







Wicca: Influences 



James G. Frazer (1854-1941)


- Influential anthropologist
- 1890: "The Golden Bough," documents religious beliefs
- Human belief progressed through three stages:
- Magic, religion, science
- Sacred king
- Good details, bad conclusions


Wicca: History 




Gerald Gardner


- Lived in Malaya
- 1923: government inspector
- 1936: retired to England
- Pursued occult and naturism
- 1939: Joined Folklore Society
- Wrote in "Folklore" journal
- Initiated into New Forest coven

Wicca: History 




- 1954: "Witchcraft Today"
- Brought witchcraft to public
- Initiated many new people
- Adherents called "the Wicca"
- Invited media to film rituals


Wicca: History 



Doreen E. Valiente (1922-1999)


- At early age she had power to use magic
- 1952: joined Gardner in making of witchcraft rituals
- Helped create Wiccan Rede
- 1957: rejected wiccan laws
- Aleister Crowley source of rituals
- Hindu, Buddhist influences

Wicca: History 



Alex Sanders (1926-1988)


- Grandmother was a witch
- "King of the Witches"
- Controlled by spirit guides
- Made many movies
- Sexual rituals

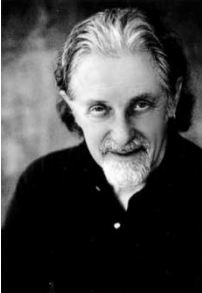
Wicca: History 



Janet Farrar


- 1970: initiated into a coven
- Married Stewart Farrar
- Wrote some of the most influential books on Wicca
- 75% of wiccans come from Farrar's coven


Wicca: History 




Raymond Buckland (1934)

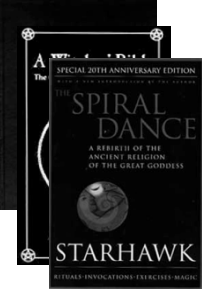
- 1963: initiated into Gardnerian Wicca
- 1964: introduced Wicca to United States
- "Complete Book of Witchcraft."




Wicca: History 


- Wicca is the largest "Neopagan" group
- Wicca Neo-druidism, Neoshamanism
- Fastest growing religion in Europe and America ("Chicago Tribune," May, 1998)
- Spreading by movies and Internet
- 2001: 1 million adherents world wide
- By 2012 third largest religious group in the U.S

Wicca: Writings 




- No real holy books
- *The Book of Shadows*
- *A Witches Bible*
- *The Spiral Dance*


Wicca: God 



- God and Goddess
- Dual aspects of the godhead
- Sun and moon gods
- Unknowable higher being

Wicca: God 

- Male: horned god of nature
- God of woodlands, sexuality, and hunting
- Equated Celtic god Cernunnos and Greek god Pan
- Pan is origin of Satan images



Wicca: God



- Female: triple Goddess (Hekate) "Maiden," "Mother," and "Crone."
- Some: pre-eminent, since she conceives all
- Isis, Astarte, Artemis, Venus

Wicca: Matter



- God and Goddess union brought creation
- Self-emanation or sexual union
- Created spirits who created different elements
- Polytheistic idea of creation



Wicca: Humanity



- Children of god and goddess
- Everyone has the divine within
- People can perform magic
- Equal with nature

Wicca: Problem



- No sin, no need for salvation
- Forgotten the God and goddess
- Out of harmony with creation
- Honor and preserve nature

Wicca: Jesus



- Rejected altogether
- Sometimes seen as loving, spiritual, teacher

Wicca: Solution



- Progress in your own way and time
- Wisdom and experience
- Develop divination or occult magic

Wicca: Afterlife

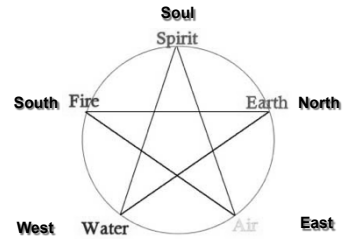


- Body replenishes the earth
- Reincarnation
- Not sure about life after death
- Some believe in Summerland
- Many contact the spirits of the dead

Wicca: Practices



- Casting the circle invokes the "Guardians" of the cardinal points



Wicca: Practices



Wicca: Practices



- Some are apart of a coven and some solitary
- Rituals performed in a circle
- Invoke the triangle to gain power
- Talk to the spirits or cast spells



Wicca: Practices



- Eight major seasonal holidays
- Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice, and Beltane



Casting a Circle



"o ye ancient gods, I cast my circle here, in this sacred time. Within the circle I am protected so, in perfect love, in perfect trust. This is my will. So mote it be!"

Casting a Circle



“Spirits of the north, powers of the earth, come unto my circle. I invoke thee.”

- East and air
- South and fire
- East and water

Casting a Circle



“Maiden, Mother, Crone, gaining, waxing, waning, crescent, full, and dark, sacred dance, sacred chants, journey and dream, cast down your love, upon my sacred time, I call to you, growing, growing, gaining, waxing, knowing.”