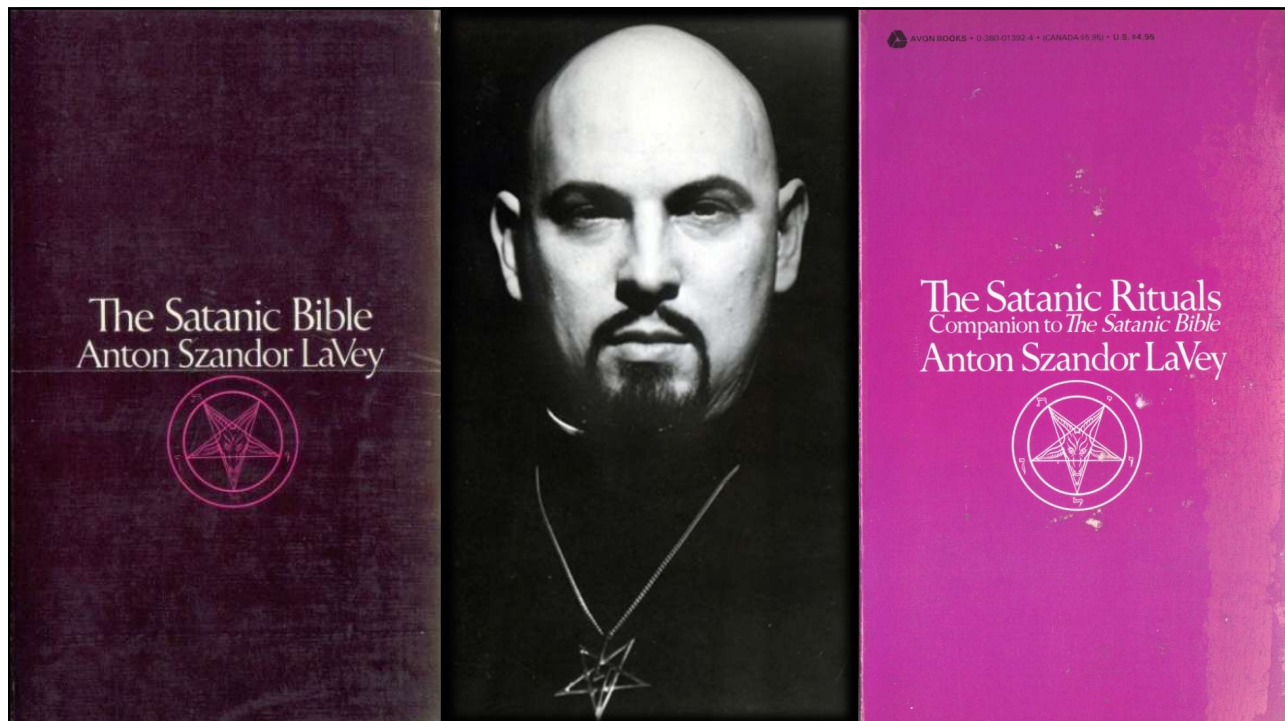
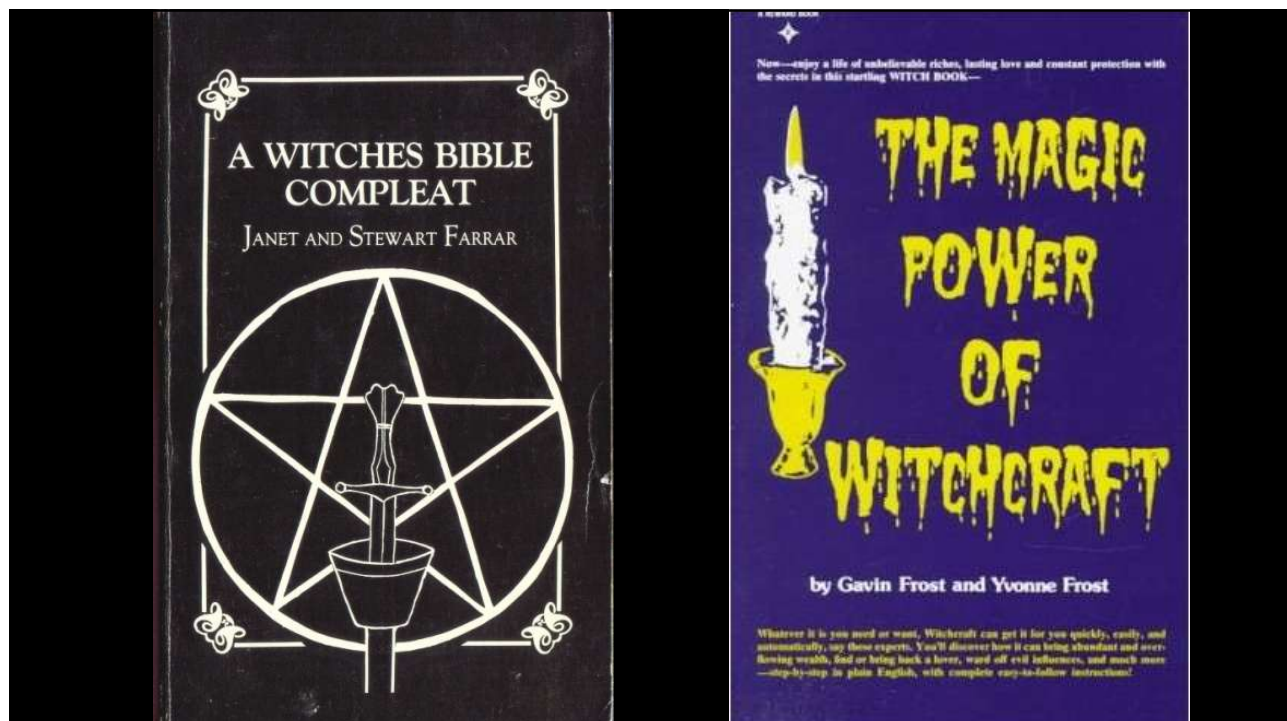


Extreme Occultism: Satanism



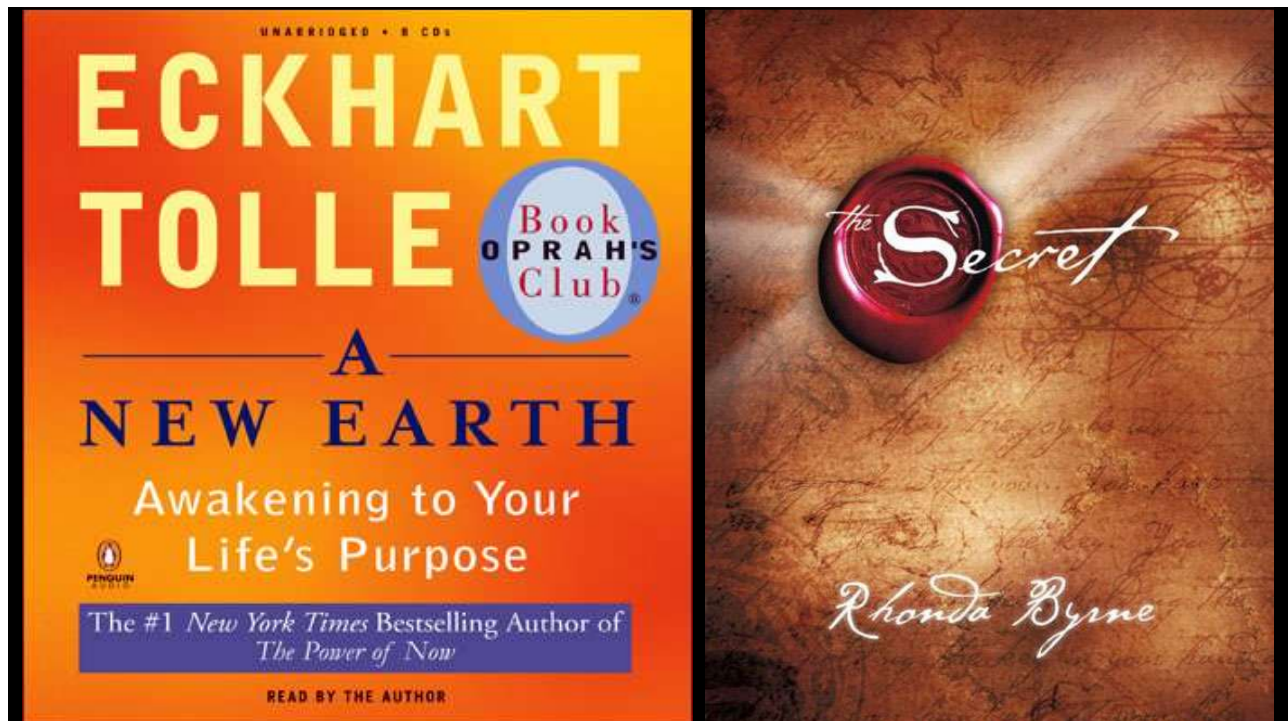


Moderate Occultism: Witchcraft



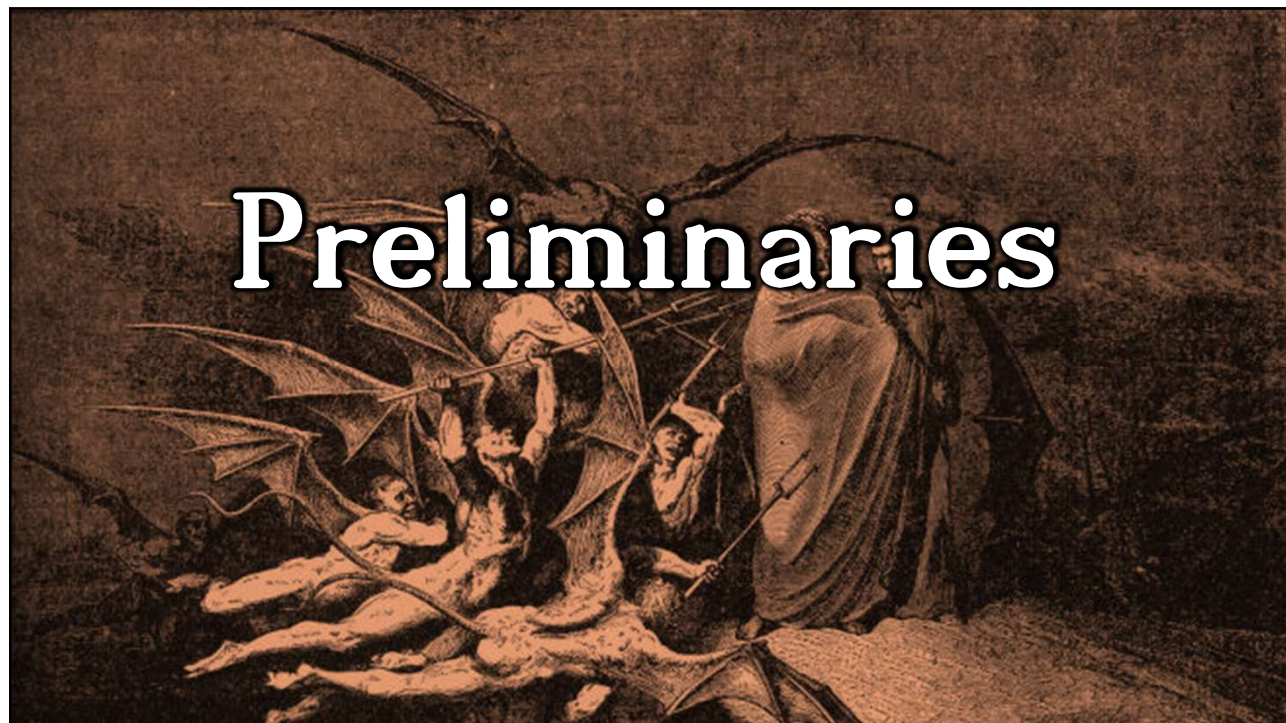
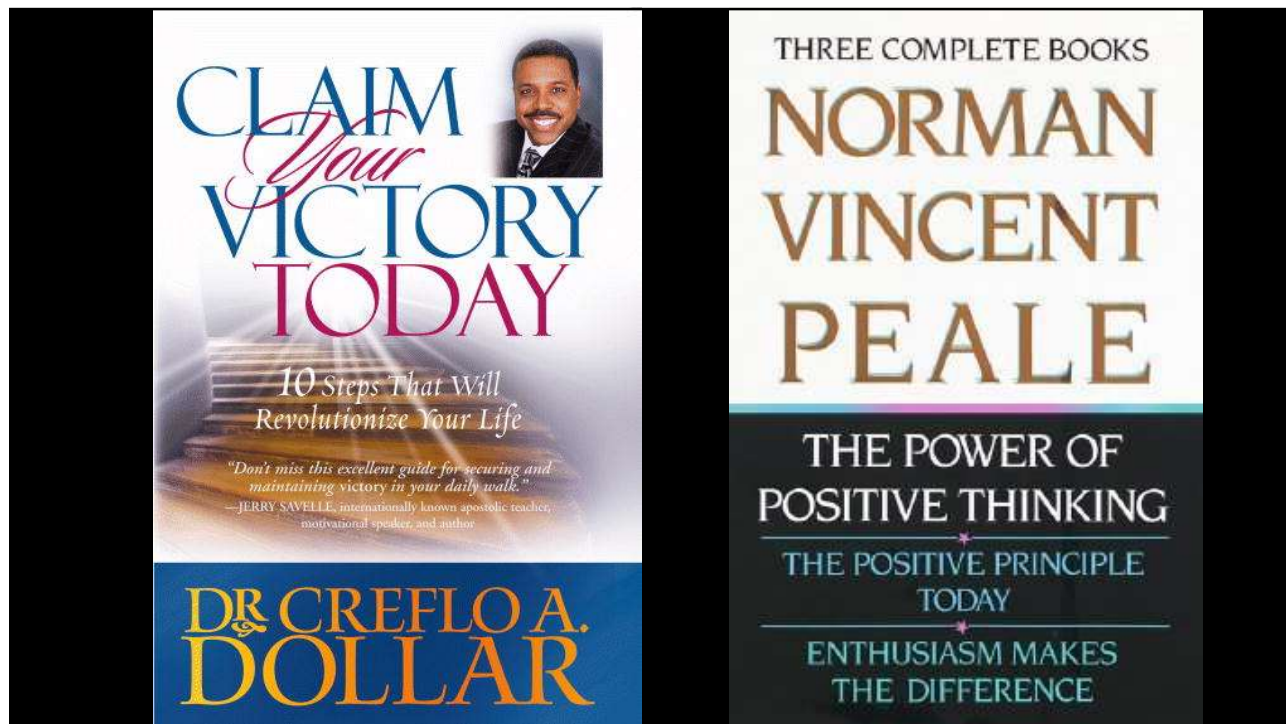


Mainstream Occultism: The New Age Movement



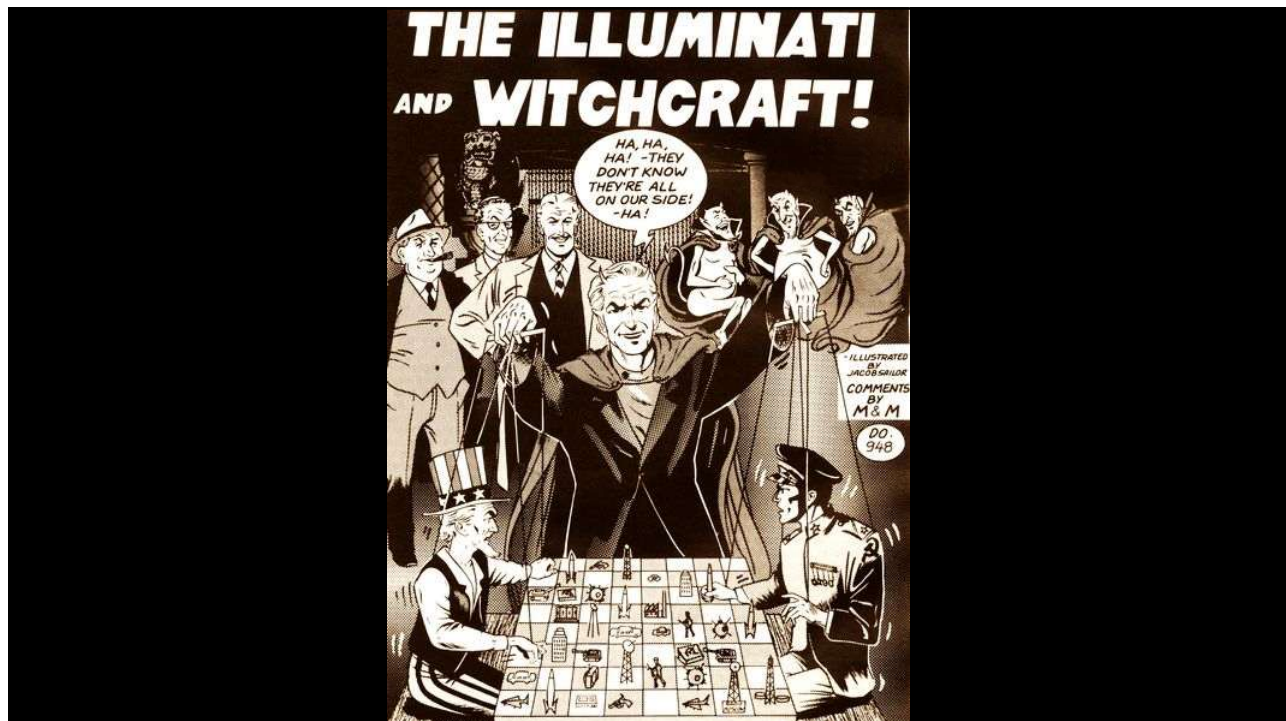
"Christian" Occultism: The Word of Faith Movement

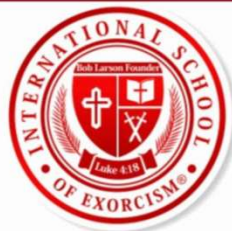




***What kind of thoughts
does the term
'Witchcraft' bring
about for you?***







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Don
Ordained deliverance minister

“

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Kara
Homemaker, Prayer warrior

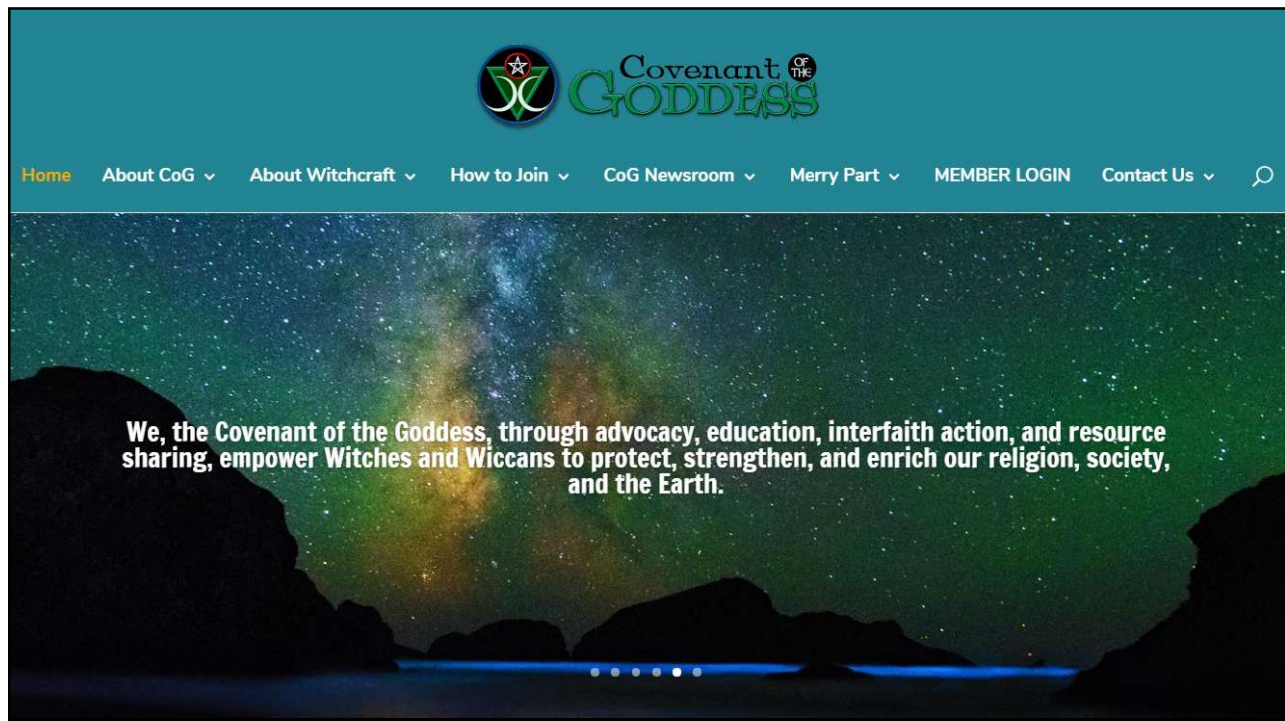
“

My husband and I are pastors, and we wanted to be more equipped to deal with demonized people.

