

LESSON II

COSMOLOGY

GOD THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

There are two levels to the Wiccan understanding of Deity. The first is Personal, the second Universal.

On a personal level we approach Deity as an entity with Which we interact through words and actions and with Whom we maintain a personal relationship. At this level we give Deity many names and faces, and interact with Deity through these. Most Wiccans will use a variety of names and faces for Deity in this personal sense, and will have one particular form which they perceive as their **PATRON**. They will interact with this Patron Deity, or in some cases Patron Deities, in a very personal way, seeking guidance, inspiration, and practical help in both daily life and esoteric matters.

Let us use the Goddess Sekhmet as an example. Sekhmet is a Goddess of Egyptian provenance, and Her worship goes back to and beyond the dawn of recorded history. Sekhmet is commonly portrayed as a woman with the head of a lioness, carrying either a scepter or a sword. Sekhmet is the patroness of magic, but also of courage and strength. A **DEVOTEE** of Sekhmet might hope to be inspired by Her with these qualities. Does this mean that we believe that Sekhmet is an entity living somewhere with the actual head of a lioness on a human woman's body? No.

The best analogy of how Wiccans look at Deity is the famous example of the diamond. We think of Deity rather like an enormous diamond of many facets. Each facet is beautiful in and of itself, and can be used as a way to access the heart of the diamond, but in reality each is only a different way of looking at the same stone. Thus when the Devotee speaks to Sekhmet, they are in reality using a personal form to access a Universal power. The reason we need such personal forms is that we build our bond with Deity through emotion. All of the abstract understanding in the world will make no difference to you if you cannot connect to it emotionally -it will seem dry and empty, striking no resonance in your being.

Since everyone's emotional nature is different - being as we are, individuals- we Wiccans use many different images of Deity. A person who has negative feelings toward their mother may have difficulty identifying with the Mother Goddess, but may find a Crone Goddess a great source of strength and comfort. A person who loves the ocean may find it much easier to connect with the more aquatic Mother Goddesses like Yemaya, than with an Earthy Mother Goddess like Gaia. Both are the same concept, but the exact approach offers variety to the individual.

At no time do we perceive an individual face of

Deity -such as Venus, or Cerridwen, or Xochitl- as being the only face of Deity -only our individually preferred face.

Also it must be remembered that we live many lifetimes, through reincarnation. Sometimes we resonate very strongly to a particular face of Deity because we have interacted with Deity through that face in previous lifetimes. Thus we might be drawn to Isis for example, because they have in previous lifetimes been a devotee of Isis.

The second way in which Wiccans look at Deity is Universal. We acknowledge that the true nature of Deity is beyond all names and forms, and indeed perhaps beyond all mortal understanding. As our personal images of Deity are the facets so **UNIVERSAL DEITY** is the diamond. Wiccans believe that any one name or form for Deity can never possibly encompass all of the nature of Universal Deity, but can only serve to limit our understanding of it. Because of this we regard monotheism as an extremely primitive and limiting point of view. Rather we use our personal images of Deity symbolically to help us understand the nature of Universal Deity, using myth as a tool to illustrate the qualities and processes of Universal Deity without ever imagining that a single view can encapsulate the whole nature of the Divine.

Having laid out this basic understanding of how Wiccans view Deity, let us illustrate it by presenting one of the most sacred myths of the Wiccan faith, and explaining its deeper meaning.

VANGELO DELLE STREGHE

One of the most sacred pieces of Wiccan literature is the **Vangelo delle Streghe**. This is a collection of legends preserved and passed down through generations of the **Aradian** witches of Italy. A little over a century ago the Italian witch **Maddalena** gave a copy of the Vangelo to the famed folklorist **Charles Godfrey Leland**, on the understanding that he would publish it.

The most important part of the Vangelo is the creation story it contains.



The Aradian Wiccan Priestess Maddalena, after her photo from Doreen Valliente's "Witchcraft Today And Tomorrow."

This creation story is a sublime allegorical account of the creation of the physical world, and the descent of Spirit into Matter. The story touches on very ancient themes, being reminiscent of the ancient Greek myth of **OPHION AND EURYNOME**, and of the creation myth of the Goddess **CYBELE**.

You must understand however that



the stories in the Vangelo are meant to be understood as **ALLEGORY**, that is to say that they represent their subject symbolically, portraying it in familiar every-day forms rather than abstract concepts. If you try to read these stories literally they appear rather shallow and foolish. Only by understanding that Vangelo's human characters actually represent the timeless forces of Nature and the Universe, and their actions portray the cosmic processes, can you hope to get anything out of it.

Maddalena did not bother to explain this. She was willing to let people know more about the ancient Aradian Wiccan traditions, but she didn't want them to know too much. She knew that people who understood allegory would be able to read between the lines, and appreciate what they found there. She is also supposed to have made certain alterations to the text, apparently for purpose of secrecy, which leave some confusion in the text. But despite this, the text is of enormous value.

CREATION

According to the Vangelo delle Streghe;

“Diana was the first created of all creation. In Her were all things.”

In other words Diana, or Goddess, is **PRIMEVAL DEITY**. She existed before the first beginning, as **CHAOS** -God without form existing in a void, and having within Herself the seeds of all things, both spiritual and material, all mixed up together without order or definition. Primeval Deity is androgynous, having both feminine (spirit or yin) and masculine (matter or yang) elements, and is sometimes portrayed as such in myth and artwork.. Sometimes however Primeval Deity is portrayed as feminine, since we think of Primeval Deity in association with the Goddess, or Spirit -indeed as the Higher Self of Goddess. In this sense Primeval Deity is identified with the **CRONE** Goddess -the Goddess in Her aged state, having existed from before the dawn of time. This is the wisest and most knowing part of Goddess, most commonly called **HEKATE**. This is the Goddess portrayed with greater or lesser respect as the Hallowe'en witch, with Her pointed hat and broom.

