starhawk recounts, fear of complexity drives fundamentalisms of all kinds: Earth-based spiritualities stress freedom and diversity. Margo Adler speaks of how this is possible. The group of women around the kitchen table speak of how the personal is political, and the political is personal. I like to say it this way too: This religiosity understands words for Deity as metaphor. Emphasis is placed on the significance of body knowledge "what we may know in touch and movement: Donna Read ends with a personal expression of how she came full circle in the process of making the films, back to her Celtic beginnings: Review by Glenys Livingstone, February

**Chapter 5 : Pagans and Books (Yes, Thereâ€™s a List Involved) | Jason Pitzl-Waters**

*Book Synopsis. Book III of the Pagans Trilogy. It is BC. The cult of the Earth Goddess is controlled throughout the vast empire of Europe by the secretive and unscrupulous Red Order, the priesthood which manipulates all power for its own ends.*

Origins[ edit ] The relationship between the neopagan Triple Goddess and ancient religion is disputed, although it is not disputed that triple goddesses were known to ancient religion; for example, in Stymphalos , Hera was worshiped as a Girl, a Grown-up, and a Widow. Here she was according to Hutton "extending" the ideas of the prominent archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans who in excavating Knossos in Crete had come to the view that prehistoric Cretans had worshiped a single mighty goddess at once virgin and mother. Grimassi presents ancient literary writings that mention the basic concept of a Triformis goddess associated with Witchcraft. As an example of an unusually complete survival of the "ancient triad" he cites from the classical source Pausanias the worship of Hera in three persons. Much of Greek myth in his view recorded the consequent religious political and social accommodations until the final triumph of patriarchy. Graves did not invent this picture but drew from nineteenth and early twentieth century scholarship. This account has not been disproved, but alternative explanations have emerged, and it is not accepted as a consensus view. The deity was regarded as representing the earth, and as having three aspects, of which the first two were Maiden and Mother; she did not name the third. Harrison proclaimed that Europe itself had been the location of an idyllic, goddess-worshipping, matriarchal civilization just before the beginning of recorded history, and spoke bitterly of the disastrous consequences of the Indo-European invasion that destroyed it. According to Robert Ackerman, "[T]he reason the Ritualists have fallen into disfavor Ritualism has been swept away not by an access of new facts but of new theories. There had been no absolute disproof of the veneration of a Great Goddess, only a demonstration that the evidence concerned admitted of alternative explanations. Gimbutas interpreted iconography from Neolithic and earlier periods of European history evidence of worship of a triple goddess represented by: Gimbutas regarded the Eleusinian Mysteries as a survival into classical antiquity of this ancient goddess worship, [33] a suggestion which Georg Luck echos. In their view, sexuality, pregnancy, breastfeeding â€” and other female reproductive processes â€” are ways that women may embody the Goddess, making the physical body sacred. The triple goddess sign is identified with Greek moon goddesses: Conway , include that reconnection with the Great Goddess is vital to the health of humankind "on all levels". Jungian psychology[ edit ] Several advocates of Wicca, such as Vivianne Crowley and Selena Fox , are practising psychologists or psychotherapists, and the work of Jung has had a large influence on their work. They give the example of Diana only becoming three Daughter, Wife, Mother through her relationship to Zeus, the male deity. They go on to state that different cultures and groups associate different numbers and cosmological bodies with gender. In addition, her relations to the moon, the corn, and the realm of the dead are three fundamental traits in her nature. Mantecon follows Annis V. Pratt that the Triple Goddess of Maiden, Mother and Crone is a male invention that both arises from and biases an androcentric view of femininity, and as such the symbolism is often devoid of real meaning or use in depth-psychology for women. Literary critic Jeanne Roberts sees a rejection of the crone figure by Christians in the Middle Ages as a root cause of the persecution of witches. Garner goes further in his other novels, making every female character intentionally represent an aspect of the Triple Goddess. Terry Pratchett has also incorporated variations on this theme. The video prominently features three aspects of the goddess and a waxing, full, and waning moon.