April
Pastor's wife

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The image shows the content area of the Parliament of the World's Religions website. On the left is a large graphic of a globe composed of many small human figures. Overlaid on the globe is a dark blue rectangular box with the text "TOWARDS A GLOBAL ETHIC:" in white, bold, uppercase letters, and below it, in a smaller white italicized font, "An Initial Declaration of the Parliament of the World's Religions". Below the globe graphic is the URL "ParliamentOfReligions.org". On the right side of the content area, there is a quote in a small font: "There is a principle which is found and has persisted in many religious and ethical traditions of humankind for thousands of years: What you do not wish done to yourself, do not do to others. Or in positive terms: What you wish done to yourself, do to others! This should be the irrevocable, unconditional norm for all areas of life, for families and communities, for races, nations, and religions." Below the quote is another paragraph: "Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed." This is followed by another paragraph: "Together we can move mountains! Without a willingness to take risks and a readiness to sacrifice there can be no fundamental change in our situation! Therefore, we commit ourselves to a common global ethic, to better mutual understanding, as well as to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and Earth-friendly ways of life. We invite all men and women, whether religious or not, to do the same." Below this text is a line: "—Towards A Global Ethic: An Initial Declaration" followed by "Signature document of the Parliament of the World's Religions". At the bottom right is a green button with the text "SUPPORT OUR MISSION" and a right-pointing arrow.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS.

ABOUT LATEST NEWS CONTACT US WAYS TO GIVE LOG IN

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2023 Chicago

AUGUST 14-18, 2023 | MCCORMICK PLACE LAKESIDE CENTER

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Featured Luminaries

A CALL TO CONSCIENCE:
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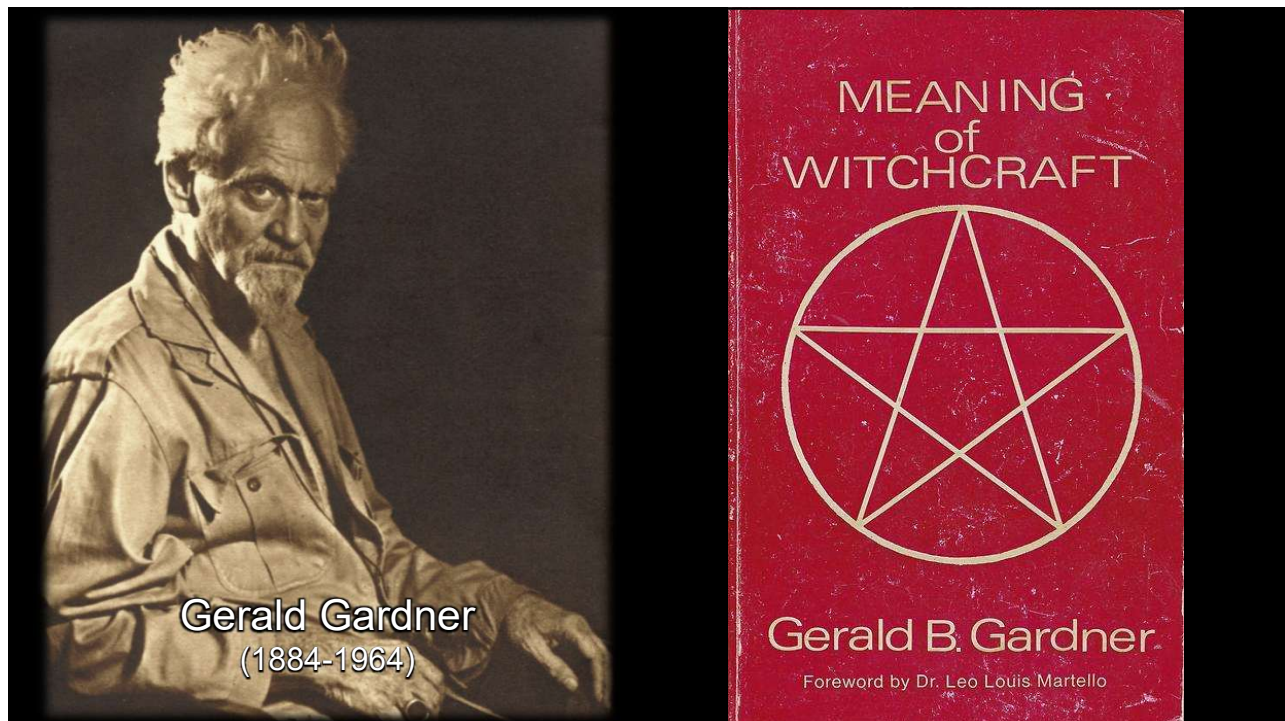
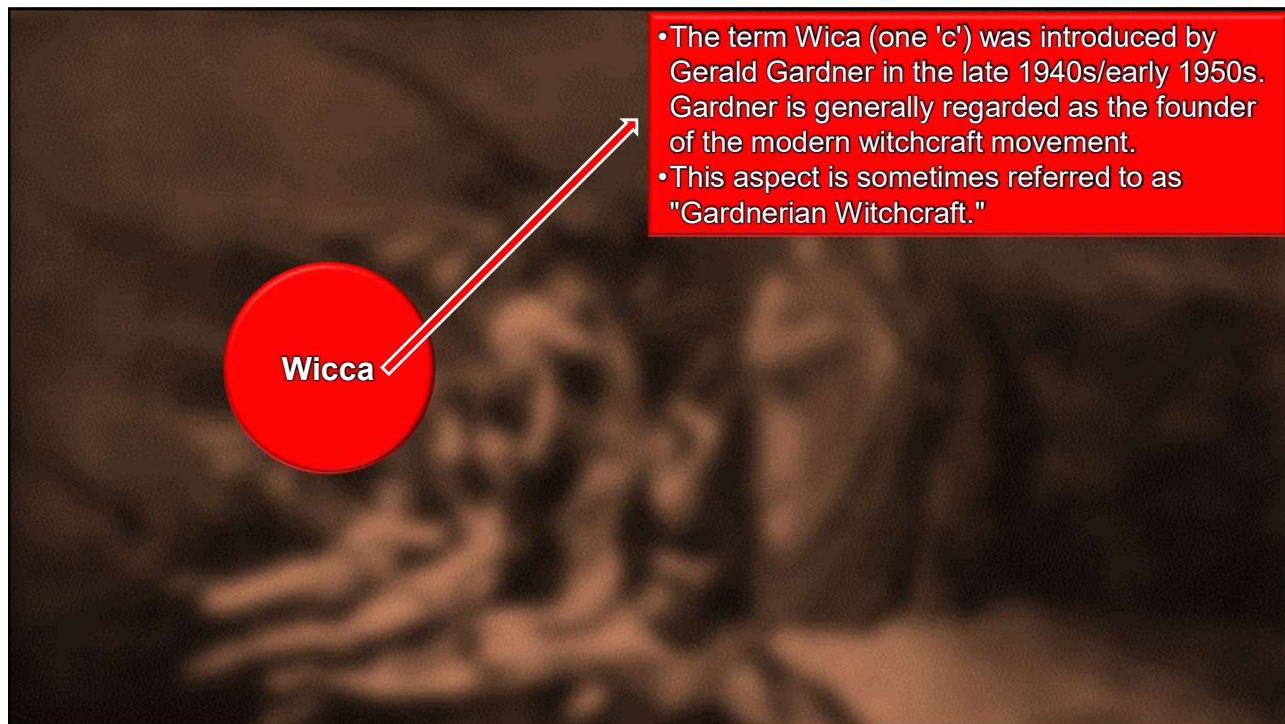
2023 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

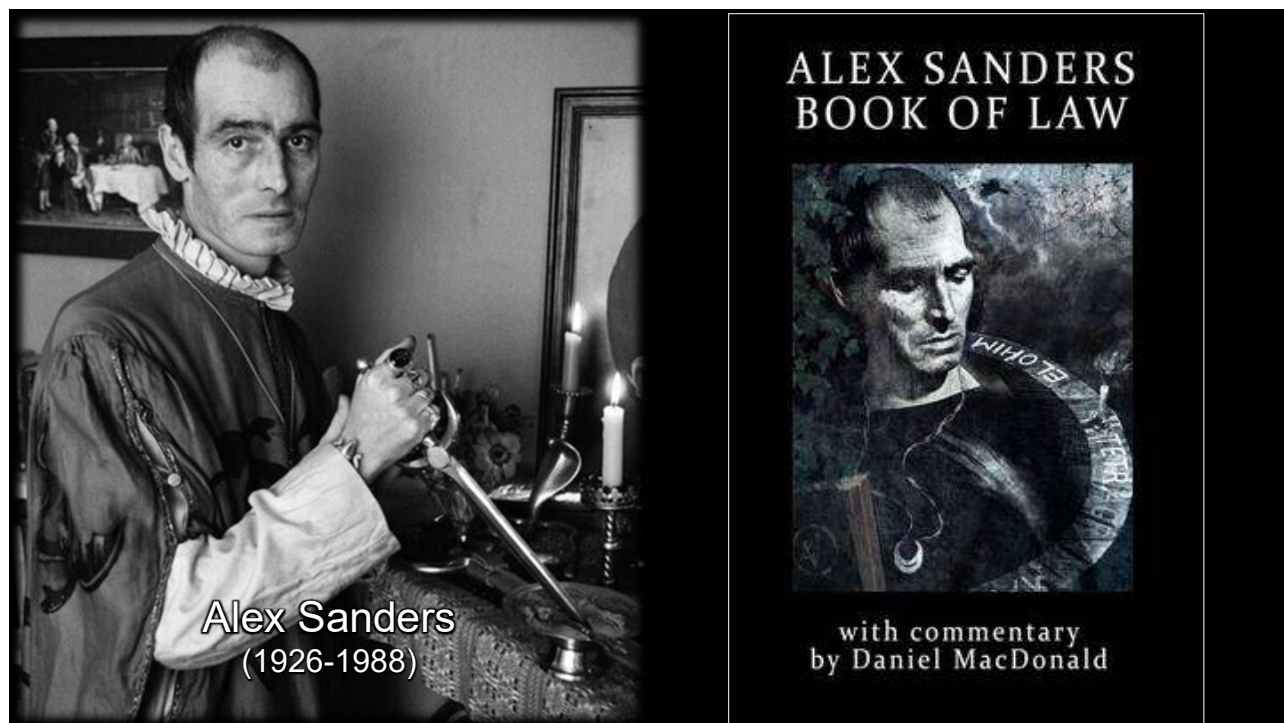
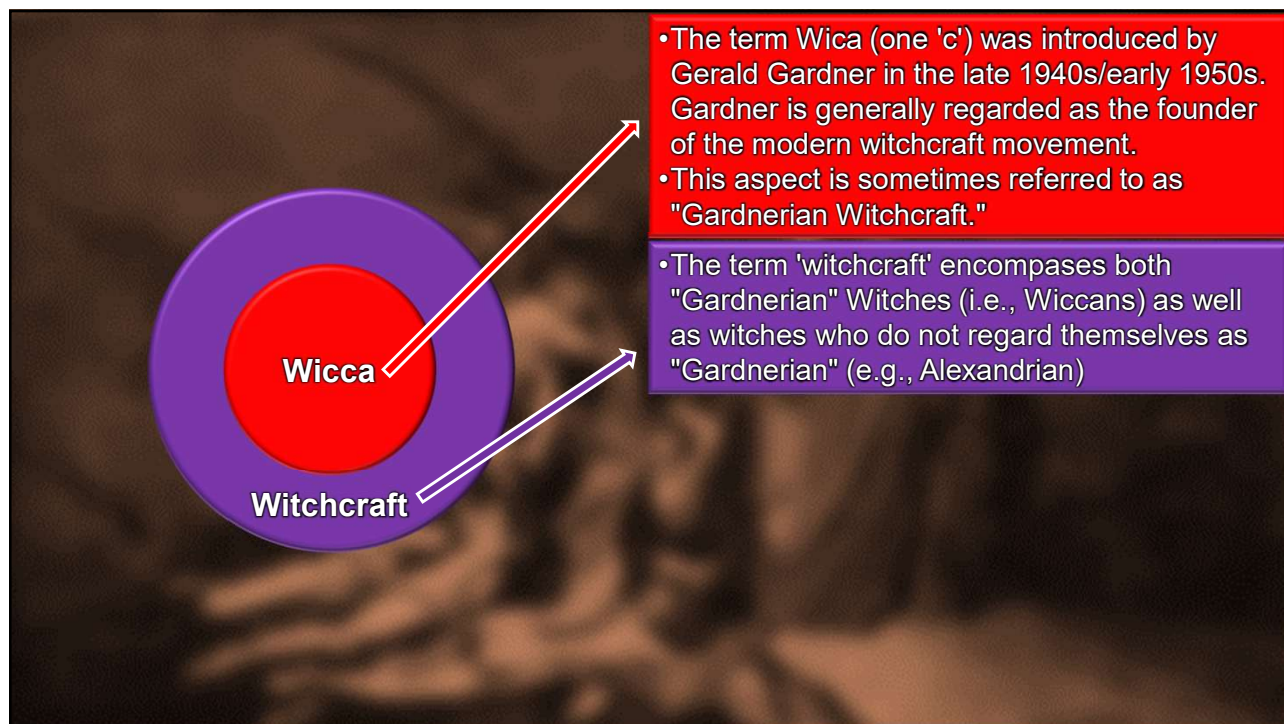
An Important Distinction

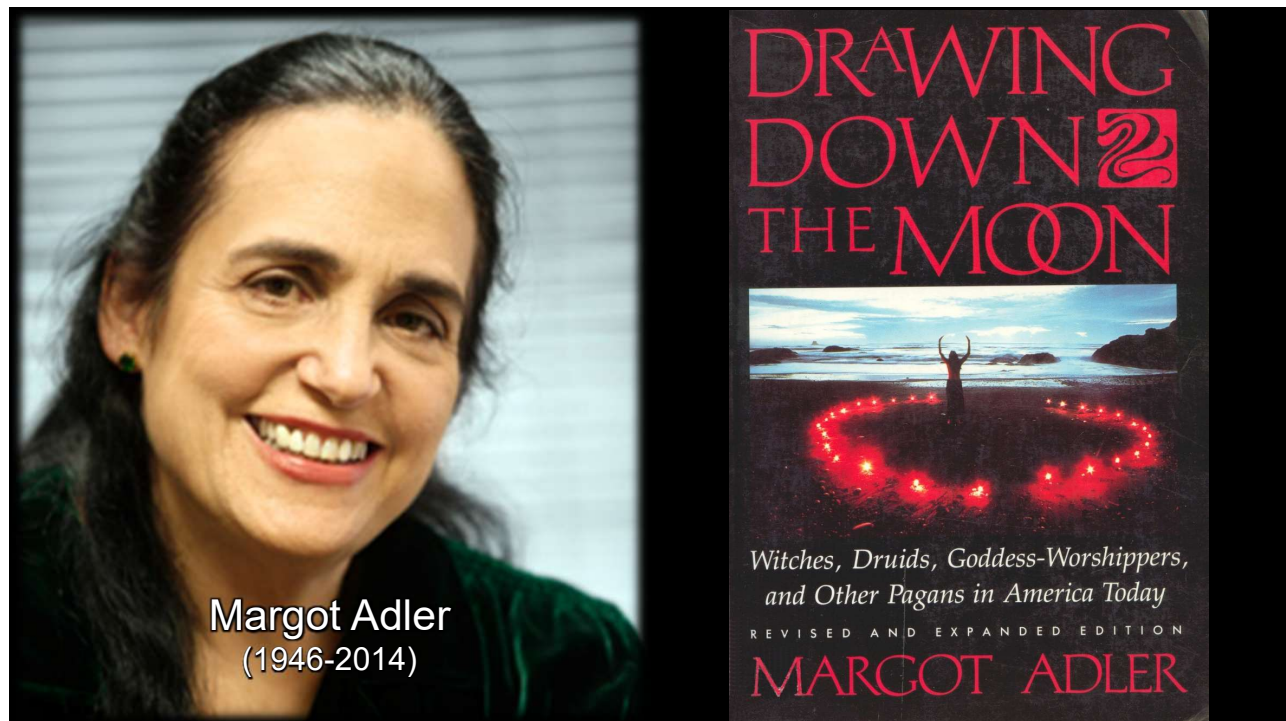
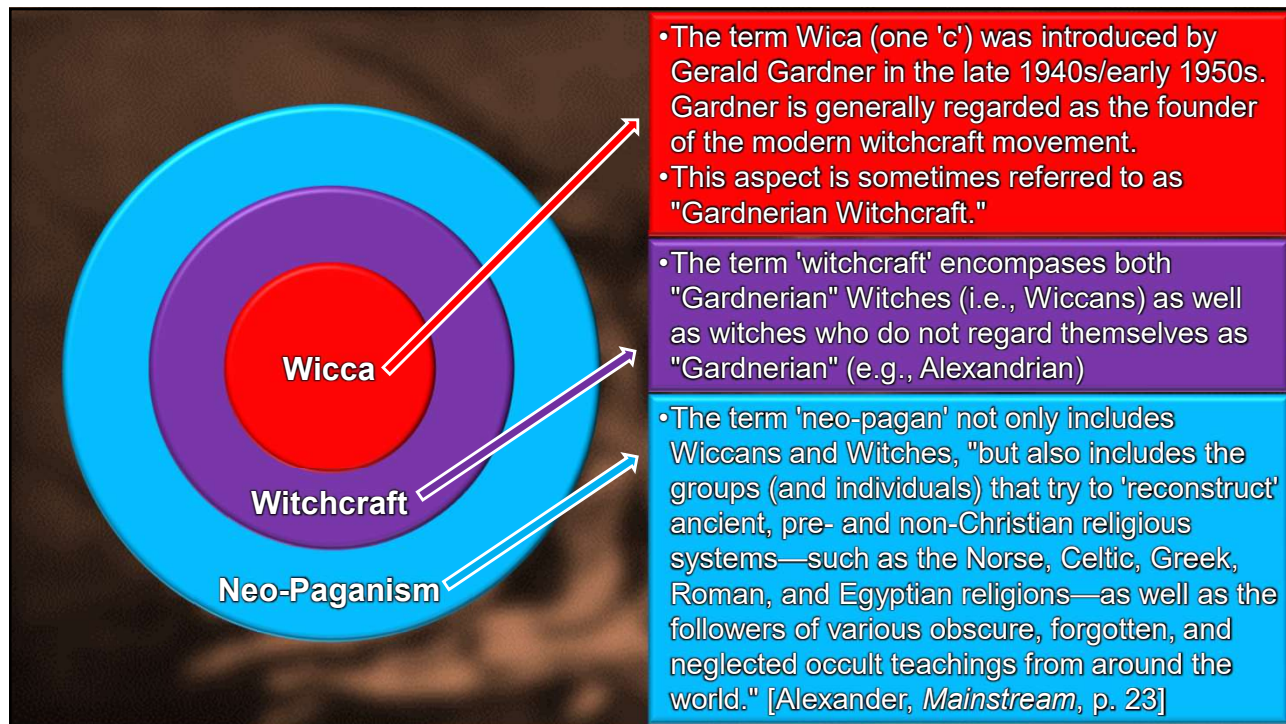