For endless aeons Primeval Deity existed in this amorphous and undifferentiated state, in the darkness before the first creation. At first She slept, aware of nothing, resting and recharging, gathering Her energies and merely being -alone and complete in Herself.

But over the course of time, Primeval Deity began to stir; to become aware. First She became aware of Her own existence. In time She began to think, to dream, to question -to desire. She wondered; What would it be like to feel? What would it be like to move? To take action? To be able to receive sensation? To see? To taste? To hear?

And so for aeons Primeval Deity thought, and

considered, and wondered. And then;

“Out of Herself, the first Darkness, She divided Herself. Into Darkness and Light She was divided. The God, Her brother and son, Herself and Her other Self, was the Light.”

Primeval Deity divided Herself -One became Two.

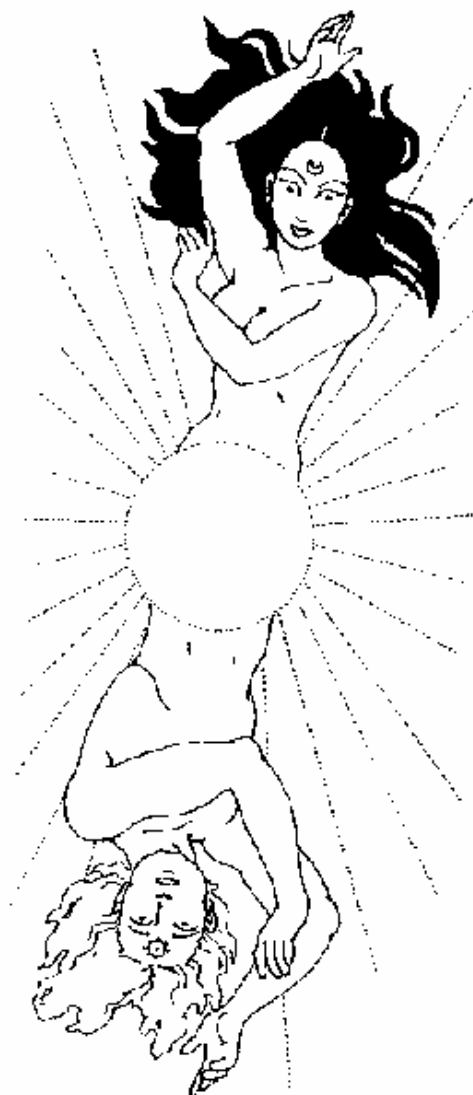
All of the physical, tangible, volatile parts of Primeval Deity went into the God, who was the Light. The God exploded into existence out of Primeval Deity in a shower of spark and flame which we remember as the Big Bang, the starting point of physical creation.

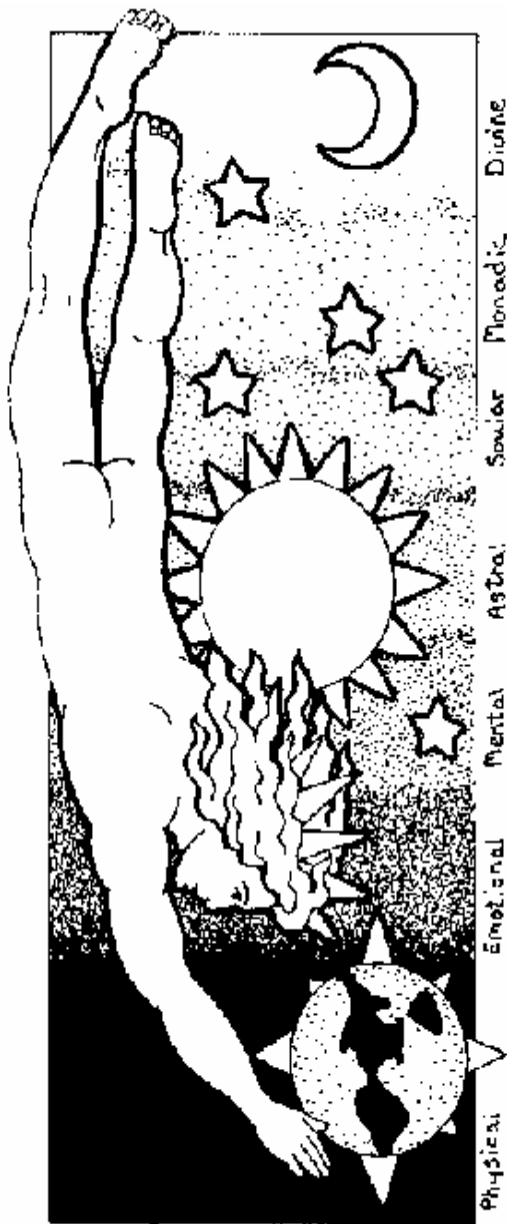
All of the spiritual, ethereal, eternal parts of Primeval Deity remained in the Goddess. In this sense Goddess is thought of as a continuation of Primeval Deity, since the consciousness of Primeval Deity is one of the Spiritual parts that remained with Her.

And the God spread out in all directions through the primordial void, a blaze of light and superheated matter.

In time His fire would cool into stars, and from stars to Planets. As this happens the vibration of the matter slows, it becomes more dense, seemingly solid.