## DOWNLOAD PDF THE EARTH GODDESS (THE PAGANS TRILOGY, BOOK 3)

### Chapter 6 : Women and Spirituality The Goddess Trilogy | JR Martin Media

*"One book that manages to get away from the beaten track is The Earth Goddess by Richard Herley The first two books in the Pagans trilogy were a gripping vision of pre-history, a brutal forest world of ambush and enslavement.*

Book 3 of The Pagans trilogy. The Hunter-Gatherer tribes are no more. The Hunter-Gatherers would be appalled. But the Red Priests, with their tattooed 5-pointed stars on the left hands, are said by Tagart to be the most-feared of all. The Earth Goddess has a different tone than the first two books of this series reviewed here and here. The focus is now on Religion, so not surprisingly, there is a lot less fighting and killing. Indeed, after an initial spate of it, most of the subsequent bloodshed occurs offscreen. Richard Herley sets this third book about 8 years after Book 2. Rian and Ika also have lesser roles. For the most part, we are treated to a new cast of characters, and new lands to explore. Like Tagart, he has his flaws. Despite the paucity of gore, TEG is not a boring read. I want to know why I have been brought here. By the red priests. Here we cut no throats at all. There could be no going back to the forests. It was too late for that. Man was coming to another age, not of decay, as the Order so cynically had it, but of potential unfulfilled. Book 1, The Stone Arrow, is free for the downloading. The first book examines farming vs. And here, the topic is an organized religion vs. In each case, the pagans acquit themselves admirably. Yet their victories are bittersweet and Pyrrhic. I enjoyed The Earth Goddess, in part because the other reviews at Amazon alerted me to the change in tone. For that matter, I enjoyed the trilogy as a whole.

## DOWNLOAD PDF THE EARTH GODDESS (THE PAGANS TRILOGY, BOOK 3)

### Chapter 7 : The Earth Goddess (The Pagans Trilogy, #3) by Richard Herley

*Feminist Spirituality Classics. Best-Selling Series available as a download or on DVD. The trilogy Women & Spirituality-three one-hour films: "Goddess Remembered," "The Burning Times," and "Full Circle"-explore the power of the sacred feminine in mythology, history and culture.*

The cult of the Earth Goddess is controlled throughout the vast empire of Europe by the secretive and unscrupulous Red Order, the priesthood which manipulates all power for its own ends. The land that is now called England has been annexed and its lord, Brennis Gehan Fifth, betrayed and murdered. The Lady Altheme, his consort, has escaped to the forest. She is carrying his son, Paoul, rightful inheritor of the Valdoe domain. But his inheritance is usurped by his illegitimate half-brother. Ignorant of his parentage, Paoul is orphaned, sold into the priesthood, and sent to the mainland citadel for instruction. His teachers predict a great destiny for him. Only later, beyond the point of no return, do his doubts begin. The story of their love races to a climax of tragedy that signals devastating consequences for the evil men of the priesthood and the empire. I have a soft spot for this book. After *The Flint Lord*, I read a good deal more about the late neolithic, particularly with respect to the achievements of Stonehenge and Newgrange. These are the works of a sophisticated priestly class, with a highly developed religion. *The Earth Goddess* is a speculation about that. The Bronze Age is just beginning; so too are the profound, far-reaching, and ultimately disastrous consequences of the invention of agriculture. October Editor at William Heinemann: October Revised for electronic publication: While the illegitimate heir to Britain - the stammering, brain-damaged Hothen - is groomed to ascend the throne, the rightful heir, his half-brother Paoul, has been orphaned, raised by the nomads as their own, orphaned again, sold into slavery, bought by the priesthood and finally curried as an exceptional student with a great future. This highly melodramatic plot, however, contrasts with the appealing characters and the intriguing historical detail of taxes and trade, textiles and theology. The first two books in the Pagans trilogy were a gripping vision of pre-history, a brutal forest world of ambush and enslavement. The cult of the Goddess now grips the land, operated by the sinister Red Order, a kind of sacerdotal Krypteia whose methods of indoctrination blend Zen with the public school ethos, while a young hand-picked novice begins to smell the truth. The Tennessean This is not a novel which insults the reader with glib action scenes, and its sense of daily household detail is a steady delight.

Chapter 8 : goddess | Wendy Steele

*The Earth Goddess by Richard Herley It is BC. The cult of the Earth Goddess is controlled throughout the vast empire of Europe by the secretive and unscrupulous Red Order, the priesthood which manipulates all power for its own ends.*