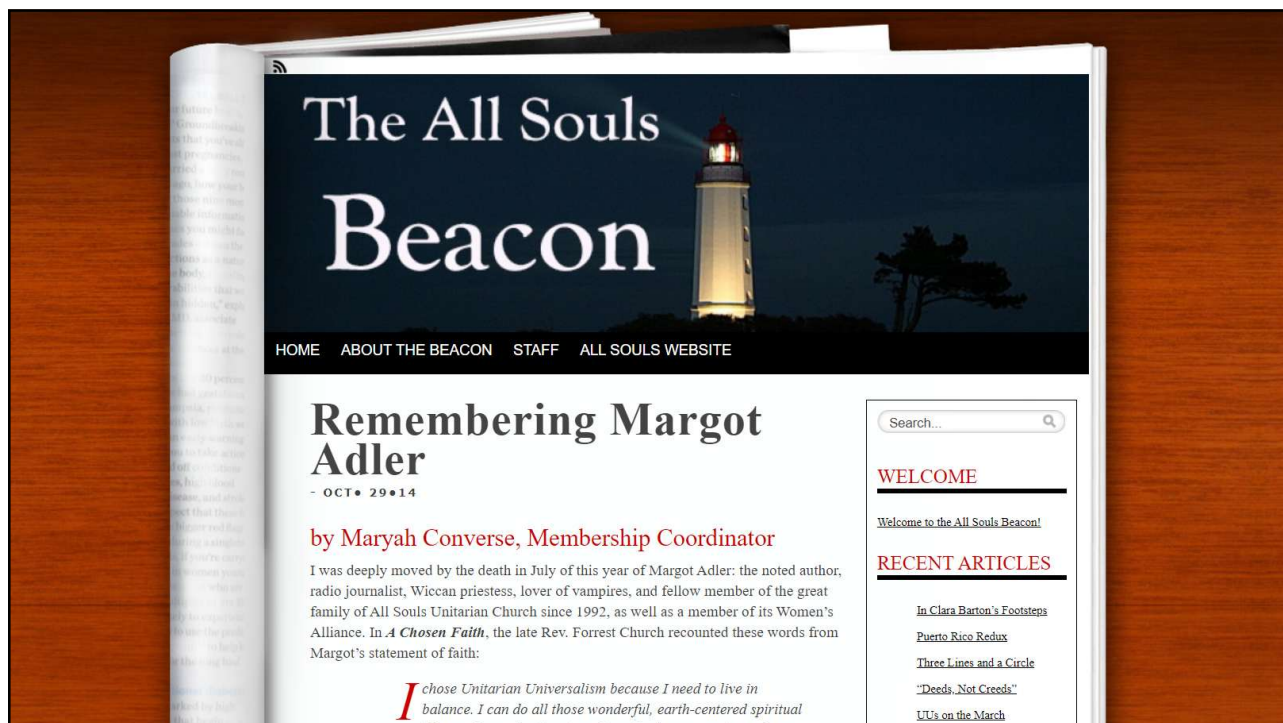
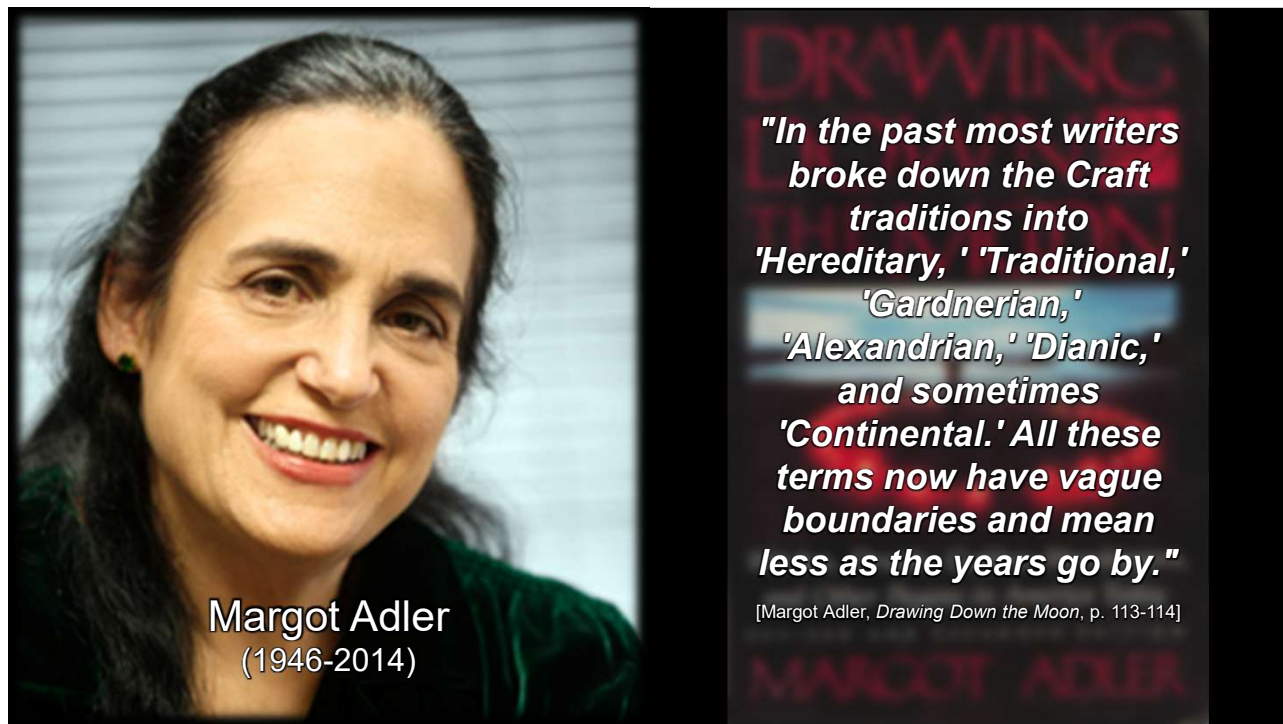


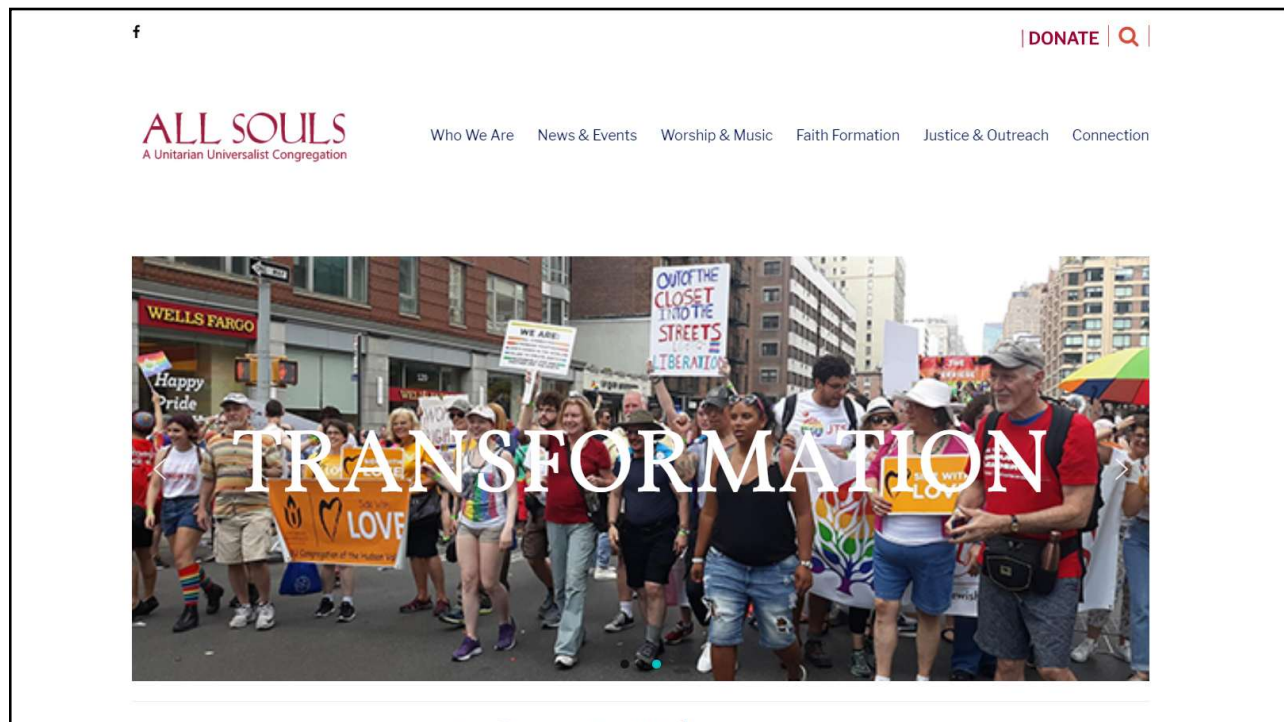
The Many Names of Witchcraft











This screenshot displays the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'FIND A CONGREGATION', 'DONATE', and 'BOOKSTORE', along with a search bar. The UUA logo is prominently featured. Below the logo, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'HOME > GENERAL ASSEMBLY > PAST GENERAL ASSEMBLIES > ST. LOUIS 2006 > THE STATE OF PAGANISM TODAY'. The main heading is '4028 THE STATE OF PAGANISM TODAY'. A video player is embedded, showing a speaker at a podium. A large red arrow points from the top right towards the video player. The video player controls show a timestamp of 04:35. To the left of the video, a list of topics for the 2006 General Assembly is provided. At the bottom, the speaker is identified as Margot Adler.

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HOME > GENERAL ASSEMBLY > PAST GENERAL ASSEMBLIES > ST. LOUIS 2006 > THE STATE OF PAGANISM TODAY

4028 THE STATE OF PAGANISM TODAY

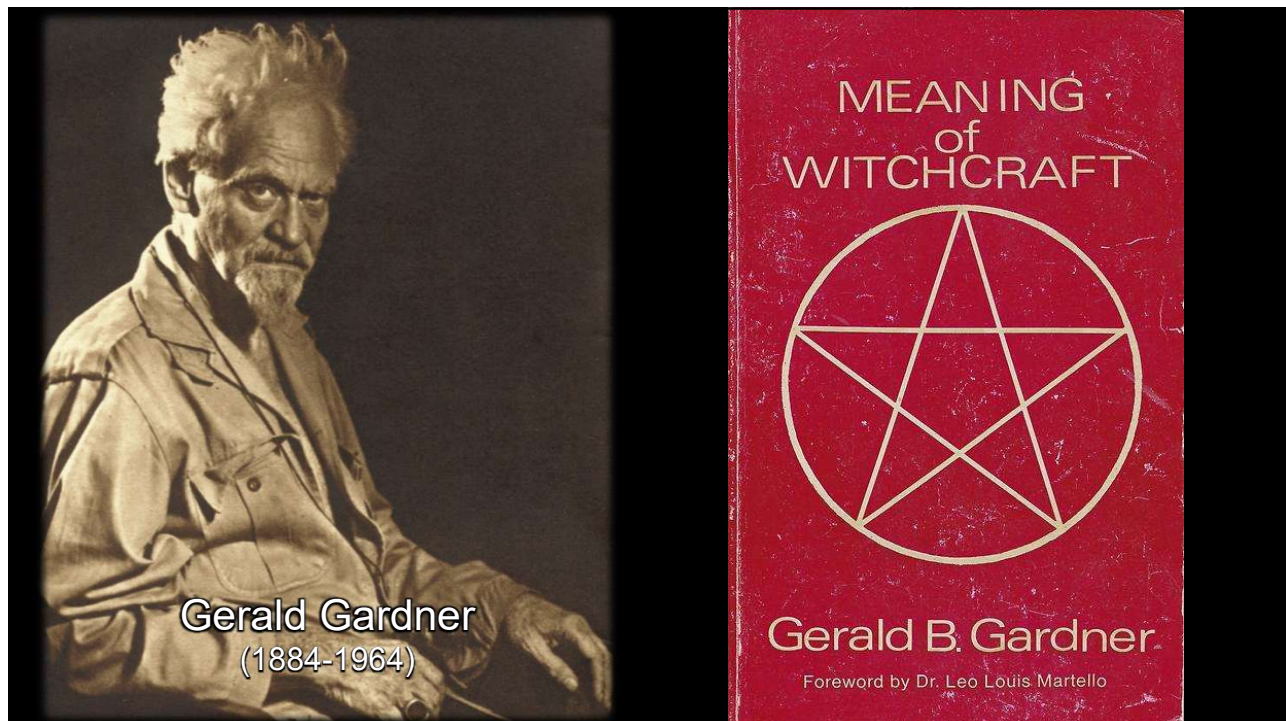
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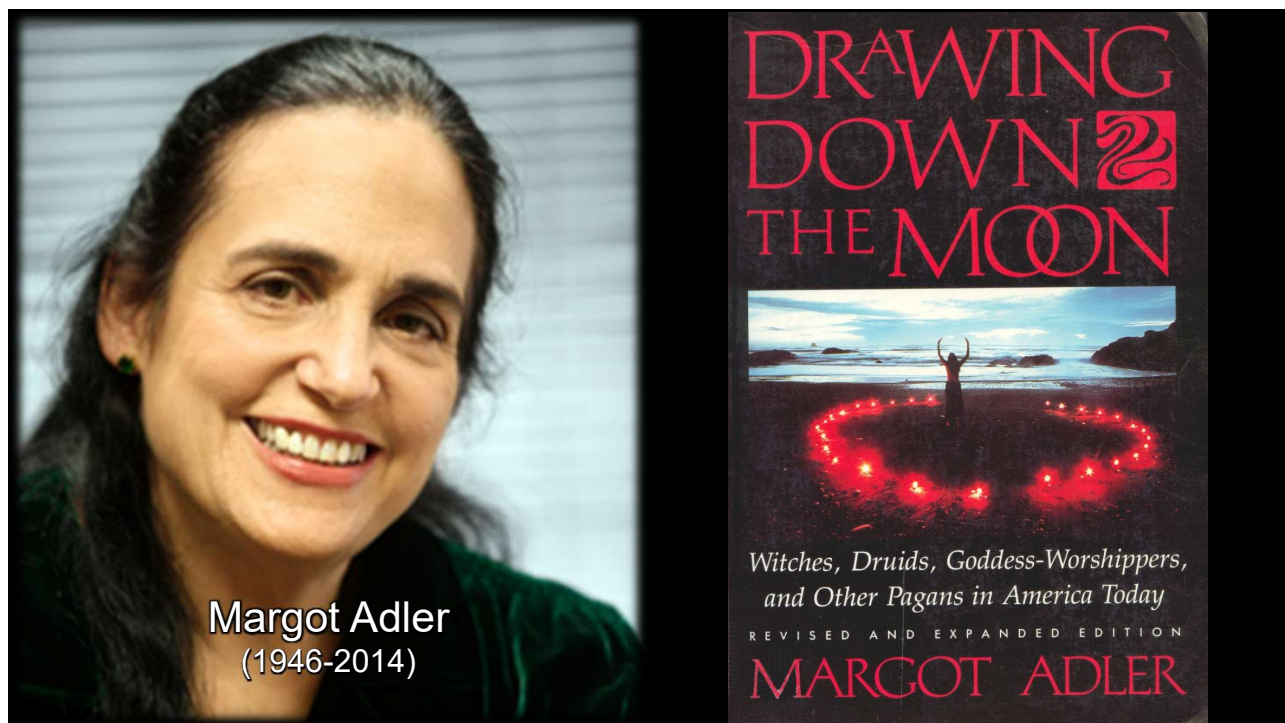
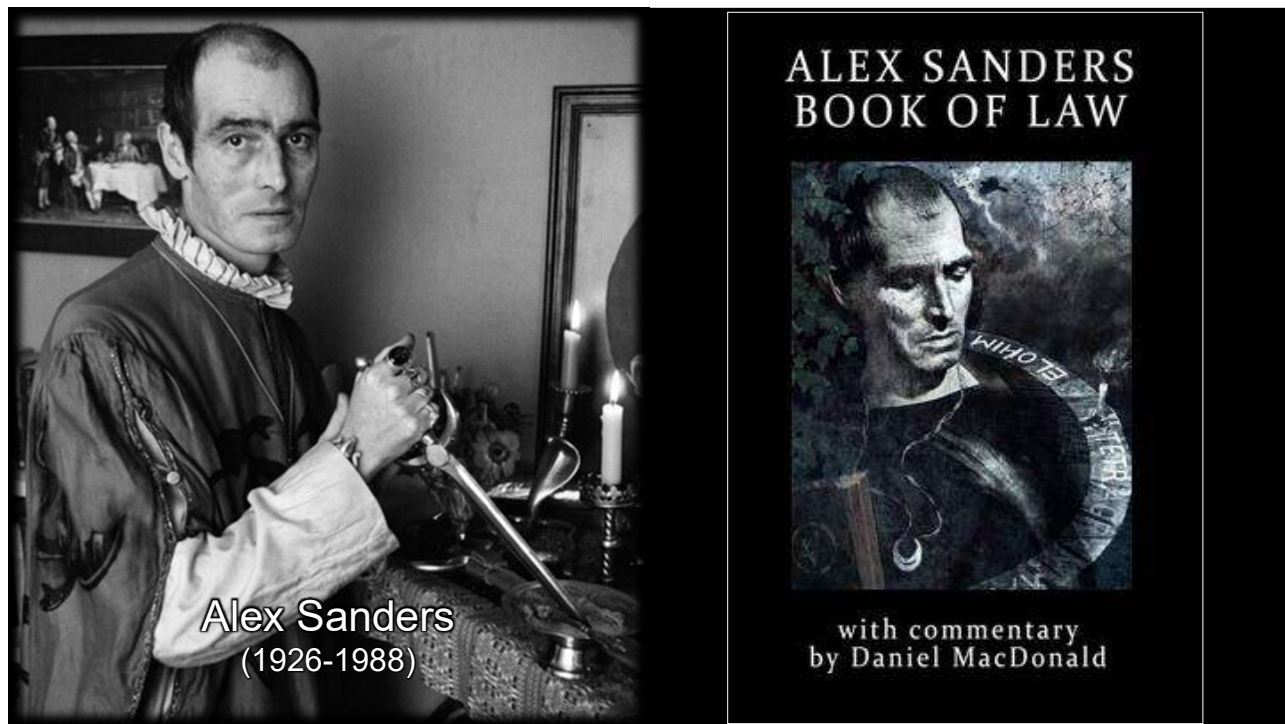
- General Assembly 2006 Business & Social Witness
- *GAdding About*
- Inside Scoop for Delegates
- The Accessible Church
- CLF In-Gathering
- Ableism and Racism
- Children's/ Youth Songbook
- John Murray Distinguished Lecture
- Multicultural UU Identity
- Right Relations
- Building Religious Community
- Process: Revisiting Our Principles