This slowing cooling, and solidifying, is described as “Falling into Matter.” Symbolically the God is described as having fallen into **Seven Planes** of existence. Some people say there are more, but then the divisions are not as exact as all that, so the number is not so important as the





concept. Seven Planes is the ancient number, based on the idea of the seven Ptolemaic Planets (that is, the Sun, Moon, and those Planets visible with the naked eye). These Seven Planes are, from the lowest up; Physical, Emotional, Mental, Astral, Soular or Egoic, Monadic, and Divine. We will talk more about these later. The Seven Planes are also sometimes called the Seven Spheres, or the Seven Dimensions; all refer to the same basic concept.

The Vangelo

continues;

"And when Diana saw that the light was so beautiful, the light which was Her other half, her brother the God, She yearned for it with exceeding great desire. Wishing to receive the light again into Her darkness, to swallow it up in rapture, in delight, She trembled with desire. And this trembling was the first dawn.

But the God's light fled from Her and would not yield to Her wishes. He was the light which flies into the most distant parts of heaven, the mouse which flies before the cat."

Seeing the beauty of the God -that is, of the physical Universe- the Goddess was entranced with desire, and wanted it back. She had dreamed of seeing and tasting and doing, but being separate from the God She could do none of this. She could only observe from

outside that which She had created. The Goddess wanted the experiences She had dreamed of, and so She desired to take the created Universe back into Herself... But it wasn't that easy.

The Vangelo tells how The Goddess went to the oldest part of Herself, Primeval Deity -Who was still within Her. The Vangelo calls Primeval Deity "The Mothers and Fathers who were before the first creation" emphasizing Primeval Deity's androgynous aspect.

In other words, the Goddess consulted Her own Higher Self. In many ancient myths -notably the story of Demeter and Persephone- this same process is shown as the Goddess entering Hekate's cave to take council of the eldest and wisest part of Deity.

In the Vangelo Diana asks Primeval Deity how She could reunite with the God -how could Spirit take Matter back into Itself? And the Ancient One, Primeval Deity, the Goddess' own Higher Self, answered in this way;

"To rise You must fall. To become the greatest of all Goddesses, You must first become a mortal."

In other words, it was not possible for Spirit simply to take Matter back into Herself. If the Goddess wished to reunite with the God, to be one with Matter and experience it, She had to enter into the physical world. Only in that way could Goddess and God reunite.

And so Diana "fell" -that is to say She descended through the Seven Planes to the Physical. She did this by dividing off parts of Herself -the many souls- which she sent into the Physical, placing them into physical forms. Each soul was to lead many lifetimes, going through many physical forms in the process. Reading this now, you are one of the lifetimes of one of those souls, which are part of the great Goddess. We are Her children, and also children of the God, for our existence is the accomplishment of their union.

The Vangelo describes this process in extremely symbolic terms. It tells how Diana took the form of a cat (the soul entering into material form) and in this way got close to the God, then resuming Her own form, made passionate love to Him.

Then, to maintain the Union of Spirit and Matter, the Goddess cast a spell;

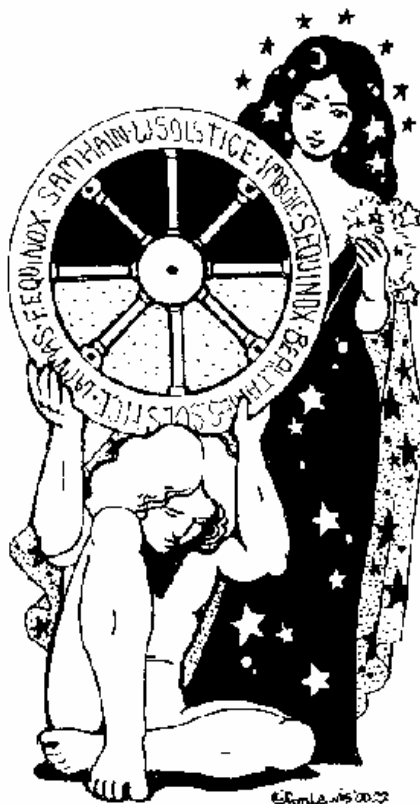
"She sang a charm, and her voice was as the buzzing of bees. And then Diana sat at Her spinning wheel and began to spin the thread of life, and the God turned the wheel."

In other words, having placed soul into matter, the Goddess used the power of "sound" -that is, **VIBRATION**- to set the Universe as we know it into motion. Energy is what holds all things together, from

sub-atomic particles to the very galaxies of stars. The Vibration of that energy, it's movement -sometimes described as "Frequency" - is what makes it work, and determines on what level it works. The denser or more physical a thing is the lower it's Vibration or frequency is said to be. The more Spiritual the energy, the higher it's Vibration is said to be. Vibration is comparable to sound, which can be a powerful magical tool. For this reason the Vibration of the Universe, at differing frequencies through each of the Seven Planes or spheres, is often described as the **MUSIC OF THE SPHERES**.

Music and song have long been used in many spiritual traditions as a means of affecting the Vibration of energy. Sound can be used in this way to disperse negative or unfocused energy, to break down psychic blockages, and to create or effect specific energetic forms. Sound is a very powerful tool precisely because sound, or Vibration is the very force the Goddess used to set the Wheel of Life into motion.

Called the Goddess' spinning wheel in the Vangelo delle Streghe, the Wheel of Life is a very ancient concept. It is represented annually by the sacred Wheel of the Year (which you will learn about in **LESSON 3**). From this Wheel the Goddess (Spirit) spins the thread of life -i.e.; determines it's nature, qualities, the lessons to be learned and the things to be done and accomplished. The **DESTINY**, if you would. But the God (Matter, or perhaps more precisely physical experience) turns the wheel. As Goddess is the nature of life, the God is the process



of living -the *movement* through the Planes of Existence. The Goddess is the essential nature of the Universe and life itself, She provides the Divine Spark which animates all things. But the God carries that spark forward. The God is Lord of Space and Time - master of the temporal universe. In this aspect He is called the Lord of the Dance, for He leads the dance of life, facilitating experience and growth.

