



About Being Wiccan

Original Version © 1971

by Ed Howdershelt

Rocket Version © 2000

by Ed Howdershelt

The Wiccan Rede (motto) is:

"If it harms none, do as you will."

The "none" refers to the world in

general, including yourself.

This means, loosely interpreted, that you should think about all possible results before acting. In other words, be responsible.

Wiccans believe that bad things done to others will return to the doer with a minimum accrued interest rate of 300%. This is called "Rule of Three."

Wiccans don't make blood sacrifices and don't kill for deities' pleasure.

(Don't trust anyone who wants YOU to do THEIR killing.)

We do, however, leave a little food and wine as a ritual thank-you offering.

Wiccans aren't evangelists. They don't

hold tent revivals or have massive recruiting binges or badger friends to come to meetings.

They don't preach on street corners or go door-to-door through entire neighborhoods or hang around airports pestering travellers.

Wiccans don't need huge, ornate, expensive buildings and you don't have to be overdressed to attend Wiccan circles.

If you're REALLY a contemporary Wiccan, you're fairly literate.

You've read enough to understand most of the risks and benefits of being a Wiccan in today's world and will be reading quite a lot more.

You want to know more, so you continuously search for understanding. Wiccans are lifelong students and they don't study with just one book.

If someone claims to be "a hereditary witch", you may feel an urge to snicker or giggle. Such claims are often made by people who seem to need special recognition or hope to be accepted into a group without the ugly inconvenience of having to study.

(Okay, so maybe your Mama IS a witch... but if you haven't done your homework, *you aren't.*)

You don't become a witch through heredity or osmosis, although either may be contributive.

I've encountered "holier-than-thou", elitist witches.

They're every bit as irritating as their Christian counterparts.

They think that because they were lucky enough to find a group or coven with whom to learn, or because they have surrounded themselves with expensive, gaudy, custom-crafted ritual tools and robes, that they are somehow more Wiccan than other, less-well-outfitted Wiccans.

Again, these are people in need of special recognition.

If someone claims to be "self-initiated", you may want to question him/her before you can accept their claims as valid.

This is reasonable and proper, but not to the point of rude interrogation. People don't all have convenient access to covens, teachers, or even good bookstores, but may have done their best to self-educate themselves by mail-order courses and reading.

Don't miss a chance to share your recommended-reading list with a deserving student. Make a friend and maybe a study-partner.

Wiccans are still a somewhat underground group for good reasons. The book-burners and people-burners are still out there, although currently without the power to legally act-out their dreams of doing away with all "*not-*

like-us" others.

They still persecute individuals who can't afford good lawyers and the Freemasons (without whom there'd be no United States in which to persecute Freemasons) and harrass freethinking women who would determine their own reproductive roles.

BUT...national fortunes change from time to time...think...

How hard would it truly be to turn this relatively free nation into a theocracy? Maybe not like Iran, where a woman can be legally stoned for not totally covering herself in public, but in a more subtle fashion, such as women can explain better than anyone.

Envision a nation in which obtaining bank loans, buying a home, renting an apartment, or getting a job are very difficult because you don't at least pretend to be a Christian of some flavor or other.

You might try asking any Jew old enough to remember looking for a job before 1970.

Remember (or study) our very recent history. Senator McCarthy could have someone jailed indefinitely on a fraudulent suspicion alone back in the fifties and individual civil rights in the U.S. only seemed to apply to well-behaved white protestants before 1963.

The "Super-Christians" would like the

nation to revert to the standards of 1950
*as they would like to imagine those
standards should be.*

All that is required is the Religious
Wrong gaining political control by
stuffing local elections with their own
puppets.

While they can't presently succeed by
running an obvious zealot for president,
they *can* gradually take over state and
local politics, and they've been trying to
do just that yet again, but... Don't panic
yet.

Just vote sensibly and often to keep the
theocratic puppets out of office.

If you're curious about what I look like

or you want to see my stoneware and
pewter jewelry designs, go here:

WiccaWorks™

<http://www.wiccaworks.com>



Copyright 2000
Ed Howdershelt

**Original Jewelry Designs
Chalices & Altar Tiles
Angels & Goddesses
Articles, Poetry, Links
Other Neat Stuff!**
www.WiccaWorks.com

For my other E-books, go here:

Abintra Press!

<http://abintra.virtualave.net/rocket.htm>