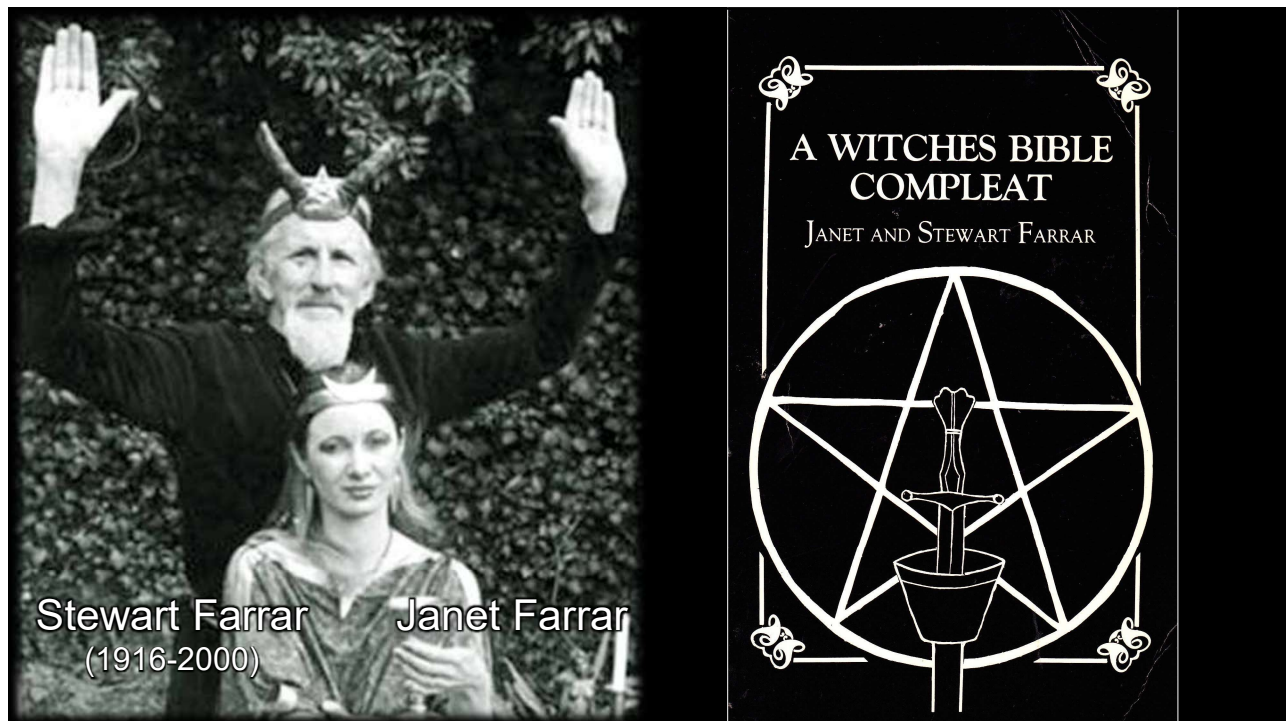
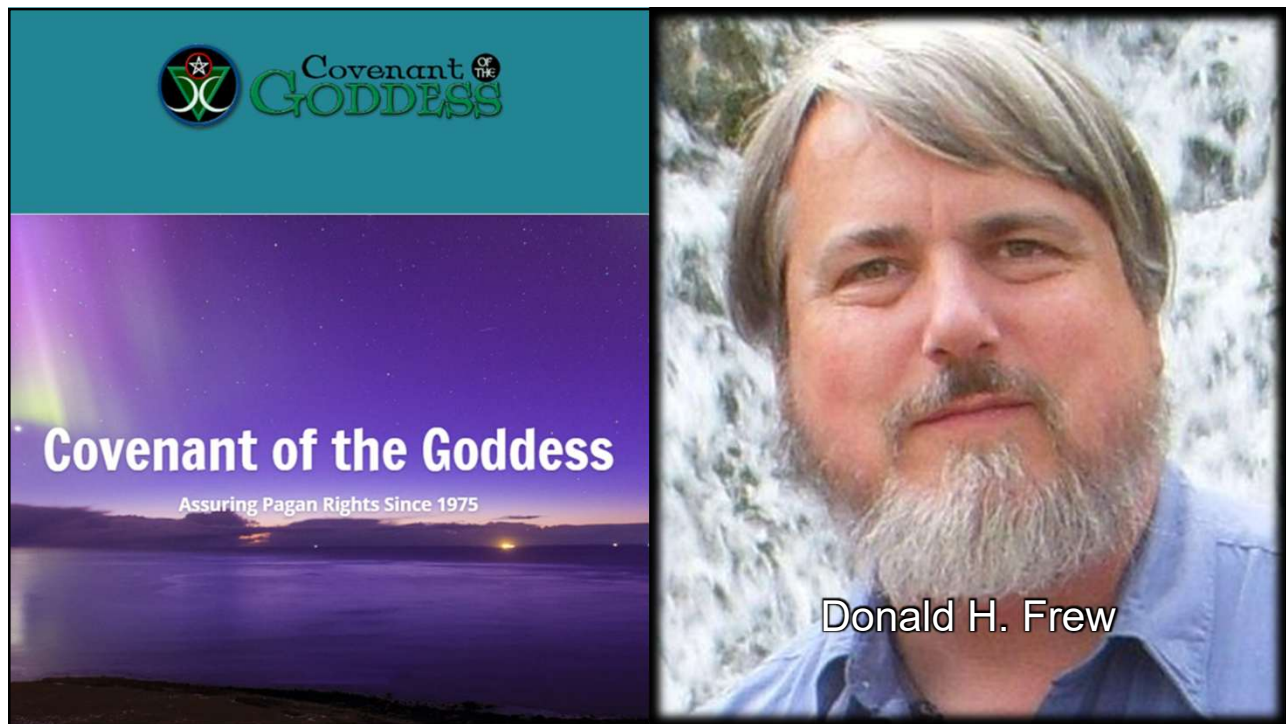
Speakers: Margot Adler

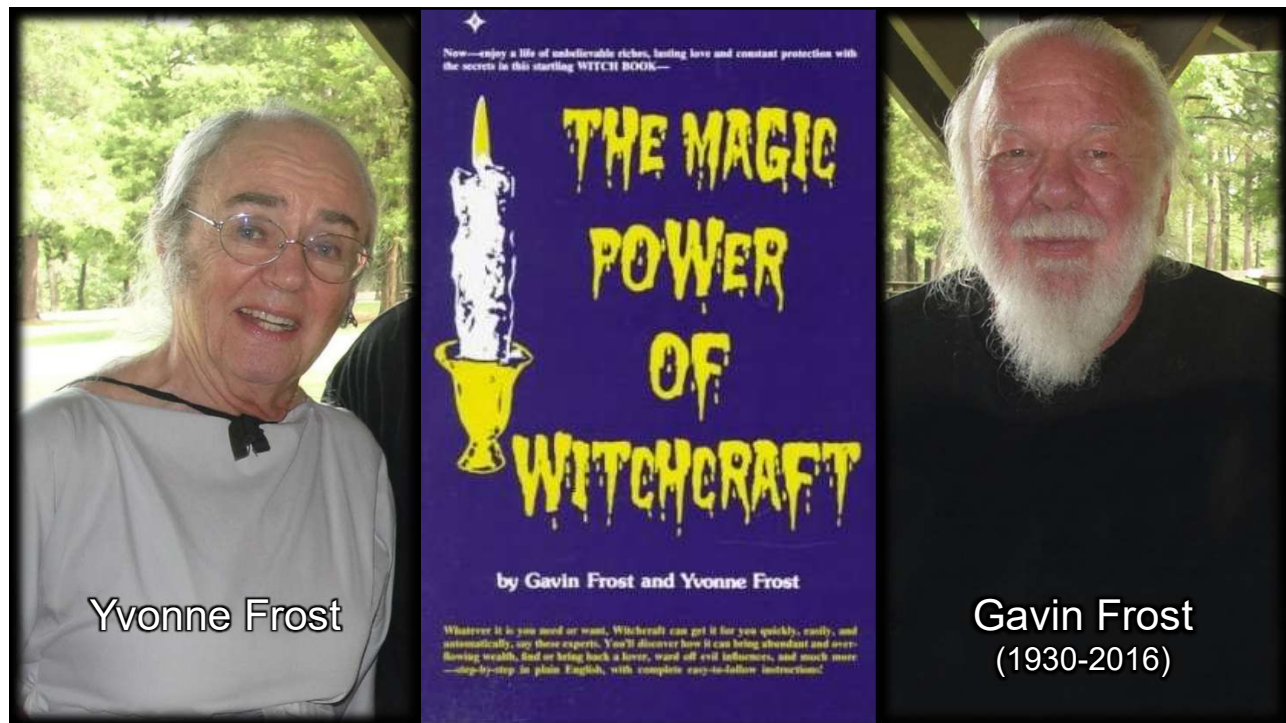
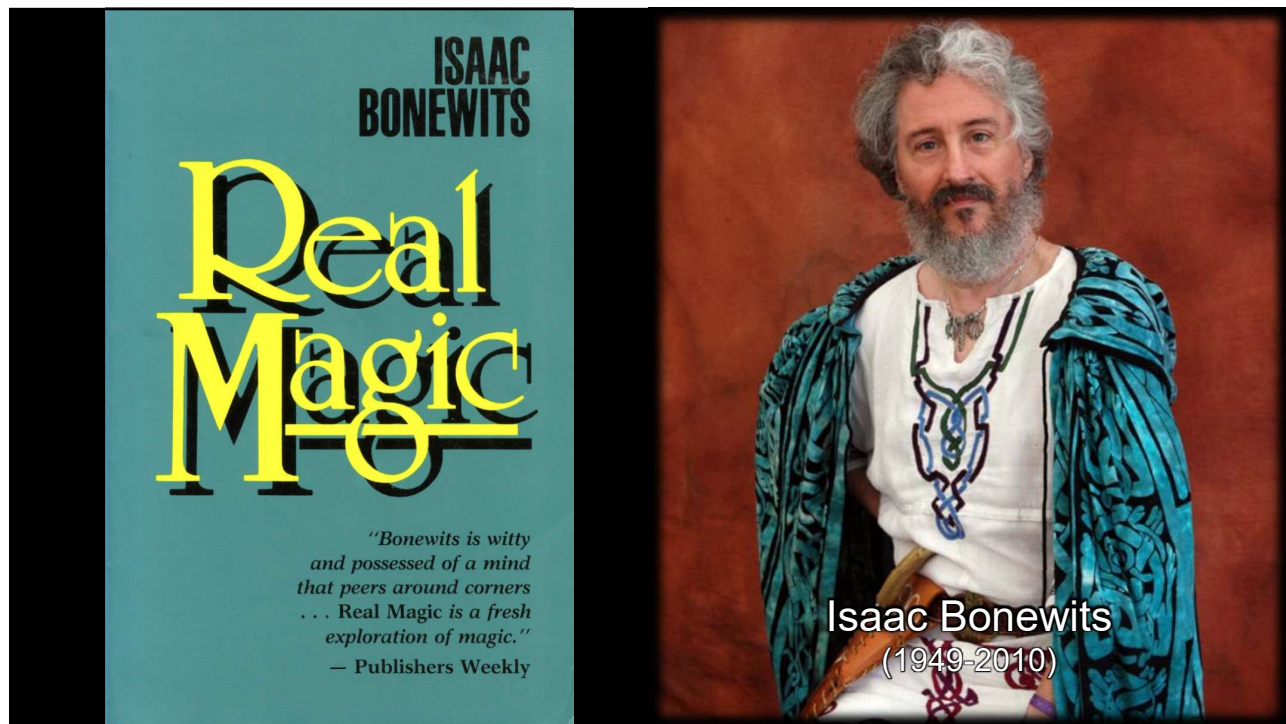
Prepared for UUA.org by: Chris Sealy, Reporter, Marry Levine Young, Editor

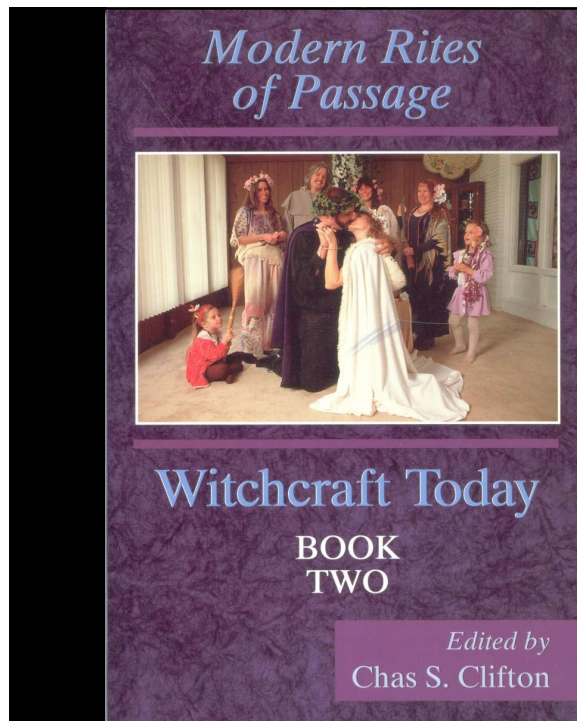
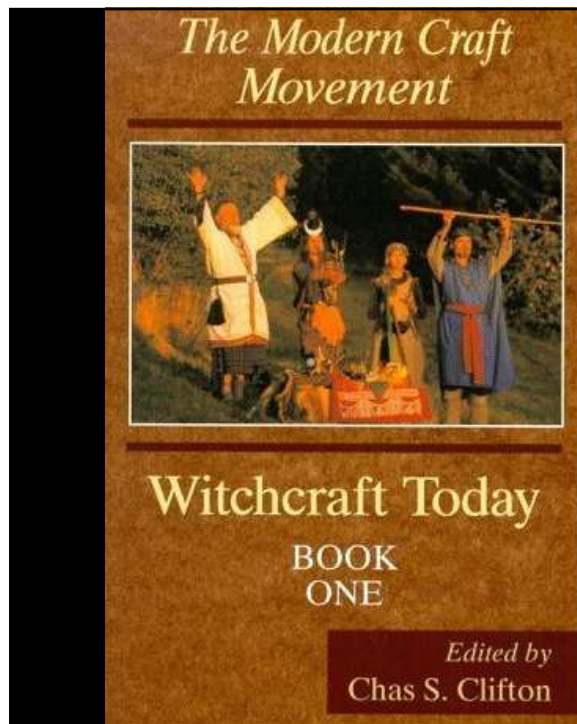
The Many Faces of Witchcraft

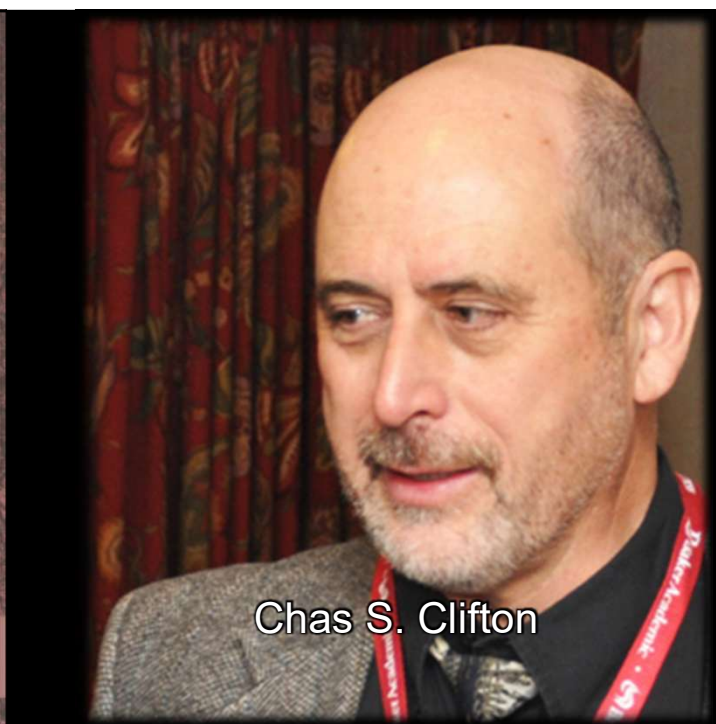
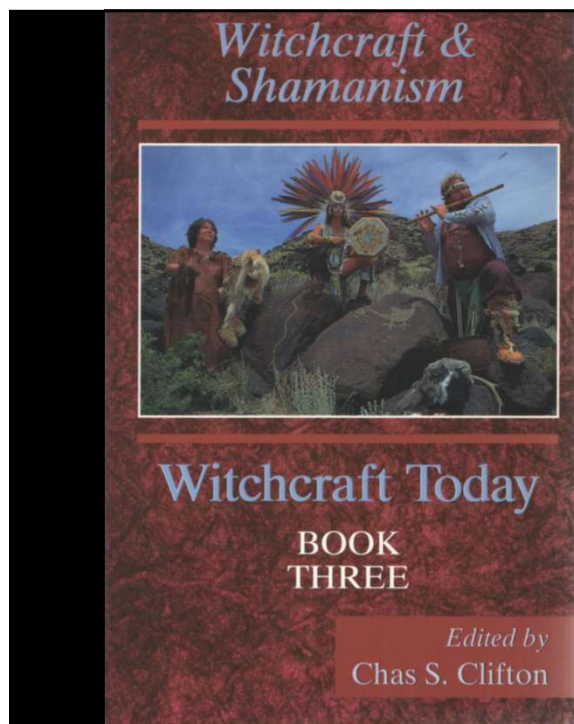