In this way -their essence originating from the

Goddess, their ability to move and to grow originating from the God, the many souls descended to the physical Plane. The goal of this, as stated above, was to experience; to learn and grow. Having arrived in the physical the souls set out to learn all that the physical Plane could teach them, and then began their ascent back up through the Seven Planes to ultimately rejoin with Goddess, from whence they come. Each Plane has it's own special lessons, which are of great importance to the soul.

Though seemingly separated from the Goddess, each of these souls remains always attached to Her, always part of Her -for it is through them, as part of them, that Goddess entered into Her own physical creation, the God. We are one with the Goddess, and our experiences are Her experience. We are eternal and immortal as souls, never cut off from Goddess, or Spirit, only differentiated. All of the powers and abilities of Goddess are within us, and at our command, if we can clear our vision enough to see and access them.

Descending through the Planes of Existence was like going through a curtain, or **VEIL**. The Veil obscures our vision of the things above us. Because of the Veil we forget that we are part of the Goddess, that we are spiritual beings experiencing the physical, and start to think that we are simply physical beings. As we ascend the Planes, we are highly aware of those Planes which are below us, and perceive them fairly easily. It is much harder to perceive the Planes above us. It is hard for us to see or communicate with the higher Planes of consciousness, and easy to imagine that what our eyes perceive is all that exists. To progress we must part the Veil and see beyond it. The more we work, magically and psychically, the thinner that Veil becomes. Some people are born with the Veil already very thin -these people are said to be **BORN OLD**. It may seem that those who are Born Old don't have to work as hard to progress, that psychic and magical skills just come naturally to them -This is because they have already done the work to develop these skills in previous lifetimes.

It is generally said that we are currently on the Mental Plane, able to easily perceive mental, emotional, and physical energies, and that we are -and have long been- in the process of moving into the intuitional Plane, and thus have increasing perception of what we might loosely call psychic matters. Though we have some perception of the Planes beyond this, it is difficult to see very much of them from our current perception.

Of course as in all things there are a variety of points of view on the subject of the Planes, or Spheres, of Existence. This is the Correllian view.

X - YOU ARE HERE

As you can see, Wicca perceives the conscious mind as only a small part of a much larger being, originating from and eternally connected to the Mother Goddess. Our conscious self is normally a reflection of our physical body (1st Dimension), our emotions (2nd

Dimension), and our thinking mind (3rd Dimension). These three dimensions of our being are said to compose our **"LOWER SELF."** It should be understood that the term "lower" refers to vibrational frequency, and not to any sort of value judgment, as all parts of the being are good and valuable. The lower the vibrational frequency, the greater the physical density.

As humans we normally have a natural comprehension of these three aspects of our Lower Self, accepting them without question as an obvious component of our being. We all know our physical body and its' reactions. We all feel our emotions, conscious and sub-conscious. We are all aware of our cognitive and rational faculties. All of these are within our level of common experience and are known to us, if not always fully understood.

Above our level of common experience is our Higher Self, a concept you were introduced to in **LESSON I**. The Higher self like the Lower Self has three levels of being. Immediately above our common perception is the "Astral" self (4th Dimension). Also called the "Causal self", the Astral self is the part of us which determines what things we choose to experience in a given physical life, and what lessons we are trying to learn. It is from this level that the Higher Self creates the life we are living. The Astral portion of the Higher Self sets the pattern of life, accepts or rejects every potential event in it, and can make whatever alterations the Higher Self chooses, at any point during the life. This is one reason it is so important to be on good terms with our Higher Self, because by moving in synch with its' choices we make life a much easier process. The Astral level, also sometimes called the Intuitive or Buddhic level, is the level that we shift to when we work magic.

Above the Astral is the Egoic Self, or Soul (5th Dimension). The word Soul is often used to describe the whole Higher Self, but specifically refers to the 5th level of the being. The Soul is the separate personality of the Higher Self, built up of the total experience of many, many lifetimes. All of the benefits of every life lived, the outcome of all lessons learned, the knowledge of all things seen, felt, and done, is retained in the Soul, and gives it its' special character which is distinct from all other Souls. The Soul is the organ by which the being grows, the manner in which experience and growth is retained and built upon.

Above the Soul is the Monad. The term Monad comes from the Greek *Monas*, meaning "single unit." The Monad is the portion of the Soul which is perfect in itself, just as it was when the Goddess divided it off from Herself. The Monad is the Divine Spark of Life which animates the being, and which is conscious of itself as a portion of Deity. The Monad is a separate portion of the Goddess, but is essentially the same intelligence with no differentiation. The Monad is individuated but not differentiated from the Goddess, and contains all of the attributes and qualities of the Divine while at the same time being separate unto itself. The Monad is the

motivating force of the being.

Because of this the Monad moves always to the good, and is incapable of doing otherwise.

The Monad is a perfect Microcosm of Goddess, and remembers the time before the first creation when all was One. The Monad also remembers the reason that it was separated off from the Goddess and because of this has a natural desire to evolve and unfold until it is One with the Goddess again.