What Are the Different Pagan Religions? Wicca is only one of many paths. By Stephanie Hertenberg Shutterstock. It is also normally seen as being synonymous with Wicca. The reality of Neopaganism is very different from this simplistic view. Neopagan traditions tend to be very different from each other. While most Pagan paths are polytheistic and see the earth as sacred, the details vary wildly between traditions. Frankly, the details of what exactly each religion is varies within each tradition. This is in part because Pagans do not have a strictly set doctrine like Christianity or Judaism. There are many different Pagan religions and many more variants of each. There are, however, some traditions that tend to come up in conversation more than others, and based on either their size, visibility or publicity, have become more well-known in non-Pagan circles. Wicca Wicca is probably the best known Pagan religion and probably the most misunderstood. Many Wiccans refer to themselves as Witches which has led non-Pagans to equate magick and witchcraft with Wicca, although many other Pagan traditions practice them. Wicca is known for worshiping a God and Goddess. Who this God and Goddess are varies from Wiccan to Wiccan. Some choose two deities from another pantheon, such as the Celtic goddess Brigid or the Greek god Poseidon. Others choose to honor deities that have become more heavily associated with Wicca, such as the Horned God and Triple Moon Goddess. Some Wiccans also choose to worship figures from other religions for their deity pair, such as Kali and Shiva or Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. For Wiccans, the energy of the Divine exists in all things, and creation is believed to be manifested by the elements of earth, air, fire and water. Wiccans are not devil worshippers. In fact, Wicca does not even have a single figure that is the source of all evil. Like other Pagan traditions, Druidry has no real set dogma or sacred text. Unlike Wicca which focuses on a God and Goddess, Druids run the gamut from monotheistic to polytheistic to those who believe that Deity is by its very nature unknowable. Given the many different views that will be found among Druids, Druids tend to put a high focus on tolerance of diversity. Regardless of how Deity is defined, nature is held by Druids to be sacred. Most Druids also believe in the Otherworld, the place that souls go after they die. Many, but not all, Druids believe that souls spend some time in the Otherworld before they are reincarnated back into this world. Asatru Asatru is a Pagan tradition based on old Norse beliefs. These virtues are courage, truth, honor, fidelity, discipline, hospitality, industriousness, self-reliance and perseverance. Asatru is unusual among Pagan religions in how much it focuses on history. Druidry and pantheon based Pagan paths have roots in ancient traditions, but most scholars agree that modern Paganism rarely has much in common with its ancient roots. Heathenism, however, works to be as similar to the old Norse religion as possible while adapting the religion to a more civilized age. Pantheon Based Paganism Pantheon based Paganism is a catch all term for the various Pagan traditions that are centered around a specific pantheon rather than a set of guidelines. Asatru, given its emphasis on the Norse pantheon, could technically be considered a variant of pantheon based paganism, but the guidelines and organization within Heathenism set it slightly apart from many pantheon based paths. Pantheon based Paganism is exactly what it sounds like. It is Pagan religions that are centered on a specific ancient pantheon, such as the Greek pantheon or the Celtic pantheon. These religions are generally less well defined than more organized and commonly recognized traditions such as Wicca and Asatru. It is a Pagan path that pulls from a variety of traditions. They may worship Odin and Hera but use Celtic rituals. They might also observe a unified pantheon or follow the guidelines of another Pagan tradition but create their own, unique, individual rituals and practices. Eclectic Paganism is difficult to define even by Pagan insiders because there is no official dogma in Paganism. As such, the lines between traditions blur which makes it hard to decide who is pulling from multiple traditions. Much to the frustration of curious outsiders, defining Pagan traditions is often an individual matter and a sense of feeling. Get the Best of Beliefnet Newsletter!

**Chapter 9 : Wiccan views of divinity - Wikipedia**

*The Triple Goddess has been adopted by many neopagans as one of their primary deities. In common Neopagan usage the three female figures are frequently described as the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone, each of which symbolizes both a separate stage in the female life cycle and a phase of the Moon, and often rules one of the realms of earth, underworld, and the heavens.*