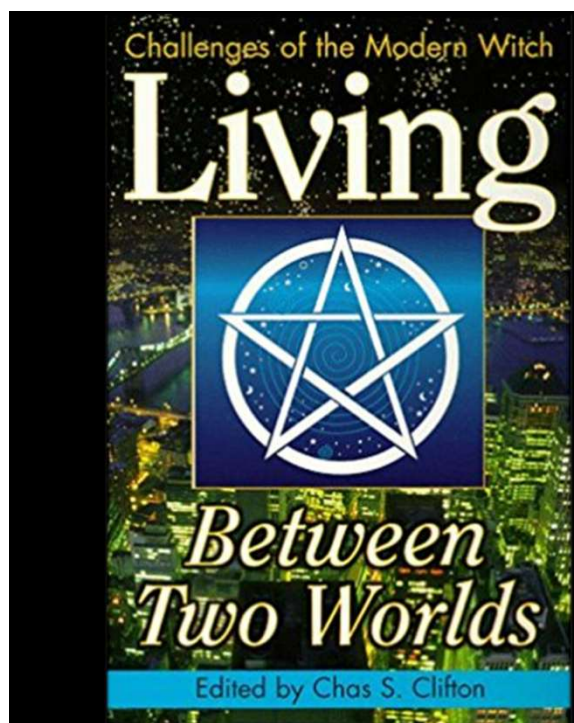




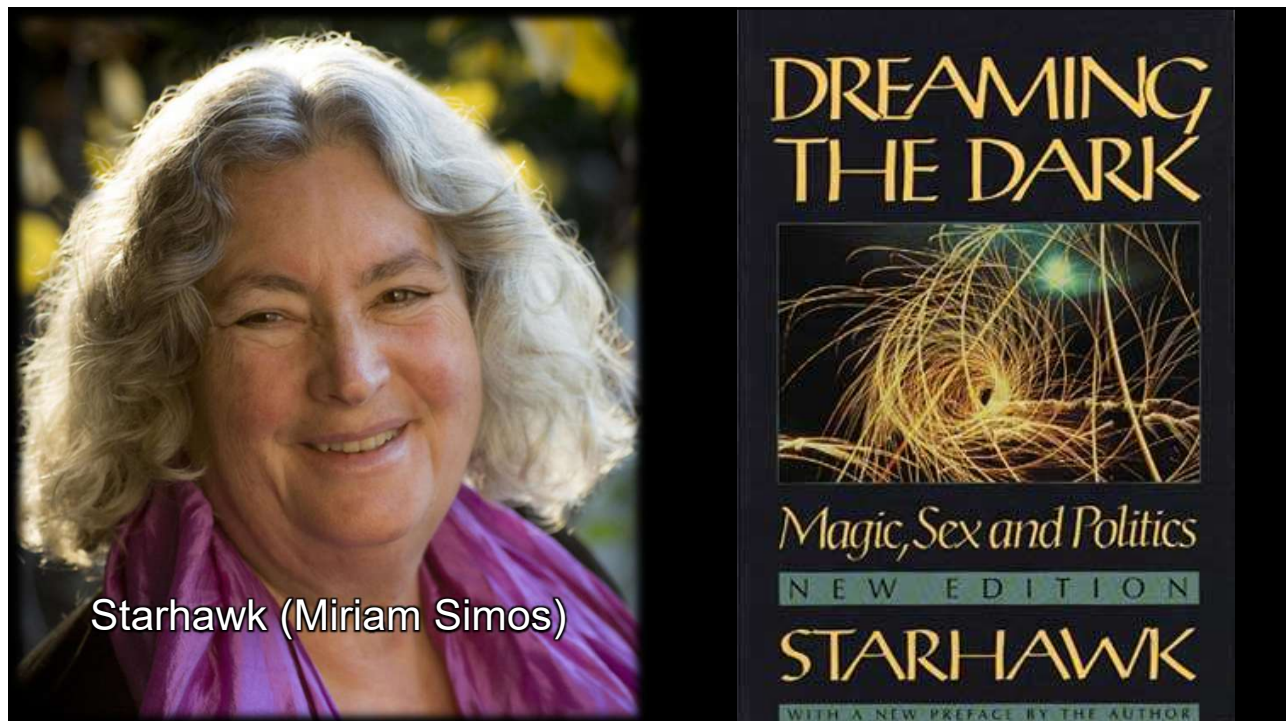
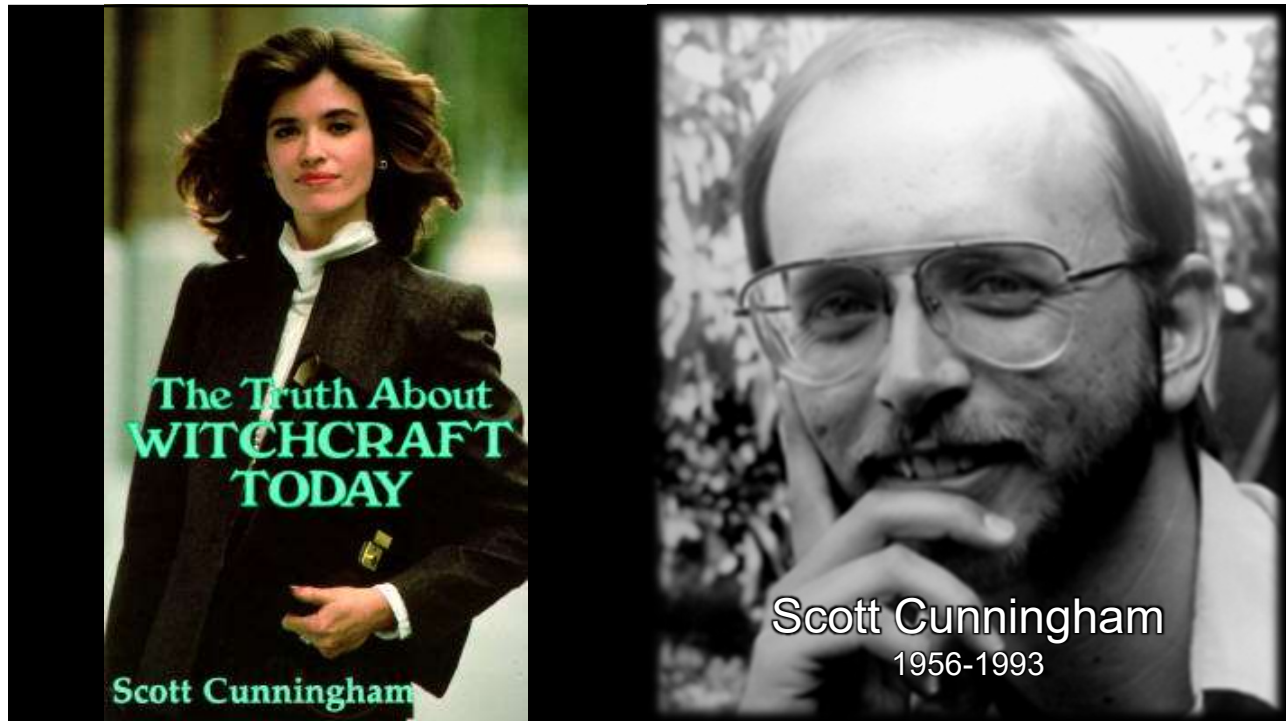


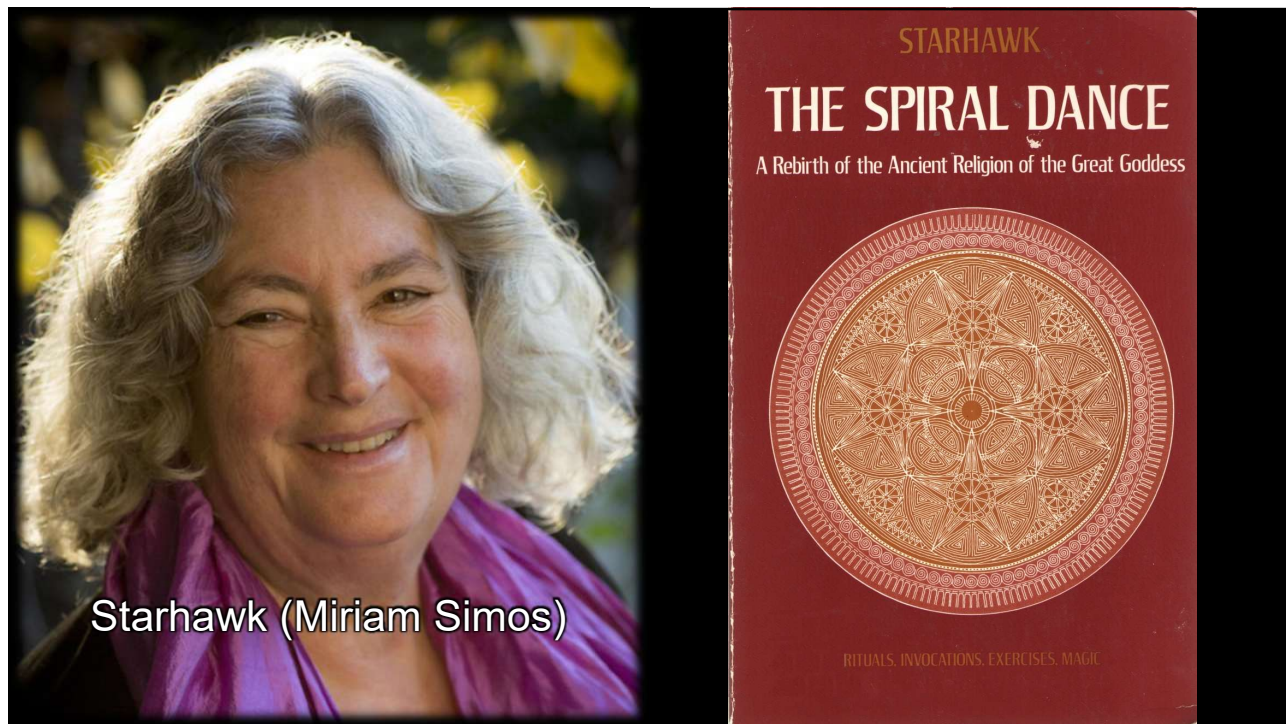


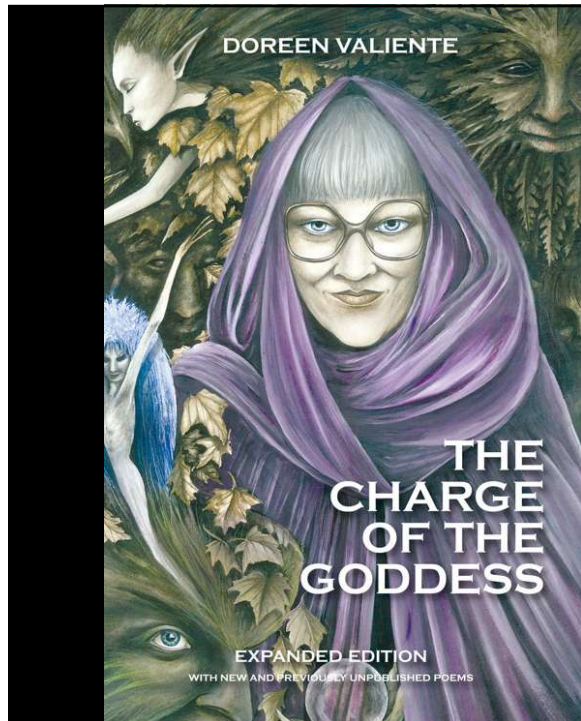
Chas S. Clifton



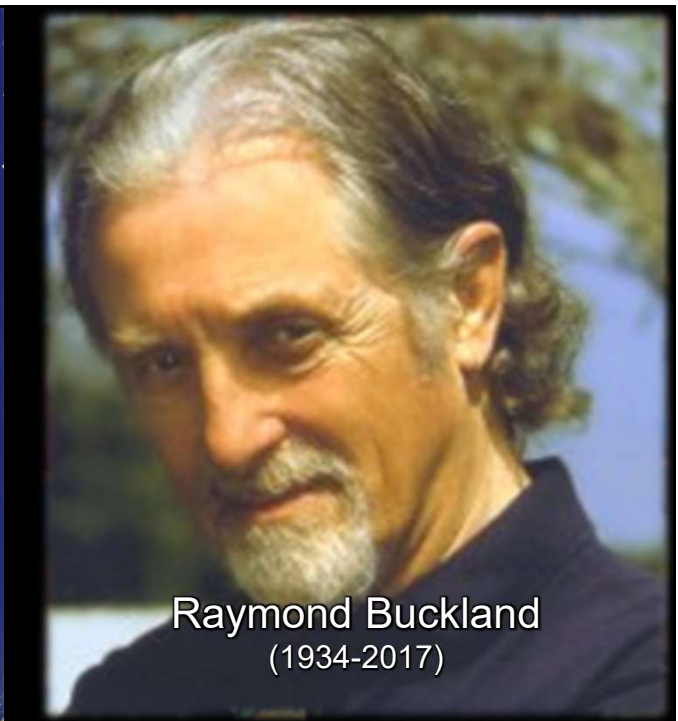
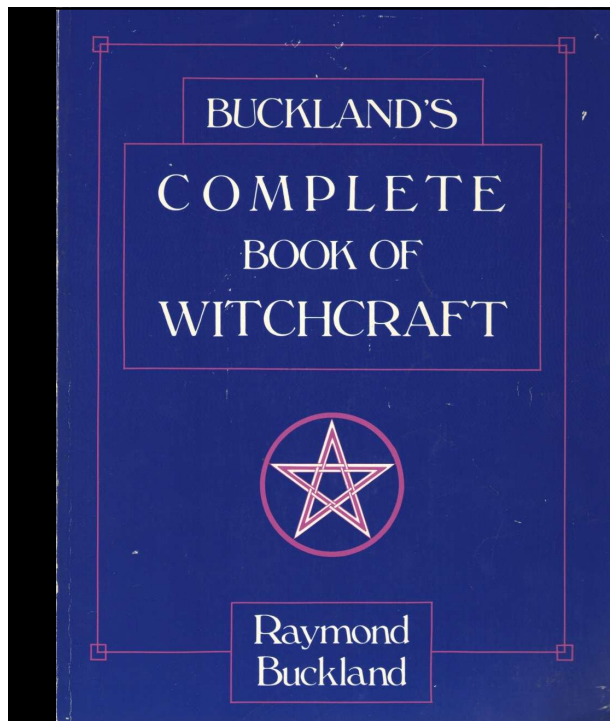
Chas S. Clifton



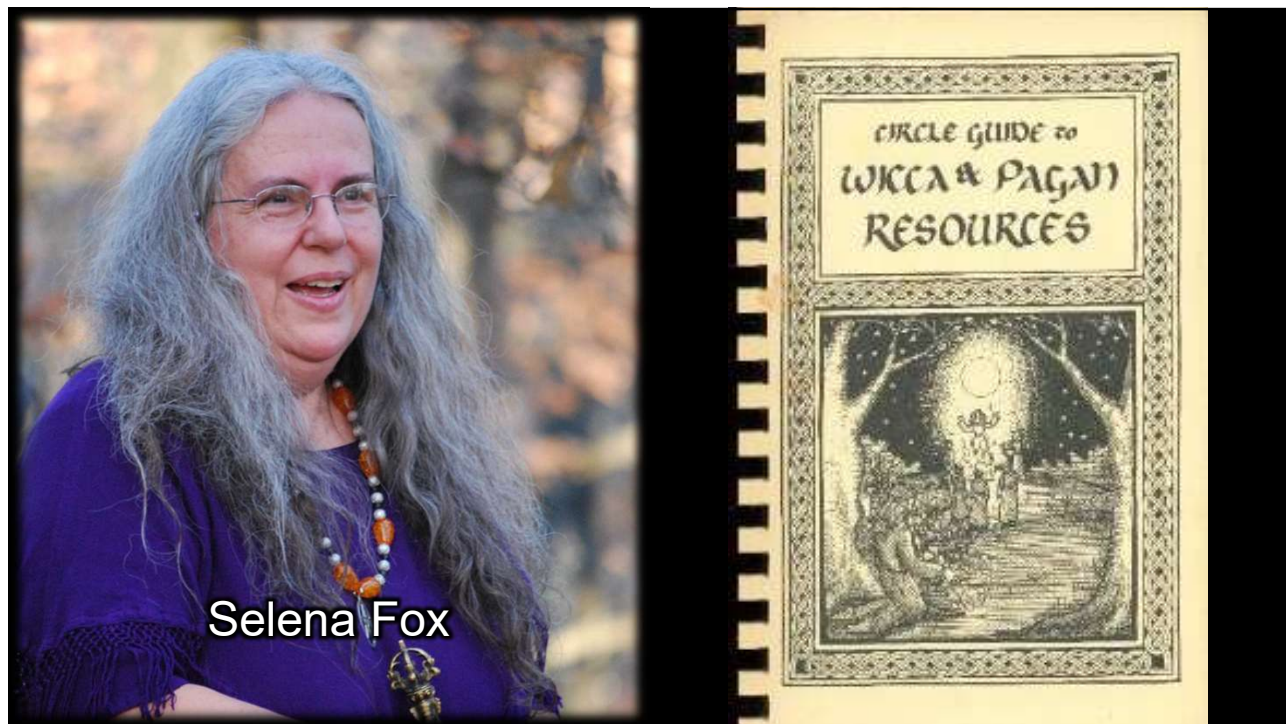




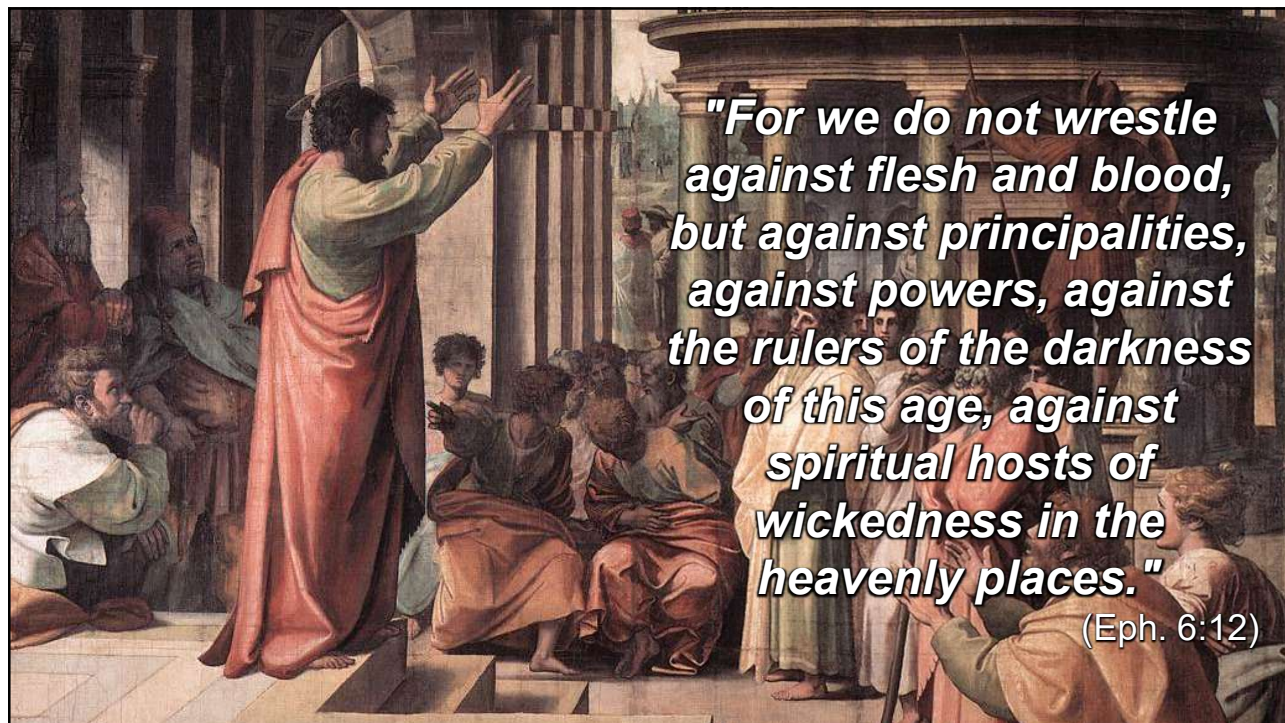
Doreen Valiente
(1922-1999)



Raymond Buckland
(1934-2017)



Witchcraft Is a Religion



Witchcraft Is a Worldview

Naturalism There is no transcendent reality.		Supernaturalism There is a transcendent reality.
Atheism	Pantheism	Theism
Humanism Nothing is God.	New Age Everything is God.	Christianity Only God is God.
Monistic Reality is made of one kind of thing. matter spirit		Dualistic Reality is made of two kinds of things: God and His creation. Note that this distinction is not merely material vs. immaterial.
Evolution The basic elements of the universe are eternal. Darwinism Reincarnation		Creation The basic elements of the universe are not eternal but are created by God.
Mechanistic All things, in principle, are connected by a cause and effect relationship. science occultism		Rationality and Free Will God has rationality and free will and has created humans with rationality and free will.
Experience Everything in principle can be discovered by experience. scientism mysticism		Experience and Revelation Some things can be known about God through His creation while other things can be known only by revelation from God.