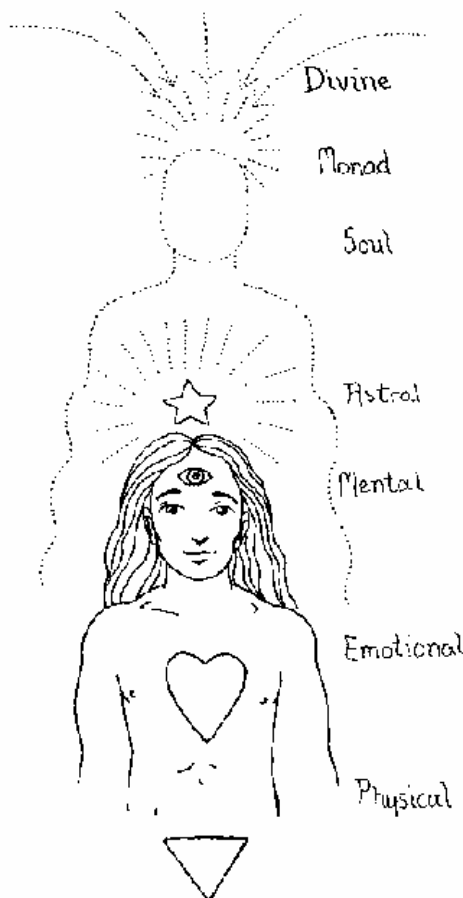
These three parts form the Higher Self, of which we only become aware through effort. The Astral self which creates our life as we live it, deciding and arranging all that happens. The Soul which stores all of these experiences and is shaped by them. And the Monad, the Divine part of us which sought those experiences and revels in them, but which also seeks eventual Union with the rest of Deity, and a return to the primordial Oneness.

The final level of being, above the Monad, is the Goddess Herself (7th Dimension). She is the single soul of the Universe from Whom all others ultimately come, and She is the very center of your being. All of creation branches off from Her, through the medium of the God. Goddess is the life, God is the living. Goddess is the essence, God is the manifestation. Every aspect of creation is endowed by both Goddess and God, and all is sentient in the higher levels of its' being, if not always in the physical.

ENERGY

Now as we said in **LESSON I** the Universe is composed of energy. All of these different parts of the being are composed of energy. You in every level of yourself are composed of energy, as is everything around you. Energy reacts to thought and emotion -this is why by rising to your Higher Self, specifically the Astral level- you can effect and control energy, i.e.; work magic.

This is also why energy effects YOU, and why



clearing and releasing is so important.

There are other ways in which you can be effected by energy, besides holding excess energy after psychic and magical work. The energy of certain times and places has an effect on people, as does the energy of certain objects - such as gem stones, to use a well-known example. By aligning with these energies and working with them, you can increase and improve your own energy and thus your psychic and magical abilities and their results in your everyday life.

In **LESSON III** you will learn more about how these energies effect you, and how you can best take advantage of them to aid your personal spiritual growth.

EXERCISES

As you advance through these lessons, you will learn many exercises which will build and help you learn to control your psychic energies. Many of these exercises use the **CHAKRA** points. Chakras are the energy centers of the body, and there are a number of them. You will learn more about the Chakras in future lessons. In this lesson however, we will be using two Chakras; these are located in the palms of the hands, and the soles of the feet. You can imagine the Chakras as a ball of white light directly in the center of the palm of the hand, or the sole of the foot. These two Chakras are basic Chakras which are used for bringing energy into the body, and for sending it out of the body. Other Chakras are more specialized.

EXERCISE #1

Put yourself into your comfortable position.

Begin by **RELEASING**; close your eyes and imagine all of the worries and anxieties of your day just pouring out of you like water, down and out through the palms of your hands and the soles of your feet.

Now place the palms of your hands together. Imagine a ball of white light between the two palms, radiating out from where they touch. Imagine it very strongly, see it clearly.

Now pull your hands slowly apart. Imagine that ball of light stretching out between your hands as you separate them, becoming a beam of light between your palms. Hold this for a few seconds, or longer if you can. Then slowly bring your hands together, shrinking the beam of light between them until they close together and it is gone.

Clear and release all excess energy as you learned to do in **LESSON 1**. Imagine a stream of white light water



flowing through you from the top of your head and carrying all excess energy away through the soles of your feet.

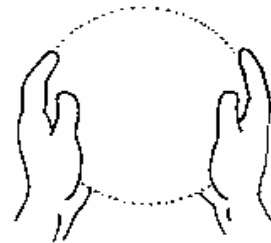
Practice this until you get good at it -then you are ready for Exercise #2.

EXERCISE #2

This exercise begins just like Exercise #1. Do it just the same way until you come to the point where you have created the beam of energy between your two hands. Then, instead of stopping, imagine that beam growing and expanding to form a ball of white light between your hands. Hold that image as long as you can. Then slowly bring your hands back together, seeing the ball shrink between them, growing smaller and smaller until by the time your hands close the ball is gone.

Clear and release when you're done.

When you get good at this, you're ready to try

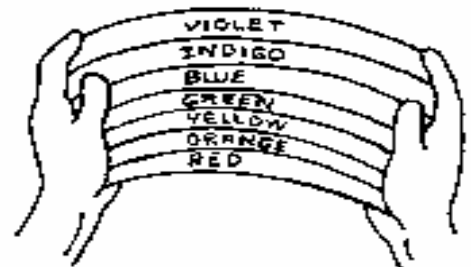


Exercise #3.

EXERCISE #3

This exercise is just like Exercise #1, except when you open your hands, instead of a beam of white light, imagine a rainbow between your hands. Every color has an effect on energy, so this will work to strengthen you on a number of levels at once.