Goddess movement Traditionally in Wicca, the Goddess is seen as the Triple Goddess , meaning that she is the maiden, the mother and the crone. The mother aspect, the Mother Goddess , is perhaps the most important of these, and it was her that Gerald Gardner and Margaret Murray claimed was the ancient Goddess of the witches. Many have a duotheistic conception of deity as a Goddess of Moon, Earth and sea and a God of forest, hunting and the animal realm. This concept is often extended into a kind of polytheism by the belief that the gods and goddesses of all cultures are aspects of this pair or of the Goddess alone. Others hold the various gods and goddesses to be separate and distinct. Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone have observed that Wicca is becoming more polytheistic as it matures, and embracing a more traditional pagan worldview. Still others do not believe in the gods as real personalities, yet attempt to have a relationship with them as personifications of universal principles or as Jungian archetypes. Some feminist Wiccans such as Starhawk use the term Star Goddess to describe the universal pantheistic deity that created the cosmos , and regard Her as a knowable Deity that can and should be worshipped. Within the Feri tradition the "Star Goddess" is the androgynous point of all creation - from which all things including the dual God and Goddess emanate. This monistic idea of an ultimate impersonal divinity is not to be confused with the monotheistic idea of a single supreme personal deity. Especially since Wicca traditionally honors its two supreme deities, the Goddess and the God, as equal. This impersonal ultimate divinity may also be regarded as the underlying order or organising principle within the world, similar to religious ideas such as Tao and Atman. While not all Wiccans subscribe to this monistic idea of an impersonal, ultimate divinity, many do; and there are various philosophical constructions of how this ultimate divinity relates to the physical world of Nature. Unlike religions that place a divine creator outside of Nature, Wicca is generally pantheistic, seeing Nature as divine in itself. The traditional Charge of the Goddessâ€”the most widely shared piece of liturgy within the religionâ€”refers to the Goddess as "the Soul of Nature" from whom all things come, and to which all things return. This theme is also expressed in the symbology of the magic cauldron as the womb of the Goddess, from which all creation emerges, and in which it is all dissolved before reemerging again. Wicca emphasises the immanence of divinity within Nature, seeing the natural world as comprised both of spiritual substance as well as matter and physical energy. Many Wiccans also embrace the idea of the spiritual transcendence of divinity, and see this transcendence as compatible with the idea of immanence. The conception of Nature as a vast, interconnected web of existence that is woven by the Goddess is very common within Wicca; an idea often connected with the Triple Goddess as personified by the Three Fates who weave the Web of Wyrd. This combination of transcendence and immanence allows for the intermingling and the interaction of the unmanifest spiritual nature of the universe with the manifest physical universe; the physical reflects the spiritual, and vice versa. Accordingly, the religion of Wicca can be understood as duotheistic , henotheistic , pantheistic , polytheistic , or panentheistic depending upon the personal faith, cosmological belief, and philosophy of the individual Wiccan. Some Wiccans hold the Goddess to be pre-eminent, since she contains and conceives all Gaea or Mother Earth is one of her more commonly revered aspects ; the God, commonly described as the Horned God or the Divine Child , is the spark of life and inspiration within her, simultaneously her lover and her child. This is reflected in the traditional structure of the coven, wherein "the High Priestess is the leader, with the High Priest as her partner; he acknowledges her primacy and supports and complements her leadership with the qualities of his own polarity. Since the Goddess is said to conceive and contain all life within her, all beings are held to be divine. This is a key understanding conveyed in the Charge of the Goddess , one of the

most important texts of Wicca, and is very similar to the Hermetic understanding that "God" contains all things, and in truth is all things. A key belief in Wicca is that the gods are able to manifest in personal form, either through dreams, as physical manifestations, or through the bodies of Priestesses and Priests. The latter kind of manifestation is the purpose of the ritual of Drawing down the Moon or Drawing down the Sun , whereby the Goddess is called to descend into the body of the Priestess or the God into the Priest to effect divine possession. The elements[ edit ] This article possibly contains original research. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message While they are not regarded as deities, the classical elements are a key feature of the Wiccan world-view. Every manifest force or form is seen to express one of the four archetypal elements " Earth , Air , Fire and Water " or several in combination. This scheme is fundamentally identical with that employed in other Western Esoteric and Hermetic traditions, such as Theosophy and the Golden Dawn , which in turn were influenced by the Hindu system of tattvas. There is no consensus as to the exact nature of these elements. A more modern conception correlates the four elements to the four states of matter known to science: Solid earth ; Liquid water ; Gas air ; and Plasma fire ; with the akasha element corresponding to pure Energy. The Aristotelian system proposes a fifth or quintessential element, spirit aether , akasha. The preferred version is a matter of ongoing dispute in the Wiccan community. There are other non- scientific conceptions , but they are not widely used among Wiccans. To some Wiccans, the five points of the frequently worn pentagram symbolise, among other things, the four elements with spirit presiding at the top. It is often circumscribed " depicted within a circle " and is usually though not exclusively shown with a single point upward. The inverse pentagram, with two points up, is associated with the Horned God the two upper points being his horns , and is a symbol of the second degree initiation rite of traditional Wicca. The inverted pentagram is also used by Satanists; and for this reason, some Wiccans have alternatively been known to associate the inverted pentagram with evil. The five points of the pentagram have also been seen to correspond to the three aspects of the Goddess and the two aspects of the Horned God. In the casting of a magic circle , the four cardinal elements are visualised as contributing their influence from the four cardinal directions: Air in the east, Fire in the south, Water in the west and Earth in the north. There may be variations between groups though, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere , since these attributions are symbolic of amongst other things the path of the sun through the daytime sky. For example, in southern latitudes the sun reaches its hottest point in the northern part of the sky, and north is the direction of the Tropics, so this is commonly the direction given to Fire.