Witchcraft
Is Occult



Spiritual "Law"



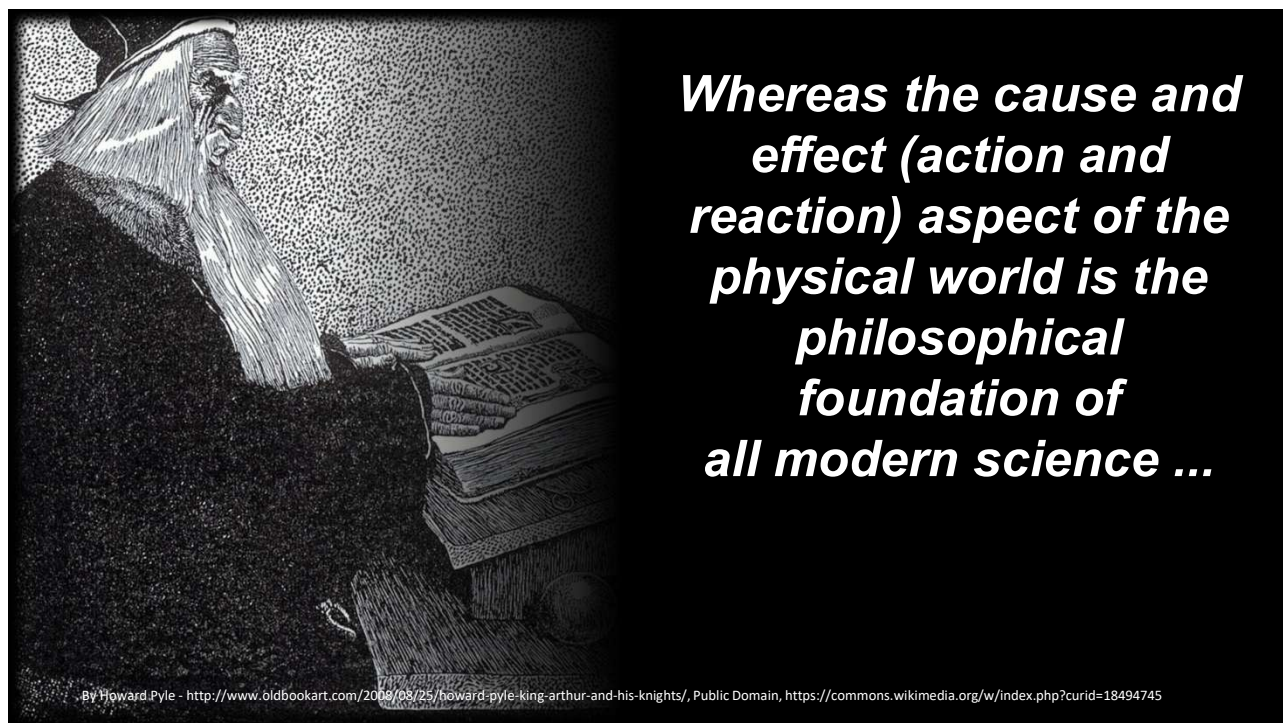
Spiritual "Law" is the notion that the spiritual or non-physical realm operates according to laws or regularities like the physical realm does.

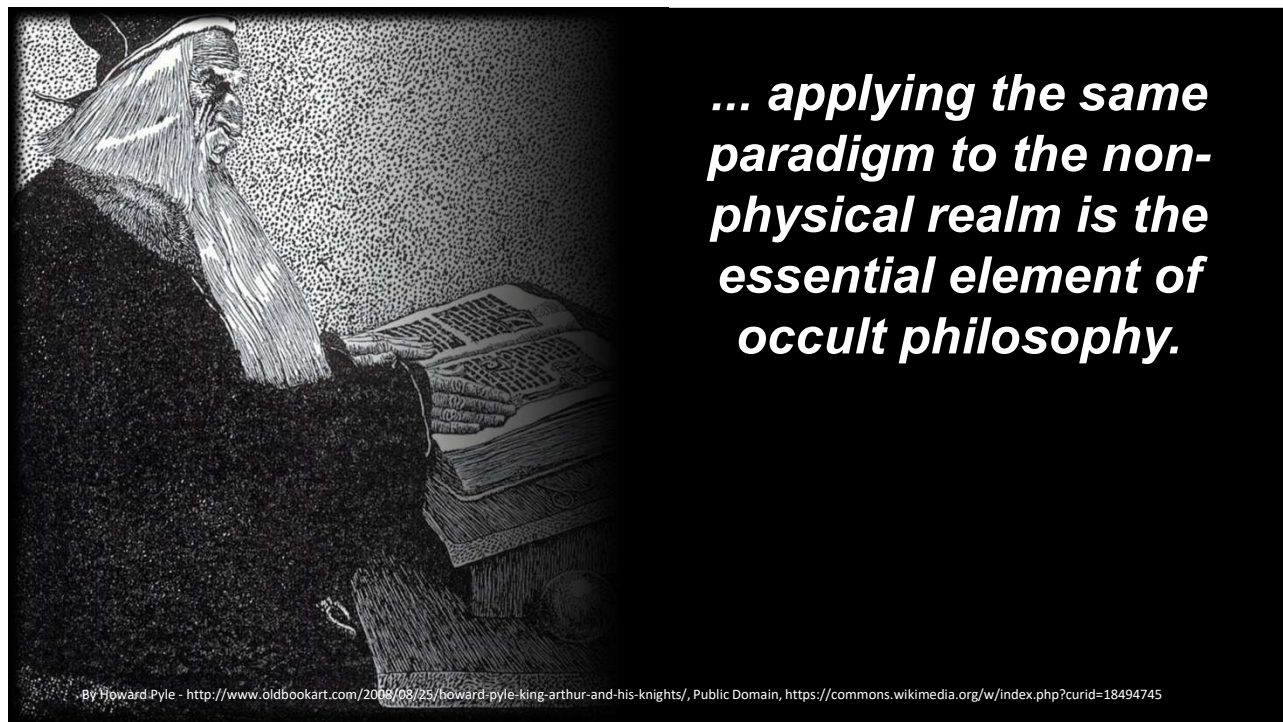
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Much of occult practice is mastering these "laws" in order to manipulate the spiritual realm to get physical results.

By Howard Pyle - <http://www.oldbookart.com/2008/08/25/howard-pyle-king-arthur-and-his-knights/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18494745>





Natural Science

Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world



Occultism

Mastering the "laws" that describe the behavior of the non-physical realm to enable us to control non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world

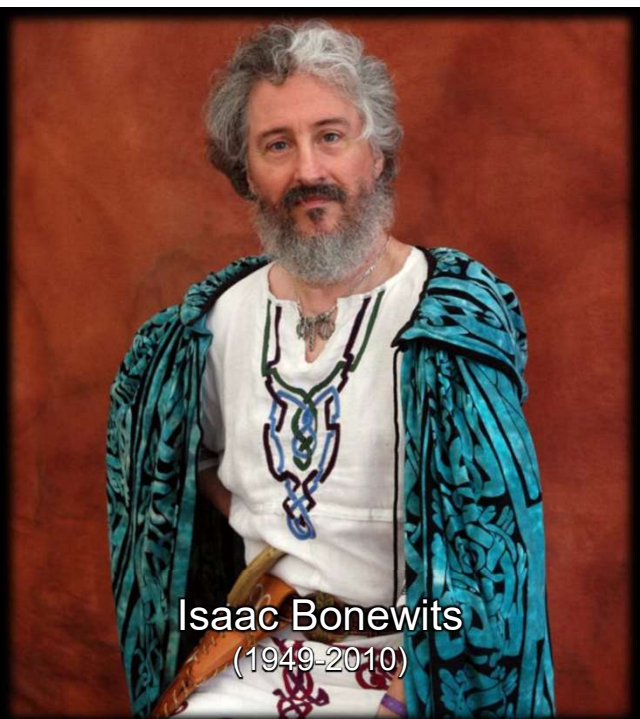
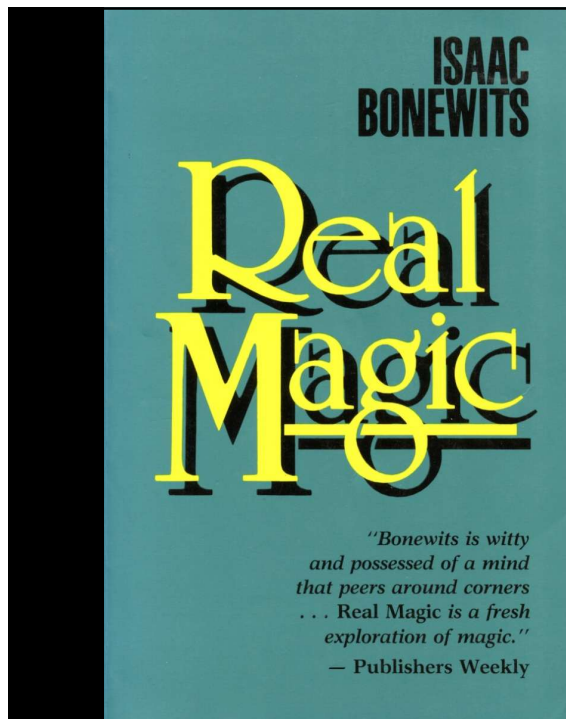
Natural Science ✓

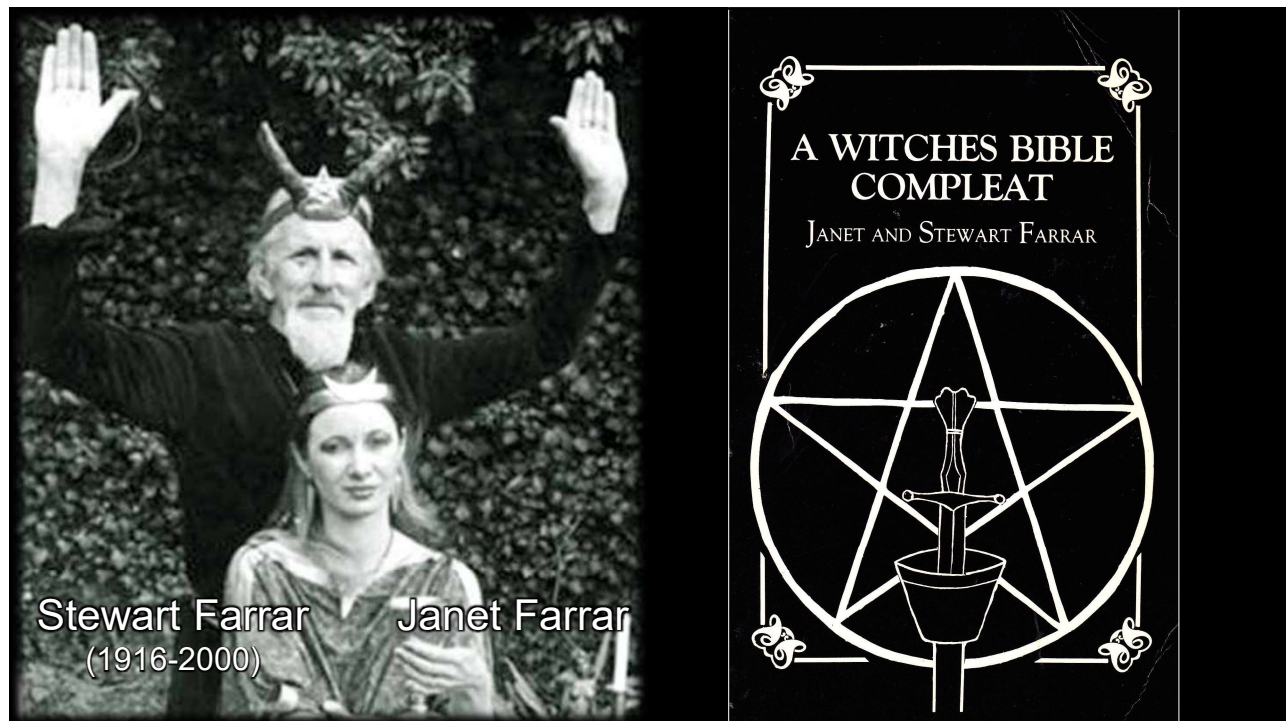
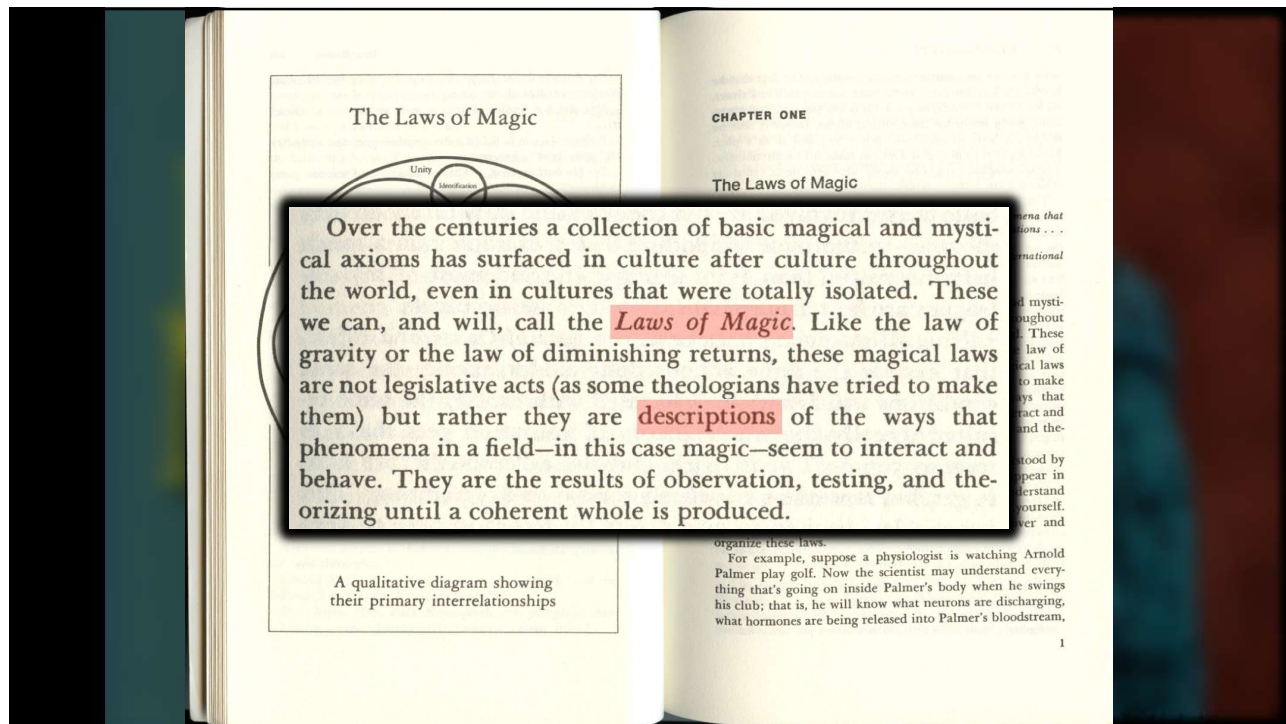
Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world



Occultism

Mastering the "laws" that describe the behavior of the non-physical realm to enable us to control non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world





But Consciousness is human, too. The individual conscious mind is a comparative newcomer to the evolutionary scene on this planet, and – at least as far as land animals are concerned! – it is the unique gift of *homo sapiens*. No other physically manifested land animal has it, though one or two of the higher mammals seem to possess its first embryonic stirrings. Sentimentalists credit their favourite animals with it to a quasi-human degree, but this is pure projection (and a misunderstanding of the nature of consciousness) given colour by the fact that some of the animals' instinctual patterns conditioned reflexes

The Theory of Levels maintains that reality exists and operates on many planes (physical, etheric, astral, mental, spiritual, to give a simplified but generally accepted list²); that each of these levels has its own laws; and that these sets of laws, while special to their own levels, are compatible with each other, their mutual resonance governing the interaction between the levels.

The Theory of Polarity maintains that all activity, all manifestation, arises from (and is inconceivable without) the interaction of pairs and complementary opposites – positive and negative, light and dark,

The Theory of Levels maintains that reality exists and operates on many planes (physical, etheric, astral, mental, spiritual, to give a simplified but generally accepted list²); that **each of these levels has its own laws**; and that these sets of laws, while special to their own levels, are compatible with each other, their mutual resonance governing the interaction between the levels.

their conflict will paralyse or even destroy him, and possibly the Earth too; he will have betrayed the trust of his 'dominion'.

So it is incumbent upon witches, whose religion and Craft stem from the inner depths, to be truly the Wise People and show that Wicca satisfies the intellect as well. They have to demonstrate to themselves and to the world that their faith accords with reality and therefore does not (however beautiful it appears on the surface) contain the seeds of self-destruction.

The rationale of Wicca is a philosophical framework into which every phenomenon, from chemistry to clairvoyance, from logarithms to love, can be reasonably fitted. And since Wicca is a fast-growing movement, active in a real world, it must (without ever losing or weakening its preoccupation with the psychic depths) constantly explain, examine, develop and improve that philosophy.

The rationale of Wicca, as we see it, rests upon two fundamental principles: the Theory of Levels, and the Theory of Polarity.

The trouble was that he did it so brilliantly, with such awe-inspiring and heady success, that he deluded himself into thinking that matter was the only level of reality. He came to believe that mind was merely an epiphenomenon, an electro-chemical activity of the physical brain; and that 'spirit' was a fantasy, a symbolic projection of man's mental or even glandular conflicts and uncertainties, or at best of his urge to perfection, the true key to which (it was believed) lay in material progress.

One would have thought that organized religion would have put forward a meaningful corrective to all this; but in fact its voice was barely heard crying in the wilderness of triumphant materialism. In all the active arenas of human ideas, religion was relegated to the ethical or charity-doing sidelines, or to moral rationalizations of the social consequences of industrialization. As far as philosophy, the interpretation of cosmic reality, was concerned, it could fight only rear-guard actions. Materialism was the actual dynamic force of the epoch.

(They no longer use the term, because increased knowledge has shown it to be an over-simplification; but it is still a useful bit of shorthand to help the layman to understand what is going on.)

This event in the 'ether', as it stands, is undetectable by the human senses. We cannot see or hear it, in the sky or passing through our walls; but it is there, real and coherent.

In our living-room, another suitably designed equipment takes this 'etheric' event and transforms it, as if by magic, back into a

physical science is governed?

One could go on at length about recent research into such subjects as telepathy, telekinesis, the influence of thought on growing plants, the statistical analysis of Zodiacal birth-sign types and so on; but this is not the place to do it. For an overall review of the field, we recommend Lyall Watson's *Supernature*; and on telepathy in particular, Targ and Puthoff's *Mind Reach* (both in Bibliography).

We shall have more to say on the Theory of Levels in later Section.

The discovery of those connections is the aim of the scientist (on the physical plane) and of the witch (on all the planes). The use of those discoveries is 'magic'. Magic does not break the laws of Nature; when it appears to do so, that is because it is **obeying laws that the observer has not yet understood**.

never in continuity with what he goes on to say, however that continuous phenomenon, though we do not know in all cases how these things are connected.' (*Magick in Theory and Practice*, Introduction pp. XII and XV.)