These three exercises are not meant to replace



each other, but to be done together. As you master each one, you will add the next one to your daily regimen. Always release before and after, but not between the exercises. When you have mastered all three this will be your regimen; Release, Exercise #1, Exercise #2, Exercise #3, release again.

SPELL OF THE MONTH

This is a simple spell for manifesting something you desire.

When trying to manifest a desire, there are several things you should keep in mind: always respect the rule of "Harm None", what you are manifesting should not be something that belongs to another, and never ever should it be a person. You must always respect other's free will. Also, you should not be too narrow in your desire. For example if you were manifesting money you should not ask for "\$10" but rather for "the money I need, at least \$10." Spirit may send you more than you ask for, unless you yourself have limited it. Spirit will never overrule the limitations you place on yourself, only you can remove those. Finally, when just starting out in magic, it may be advisable to start with small things. This is because magic will not work if you don't believe it will work - because energy responds to thought and emotion. If your thought is "I manifest a Cadillac" but your emotion is "I could never do this" it won't work. By starting with simple things, you can build up in increments and be less likely to run into self-imposed limitations.

The Spell:

You will need;

- * a candle -white is good, but so is red.
- * something to light it with -nothing will screw up your magical consciousness worse than forgetting the matches and having to stop and look for them in the middle of the working.
- * a piece of paper.
- * something to write with.
- * a burning dish -that is to say a dish which is not going to be damaged by fire. Brass incense burners work very well, but many other things do too.
- * something to stir the fire with -a stick or a knife work well.

Begin by releasing all tension and anxiety. Put yourself into a comfortable position.

Now, think about what you want to manifest. Concentrate on it and imagine clearly what it might be like to have it. Meditate on this for awhile, keeping it clear in your mind.

Now write down on your paper what it is you wish. You may wish to write it in a manner similar to the invocation given below. You may notice that we use the same one rather a lot, but when something works why mess with it?

Now, light your candle.

Again, release all tension before you start the actual spell.

Focus for a few moments on the candle's flame.

Now take your paper. You may want to fold it

in half, but don't fold it up tightly as this will retard the burning process.

Imagine a ball of white light in the center of your chest. Affirm:

"Behold, I connect myself to powers of the Universe"

Imagine yourself rising up above your physical body, and high above the earth. You may want to imagine looking down at the whole Earth below you. Now affirm:

"There is one power in the Universe, and I am a perfect manifestation of that power."

Open your eyes and take your paper. Affirm:

"There is one power in the Universe, and I am a perfect manifestation of that power. And as such I will that even as this paper burns, so too shall this which I have written come to pass. May it come to me easily, and with harm to none. I will it. I draw it to me. I manifest it. I accept it. I receive it. I give thanks for it. By my will, so mote it be."

Now set the paper on fire. Imagine a ball of white light all around the paper, as clear and bright as possible. Hold the paper as long as possible, then place it in the burning dish and let it burn until it is gone. Use a stick or a knife to lift it in the bowl so that it doesn't lay on just one side and prevent that side from burning. The speed and thoroughness with which the paper burns shall be an omen to you of how long it will take for the thing to come to you. If any part of the paper doesn't burn, take that piece and repeating the affirmation over it, burn it again.

Now clear and release as you know to do, and do not obsess over what you have manifested. Worrying about it excessively will tend to block it, so the less you can think about it the better. Instead simply know that you have done it successfully and wait for it to come. If you cannot be patient, tell yourself;

"I put myself into a position of love and trust, knowing that what I want shall come"

Then imagine stepping over a half step to the left.

What you have manifested may not come immediately, but it will come soon. These things take time. But you will find this a very useful spell.

Remember if you're just starting out -practice makes perfect!



GOD OF THE MONTH

The Triple Goddess

As you have learned, Wiccans revere Deity in many forms -the principle form being the Goddess. The Goddess represents the feminine, nurturing side of Deity -intuitive, creative, magical. She is the inner nature of Deity -the origin of the external Universe.

Thus the Goddess is the Creator, the Source - the God emerges from Her, when She sets the Universe into motion. The God is the Goddess' Divine Child, formed from Her inner nature, Her "Other Self" as the *Vangelo delle Streghe* puts it. The God is also the Divine Consort, Whose union with the Goddess describes existence as we know it.

In this sense the Goddess and the God are the polar forces also termed Yin and Yang. Yin, the Feminine, spiritual, emotive aspect of Deity Which is within all things and Whose presence gives all things life. Yang the Masculine, physical, volatile aspect of Deity which manifests in motion and action and Whose permutations build up the outer form of things.

In Wicca the Goddess is primarily revered through Her form as the Triple Goddess. As the God is

often represented by the Sun, the Goddess is often represented by the Moon, and its three phases are taken as instructive as to the nature of Her being; the Waxing Moon representing creation and inspiration, embodied in the Maiden Goddess. The Full Moon representing fruition and sustenance, embodied in the Mother Goddess. And the Waning Moon representing fulfillment and endings, embodied in the Crone Goddess.

THE MAIDEN: The Maiden is the Young Goddess of Spring and new beginnings. She is the Goddess of the Dawn, of youth and fresh potential. The Maiden is the Goddess of art and creativity and self expression -of beauty, intelligence, and skill. The Maiden is manifest in action and self confidence, exploration and discovery.

THE MOTHER: The Mother is the Goddess in Her aspect as sustainer of the Universe. She is the Goddess of motherhood, of nurturing and providence. The Universe is Her child and She loves and cares for it, providing it with inexhaustible resources from within Herself, even as a mother nurses Her infant from the lactations of Her own body. Infinitely loving and compassionate, the Mother Goddess is a never-ending source of bounty for those who are open to Her gifts.

THE CRONE: The Crone represents the Goddess in Her aspect as Elder. The Crone is the Wise Woman, the Witch, the Matriarch. The Crone is the Goddess of Death, and magic, and the Spirit realm. She is the Goddess of Wisdom, visions, and guidance. Hers is the height of spiritual power, for She is the Great Sorceress Who creates Her will through magic. Goddess of Transformation, the Crone is the Destroyer Who dissolves outmoded forms, allowing new growth to occur.

GLOSSARY

PATRON -A Patron Deity is the particular Goddess or God that one feels most at Home with. Some people have more than one, but usually one will predominate. Any Deity that you are drawn to can be your patron Deity. One's Patron Deity is prayed to for guidance, visions, blessing, etc.

DEVOTEE -A devotee is a person who is attached, or devoted, to a particular Patron deity. Thus one might be a devotee of Hecate, or a devotee of Isis, or a devotee of Ganesha, or any of the hundred million some forms of Deity.

UNIVERSAL DEITY -The different faces of Deity are ways of understanding Universal deity. All of the faces of Deity in the end reflect the same universal power, as in fact do we and all of creation. That universal power

is infinite and beyond our power to know in its totality, so we make understandable images through which we may interface with it. That infinite power is Universal Deity -the spirit of Deity that is beyond all names and images.

VANGELLO DELLE STREGHE -An Aradian Wiccan scripture containing the creation story, the Charge of the Goddess, and a collection of other myths deriving from Italian Witchcraft. Published by Charles Leland in 1599 Pisces (1899 AD) under the title "*Aradia, or the Gospel of the Witches*", the book requires serious annotation to be properly understood, but is a cornerstone of Wiccan thought.

ARADIAN -Italian Wiccan tradition as exemplified by the Vangelo Delle Streghe.

CHARLES GODFREY LELAND -Folklorist and author who studied Witchcraft extensively at the turn of the last century. Published the Vangelo Delle Streghe.

OPHION AND EURYNOME -Eurynome is a very ancient Greek Moon Goddess. Her name means "Far Wanderer". The creation myth of Ophion and Eurynome is far older than classical Greek mythos, and reveals a very different set of beliefs. Chaos was the first thing to exist: this is the primeval feminine, which resolves within itself the seeds of all things, in an unmanifest state -the primordial soup, if you would. A spark of light arose from Chaos, Which was Eurynome, the Moon. She arose, and danced through Chaos, and where She danced became the horizon which separates sea and sky. And Her dance was beautiful, and it stirred the unmanifest potential within Chaos, and caused others to arise as well. The North Wind came into being, and loved Eurynome, and pursued Her, following the steps of Her dance of creation. Likewise arose the West Wind, which pursued the Goddess, and after that the South and the East Winds. The four Winds followed in the dance of Eurynome, then overtook Her and surrounded Her. The Four Winds coalesced into the form of Ophion, the Cosmic Serpent, and became the lover of Eurynome. When they had finished, She took the form of a white bird and flew away. She made a nest and laid a cache of silver eggs. From these eggs were born all other things which exist. It will readily be seen that this is the same basic myth found in the Vangelo Delle Streghe, with Eurynome and Ophion as Goddess and God, from Whose union arises all creation.

CYBELE -Cybele was the Phrygian form of the Great Mother, Who was adopted by the Romans as Mother of the Gods. Cybele was worshipped by transexual Priest/esses who castrated themselves and afterwards lived as women -somewhat to the horror of the conservative Romans. The myth of Cybele is very ancient, and has its roots in the earliest times. It was taught that Cybele was the first Being to exist in the Universe. She was all

alone, and possessed the characteristics of both sexes; that is to say She was both male and female, at the same time. When She grew tired of being alone and desired a companion, She castrated Her male parts, and flung them to the Earth, whereupon they became the God Attis, Her Son, Brother, and Consort. It will readily be seen that this myth is cognate to that of the Vangelo Delle Streghe, with Cybele being the Goddess Who creates the God out of Herself.

ALLEGORY -Allegory is the supreme achievement of Pagan religion. It is the art of using easily understandable symbols to describe difficult or abstract concepts. In this way for example, we describe the interaction of spirit and body, a complex and intangible concept, as the dance of Goddess and God -a concrete and easily understood image from which the higher concept can be extracted. It is allegory which allows us to speak of "energy" as "light". It is allegory which allows us to speak of the Universe as a Dive Web, connecting all things. Allegory allows us to free ourselves from literality, and opens the door to abstract thinking.

PRIMEVAL DEITY -God/dess before creation, being both feminine and masculine, both spiritual and physical, resolving all opposites and polarities and containing within Itself all things. Primeval Deity is both the origin and the destination of existence, the inner soul of all creation. Primeval Deity is most often represented as the Androgyne or the Crone.

CHAOS -Primordial Deity, God/dess before creation. The original state which contains within itself the beginnings of all that is given form in the physical world, but in a dreamlike and undifferentiated state. Both female and male, spiritual and physical, dark and light, all bound up together. Chaos is also called Unity or Union, among many other names. Chaos is both the starting point and the ending point of creation, it is the wholeness of Deity -from which we come and to which ultimately we shall all return, enriched by our physical experiences. Chaos is also thought of as Deity at rest, between the creation and destruction of successive Universes, or at the center of multiple Universes.