The discovery of those connections is the aim of the scientist (on the physical plane) and of the witch (on all the planes). The use of those discoveries is 'magic'. Magic does not break the laws of Nature; when it appears to do so, that is because it is obeying laws that the observer has not yet understood. A sixteenth-century scientist, for example, however intelligent and well-informed, if he could have seen television might well have branded it as supernatural.

As we have said, many modern scientists are becoming aware of (and some of them are investigating) phenomena which can only be explained on the basis that there are levels of reality other than the physical. Attempts to explain these phenomena in terms of still-undiscovered physical laws keep stumbling over fresh paradoxes. For example, if telepathy exists (and only wilful ignorers of evidence can still deny that it does) and is due to some kind of brain-generated radiation – why does all the evidence show that it is not subject to the inverse square law⁴ by which every other form of radiation known to

man's discovery, the gates might say, stretch across the sky and the horizon. But the *positive* description is purely static: nearly 1,500 miles wide, long and high (!) with walls 216 feet high, and foundations and gates of precious stones. The only mentions of any kind of activity or movement are of the righteous walking in it (xxi:24), the river of life 'proceeding' (xxii:1), the tree of life yielding fruit every month (with no Moon!) (xxii:2), and God's servants serving Him (xxii:3). Verse after verse about excluded evils and about (to be fair, doubtless symbolic) dimensions and materials, but effectively nothing about what *happens* there.

Our point is not to mock at St John's high-rise architecture, nor even to complain at his abolition of Sun, Moon, sea, night and candles, but to suggest that his negative, static description is not just his personal style but intrinsic to the monotheistic, non-polarized viewpoint. Under the unchallenged rule of a non-polarized Creator, nothing *can* happen.

Islam's Heaven is much more interesting, if only because Mohammed was sexually healthy and bequeathed to his followers none of the inhibitions and neuroses which woman-baiting Paul of Tarsus imposed on Christianity. So polarity, in its most humanly enjoyable form, brings the Moslem Paradise to life. To the Moslem, woman is

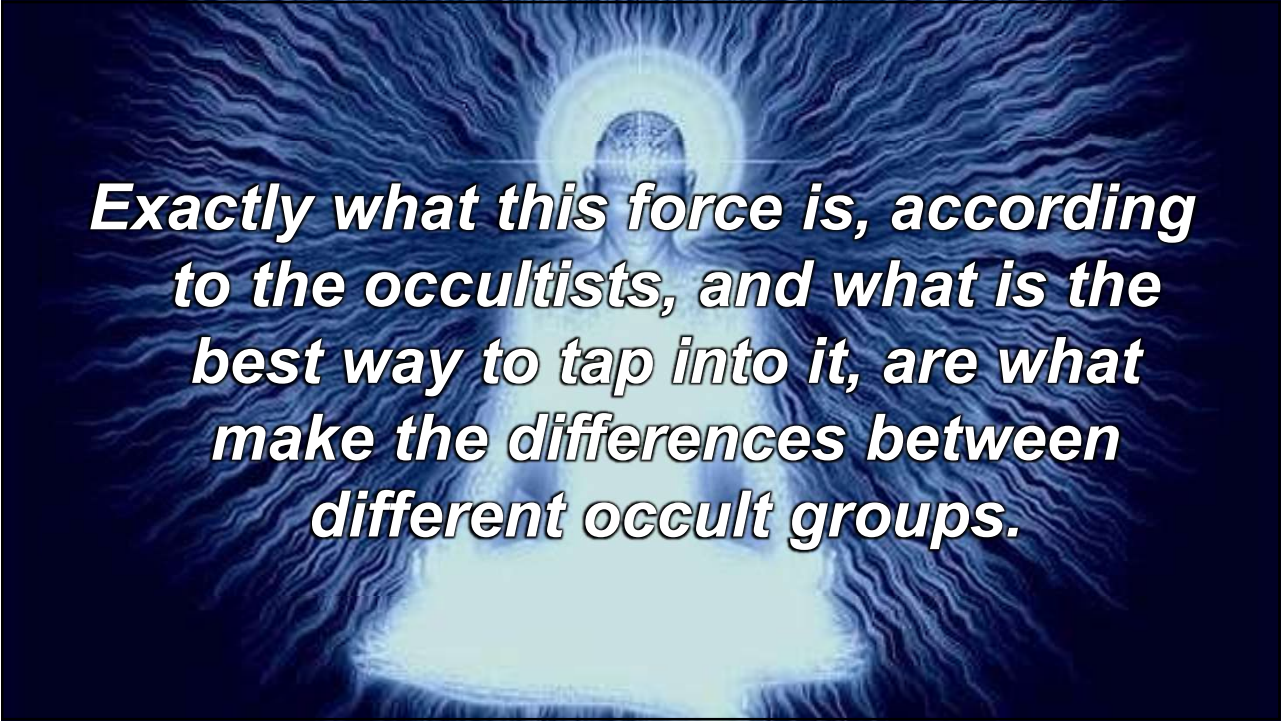
Mechanical vs. Personal



The "Force"



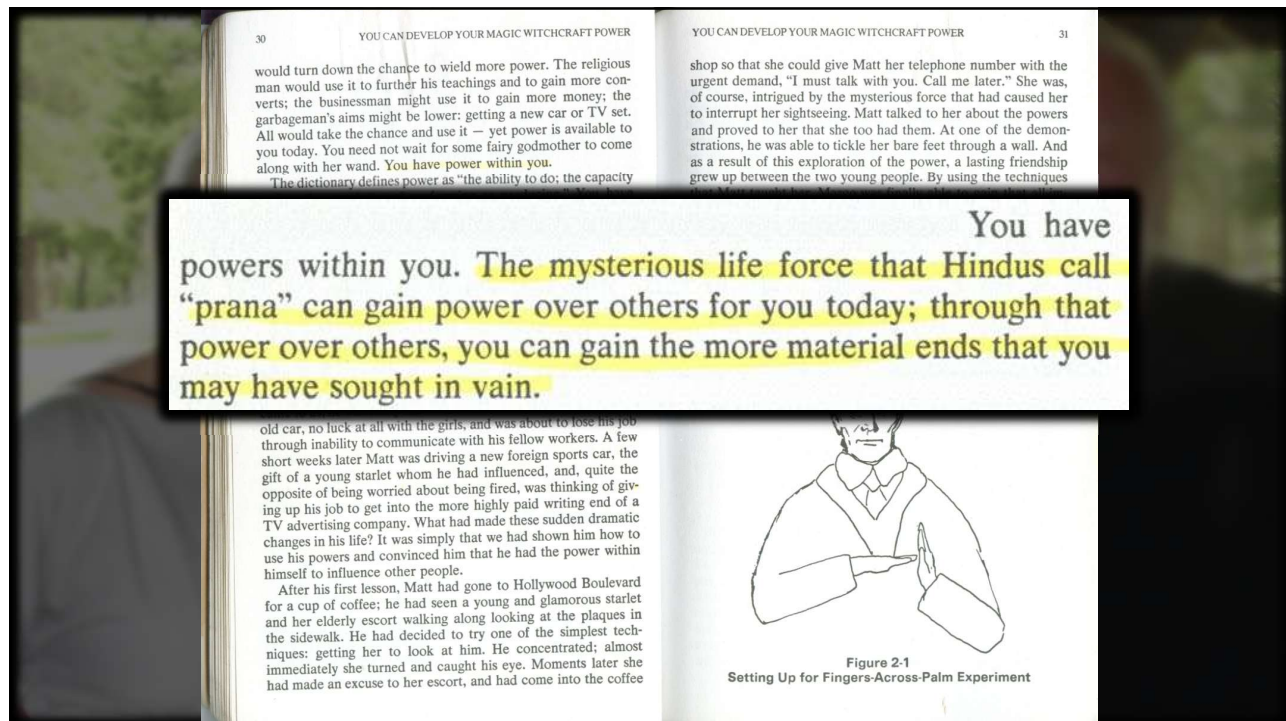
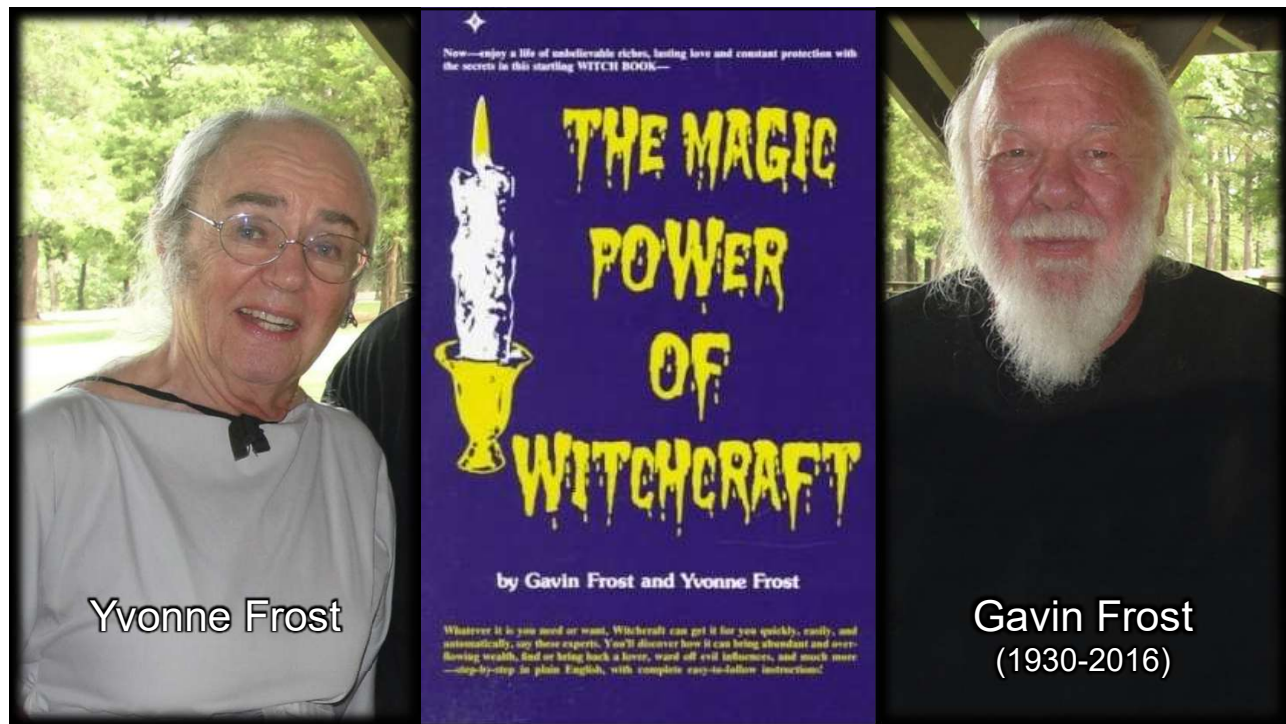
*There is a hidden force or energy
which one can tap into to use for
healing or harm.*

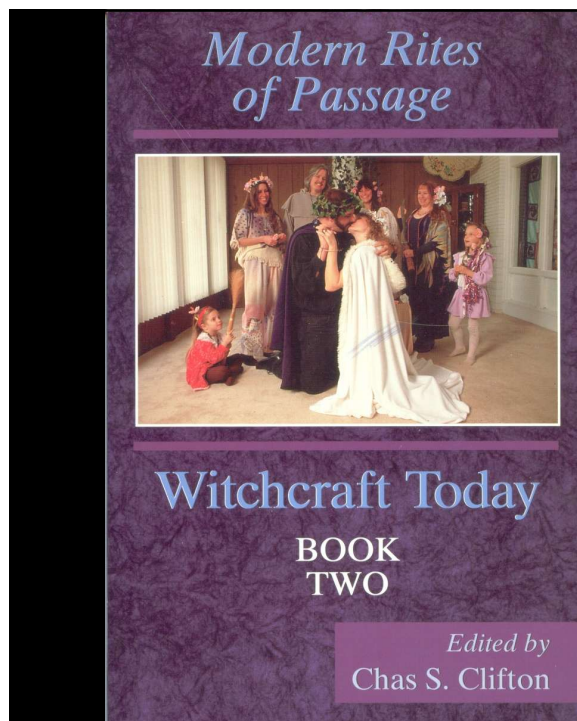
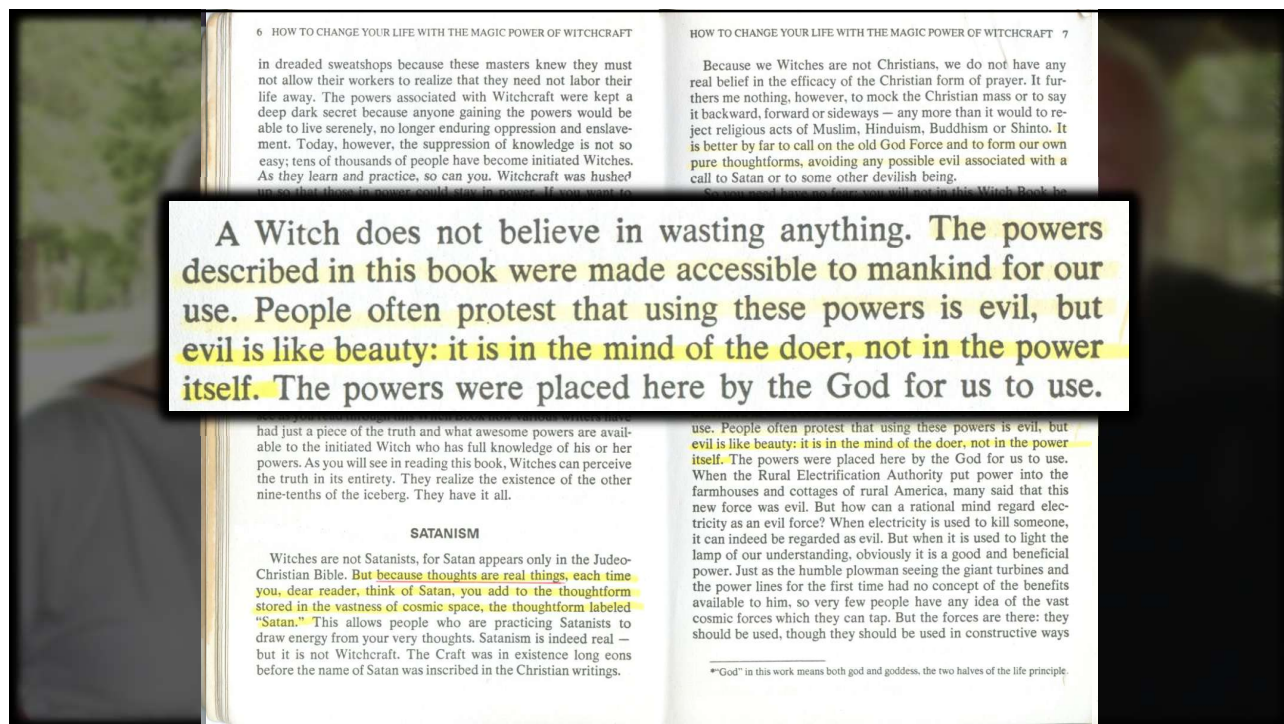


Exactly what this force is, according to the occultists, and what is the best way to tap into it, are what make the differences between different occult groups.



This notion of the force serves as the basis of all occultism.