CRONE -The Goddess in Her aged form. The Crone is represented by the Waning Moon, and rules over wisdom, understanding, magic, and learning, among other things. People who do not possess wisdom often fear it, and thus the Crone Goddess is often feared as well. She is the Goddess of death, Who consumes all things -but only to give them transformation and rebirth. The Crone is often equated with Primordial Deity, Who precedes all creation, and waits to consume (ie; re-unite with) it at the end of existence. In popular iconography the Crone is the "Hallowe'en Witch" with Her pointed hat symbolizing the upward spiraling cone of power, Her broomstick for sweeping away old forms of existence, and Her cauldron of transformation for creating new



ways of being.

HEKATE -Hekate is the great Crone Goddess of ancient Greece, patroness of magic and wisdom, and a Goddess of the Spiritworld. Hekate is a Goddess of uncertain provenance, being clearly older than and outside of the Greek classical pantheon. Some say She is of Mycenaean origin - the culture which precedes the classical. Others that She is of Phrygian origin. Some equate Her with Hekat, the Egyptian Goddess of creative force and magic, with Whom Hekate was most certainly identified in Hellenistic times. Hekate was known in medieval times as Dame Hecat, in which form She was

considered a Patroness of European Witchcraft.

SEVEN PLANES -The seven planes, or spheres of existence are used to describe the different levels of being which Spirit, or Goddess, experiences in interaction with Matter, or God. As is often the case with classifications, these seven levels are not nearly as neat as they are made to sound, but overlap and blend in ways which defy category. These seven planes are sometimes described as a successive "Fall" into progressive densities of matter, progressively slower vibrations. The seven planes are these; Physical, at which we experience physical form and sensation. Emotional, at which we experience emotional feelings. Mental, at which we experience thought and abstract concepts and understandings. Astral, at which we create our existence and its conditions. Soular, at which we develop those traits that make a unique part of Deity. Monadic, that part of us which is Divine, but is separate from the Whole of Deity. And Divine, at which we are One with all existence.

VIBRATION -Vibration, the rate at which energy moves, is believed to become slower the farther down the seven spheres it proceeds. The slower the vibration,

the denser the matter; thus the physical plane is the home of the densest matter with the slowest vibration, while the Divine plane has the least density and the fastest vibration. As energy moves upward from lower vibrations to higher ones, it generates heat. As energy slows from higher to lower vibrations, it produces coldness. You will notice this in energy working.

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES -Each of the seven planes has its own energy vibration, which in turn corresponds to a certain sound; for sound is generated by vibration. the vibration of vocal chord creates speech and song. The vibration of a drumskin produces the drumbeat. The vibration of the strings produces the music of the violin or the cello. So as the energy of the spheres vibrates at a given rate, it too must create a sound. This is the theory behind the "music of the spheres". A variety of techniques have evolved from this theory to link sound with energy. They are the basis under which tuning forks, bells, and singing bowls are used for energetic healing, to give one example. Another form in which vibrational sound is used in energy work involves the linking of seven vowel sound with the seven planes/bodies/Chakras.

DESTINY -Destiny refers, ultimately, to the lessons afforded one in life, the chances for growth and advancement which will be placed in our path. What we do with these lessons of course is our own -they can be positive or negative according to our choices, rather than any preset destiny. But the lessons themselves are chosen and agreed to prior to birth, to try to stimulate growth the soul needs and desires. Consequently it can be said that life gives us opportunities which we cannot avoid or short circuit, because we have asked for them before entering this life, but what the outcome of these opportunities might be is the result of our own choices and actions.

VEIL -Most people perceive easily only the so-called "lower" aspects of their being. The physical self and its sensations. The emotional self and its feelings. The mental self and its thoughts. The higher aspects of the being, from which we derive such abilities as clairvoyance, telepathy, telekinesis, etc., most people can only access through much work and difficulty. Ordinarily we have no conscious knowledge of them, unless we have been "born old" in which case we have worked to develop them in earlier lives. The separation between what we consciously perceive of ourselves, and our higher powers is symbolically called a "veil". This is because in former times an ornamental veil was often used to screen off the sanctuary of a temple from the general temple precincts. Consequently the idea of a veil hiding something spiritually higher seemed a natural allegory.

BORN OLD -People who are born with the veil between the conscious self and the powers of the soul very thin,

and who can thus access the Higher Self easily with minimal or no instruction, are said to have been “born old”. Talents that others must work to develop come to them easily, seemingly without effort. This is because such souls have already put out great efforts to develop these skills in previous lives, and bring them through to the present.

LOWER SELF -That part of ourselves of which we are easily aware; the physical, the emotional, and the mental aspects of the being. Through meditation and magic we can access our Higher Selves, which include the astral or creative level of our being, our soul, those traits which make us a distinct aspect of Deity, our monad, the level at which we are Divine but separate, and ultimately the Divine level at which all is one.

CHAKRA -Chakras are the energy centers of the body, where body and Spirit most strongly connect. There are thousands of Chakras in every part of the body, which are connected to each other by meridians, or energy pathways. This is the basis of such systems of medicine as acupuncture, shiatsu, and moxibustion, which treat physical illness by applying stimulation to the Chakra points. In general practice however, most people work only with the seven major Chakras which correspond to the seven spheres of existence and the seven bodies. These are the Root Chakra, at the prostate in males and the paraurethral gland in females, corresponding to the physical plane. The 2nd Chakra, at the testicles in males and the ovaries in females, corresponding to the emotional plane. The Solar Chakra, roughly at the navel, corresponding to the mental plane. The Heart Chakra, at the heart, corresponding to the astral plane. The Throat Chakra, at the throat, corresponding to the soular or egoic plane. The Third Eye, at level of the pineal gland, corresponding to the monadic plane. And the Crown Chakra, at or above the top of the head, corresponding to the Divine.

Exam for Lesson II

You may take the exam online at WitchSchool.
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