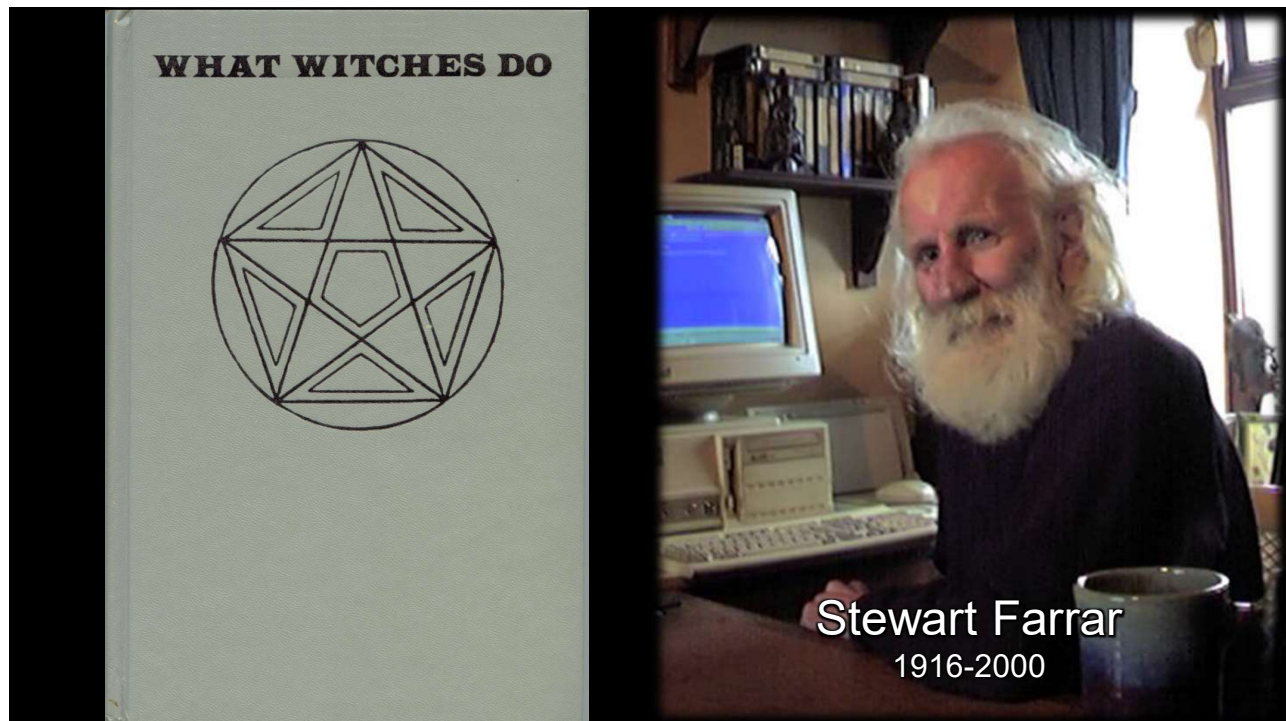


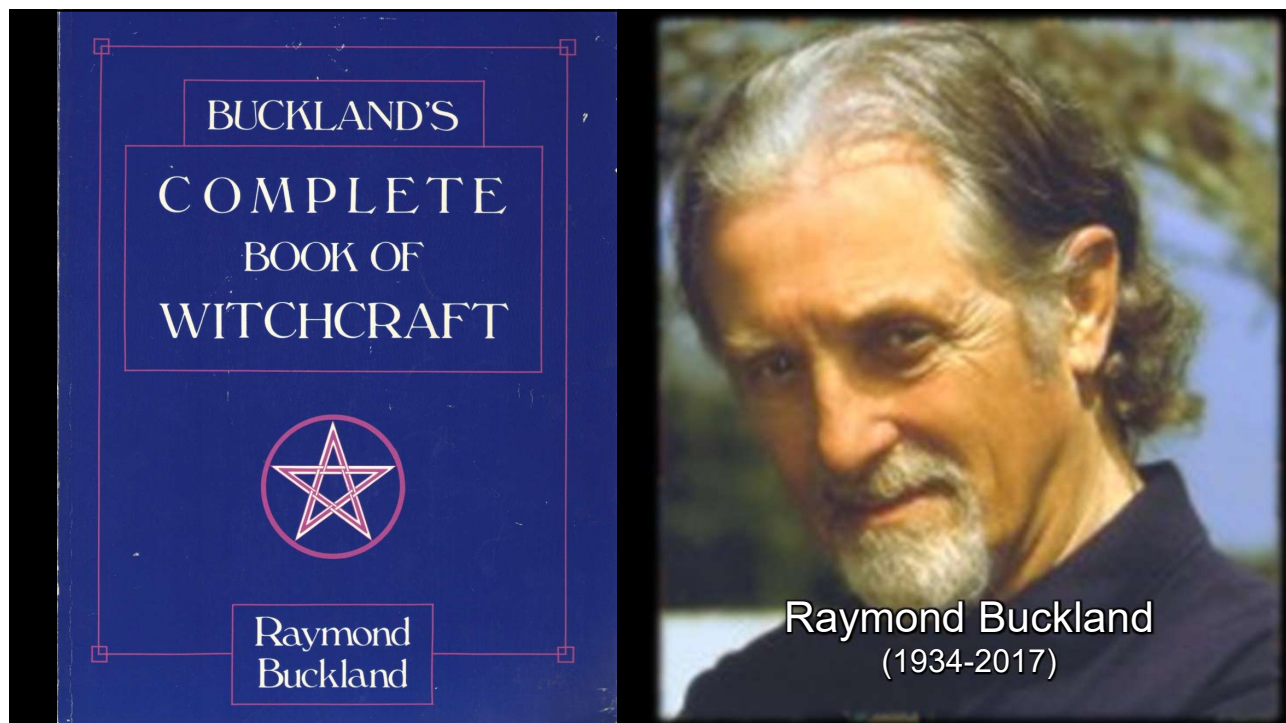
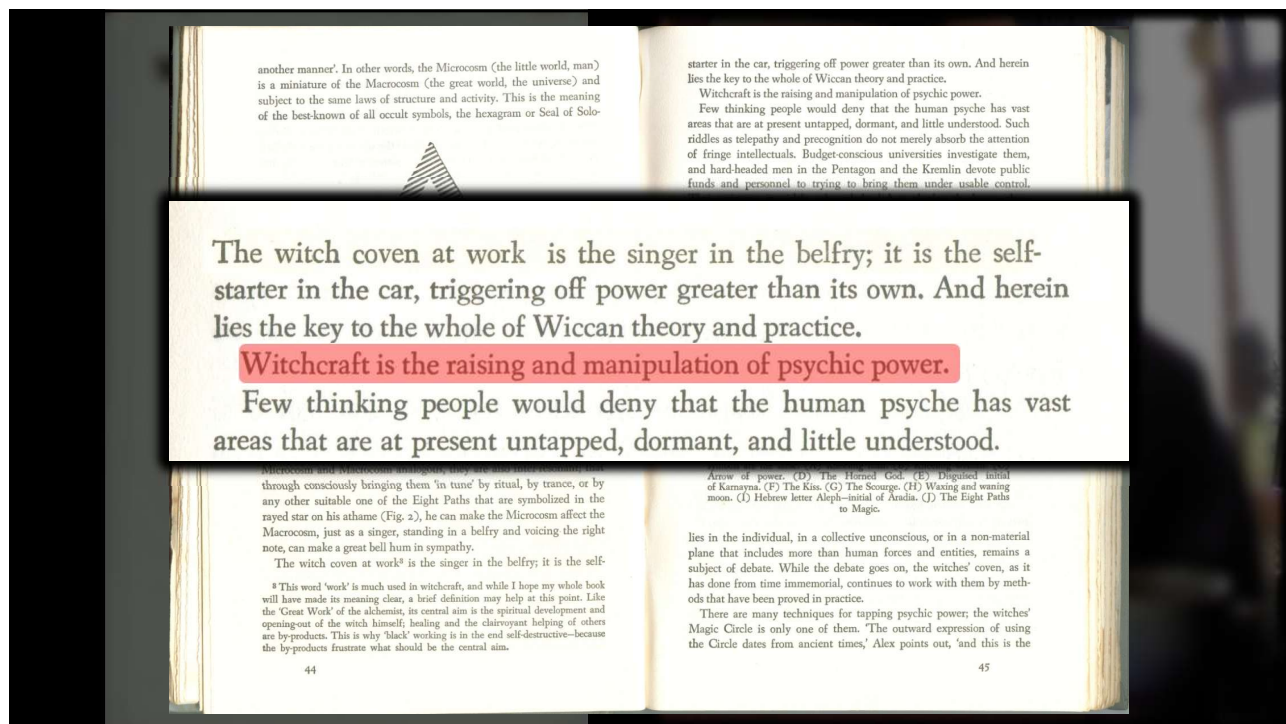


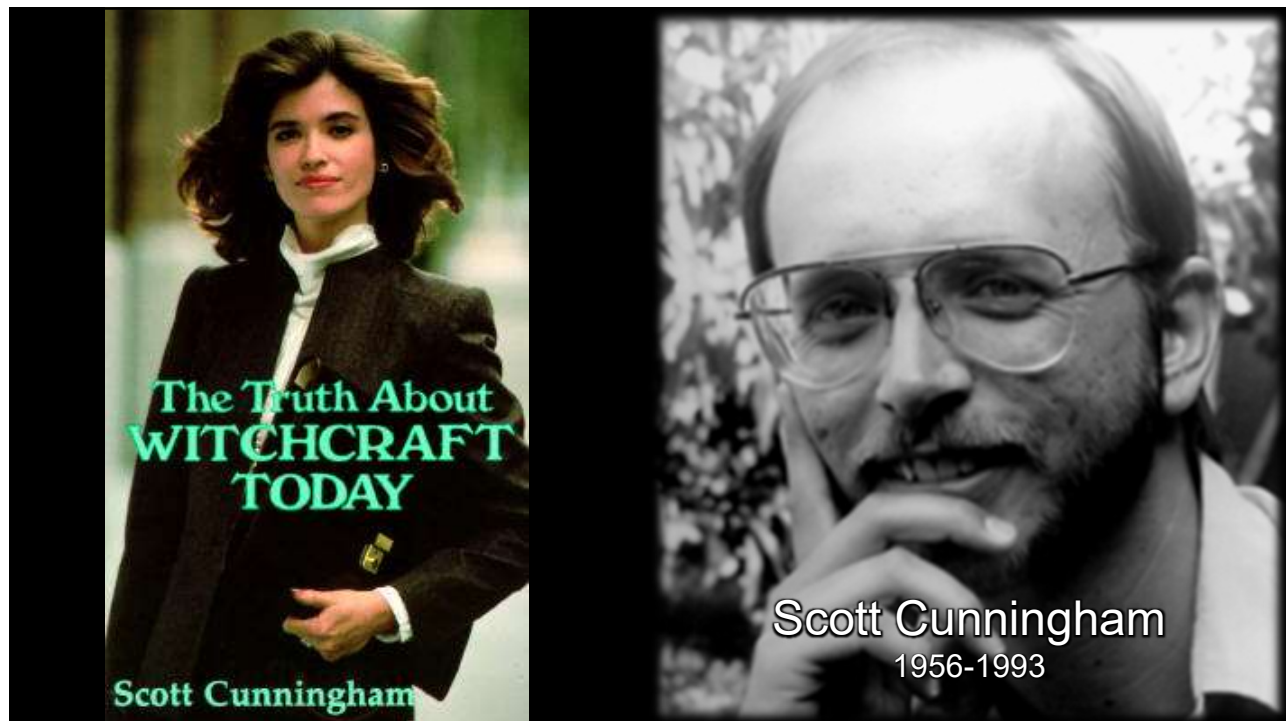
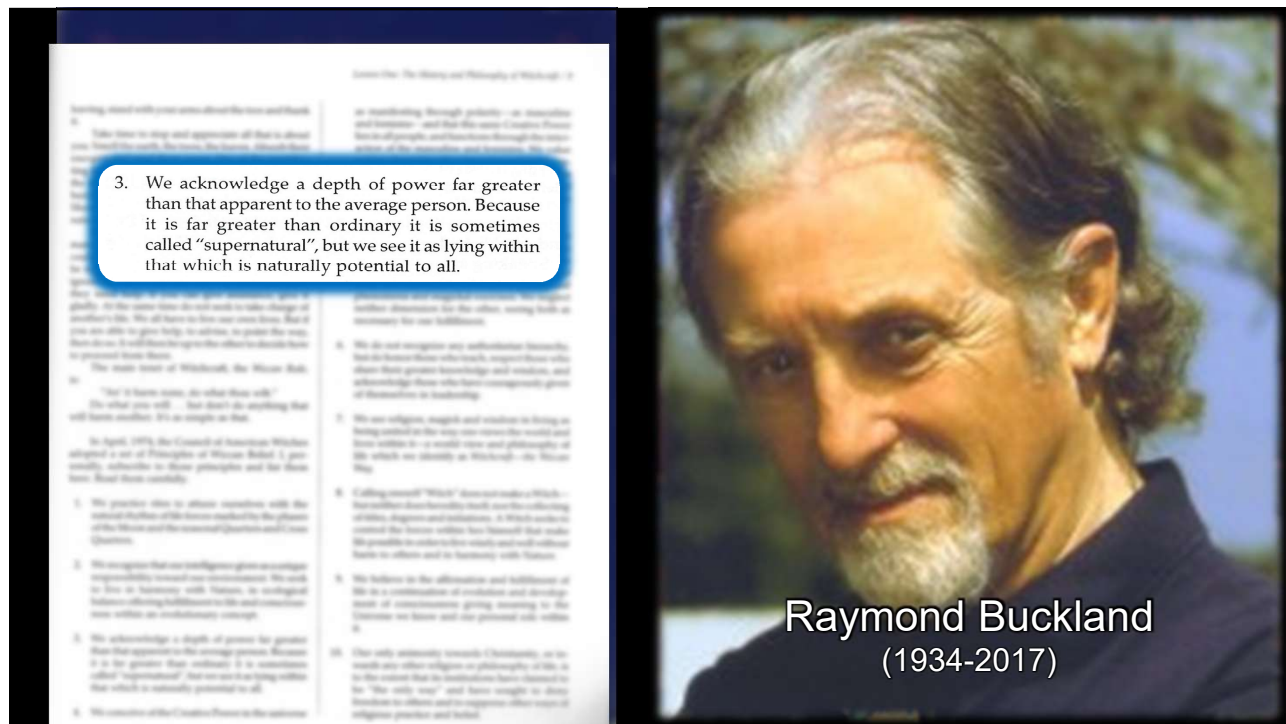
1. We practice rites to attune ourselves with the **natural rhythm of life forces** marked by the full of the Moon and seasonal quarters and cross-quarters.

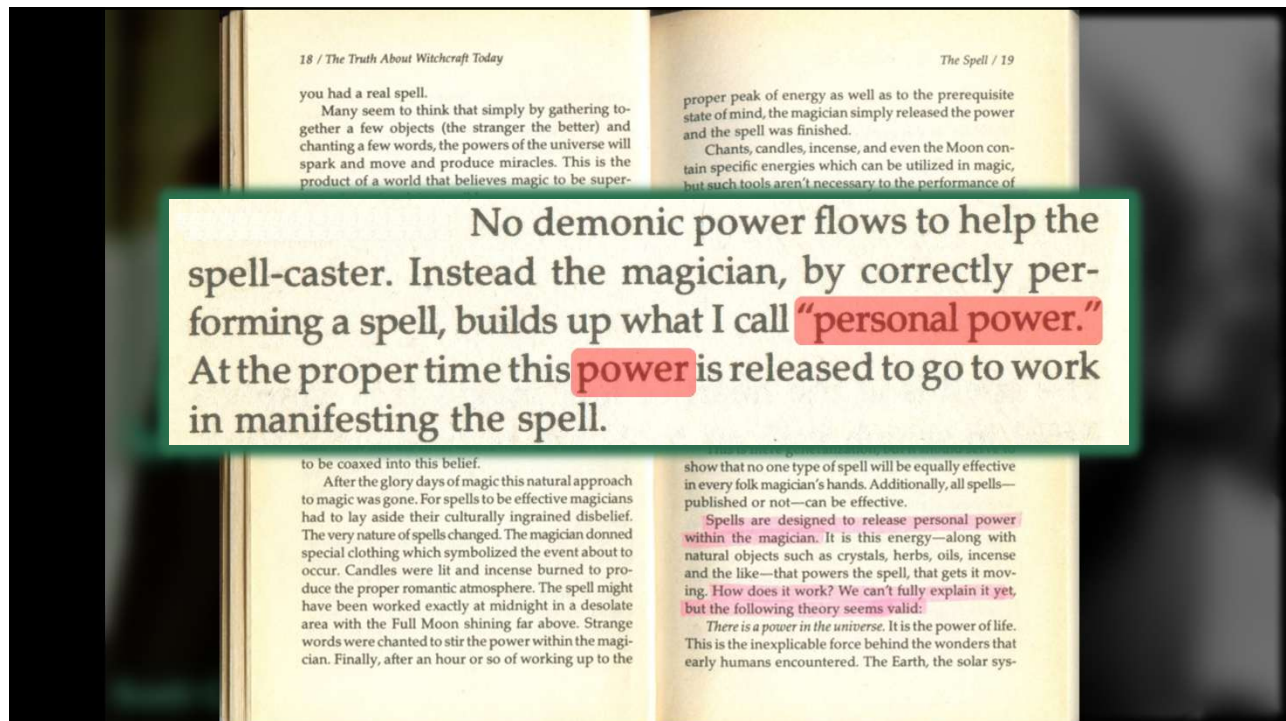
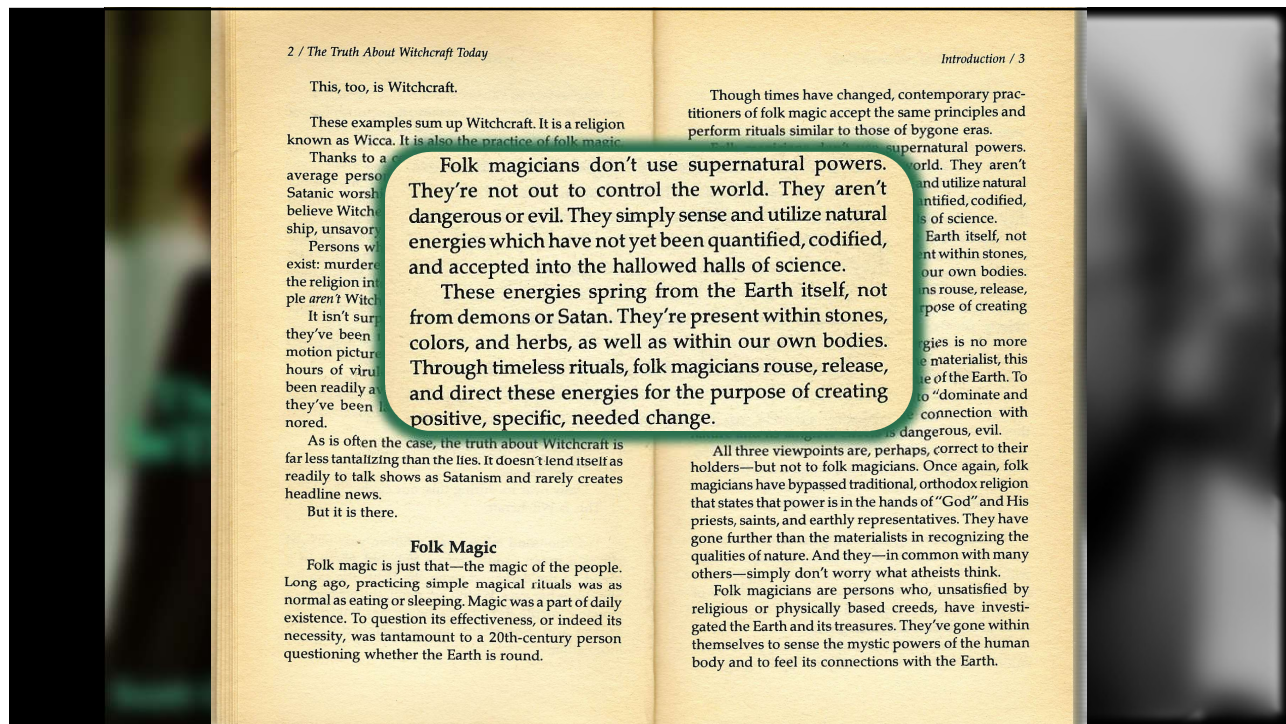
3. We acknowledge **a depth of power** far greater than that apparent to the average person. Because it is far greater than ordinary, it is sometimes called “supernatural,” but we see it as lying within that which is naturally potential to all.

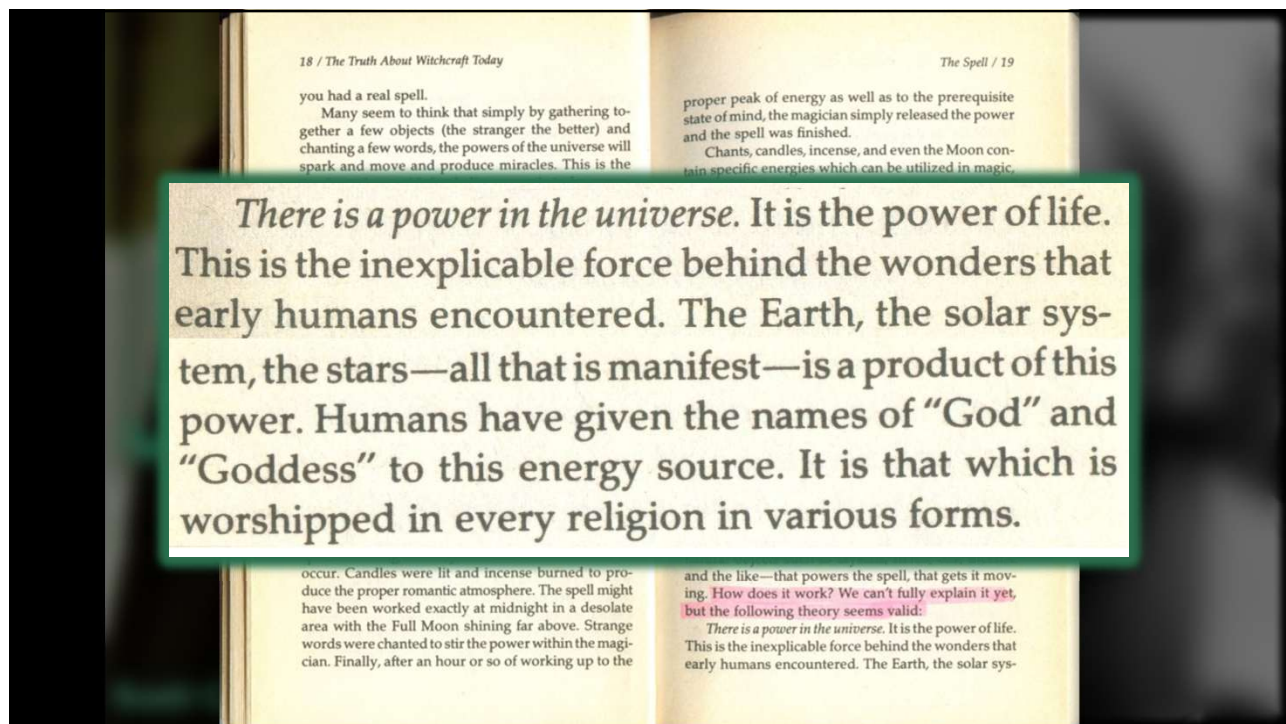
4. We conceive of the **Creative Power in the Universe** as manifesting through polarity—as masculine and feminine—and that this same **Creative Power** lives in all people, and functions through the masculine and feminine. We value neither above the other.



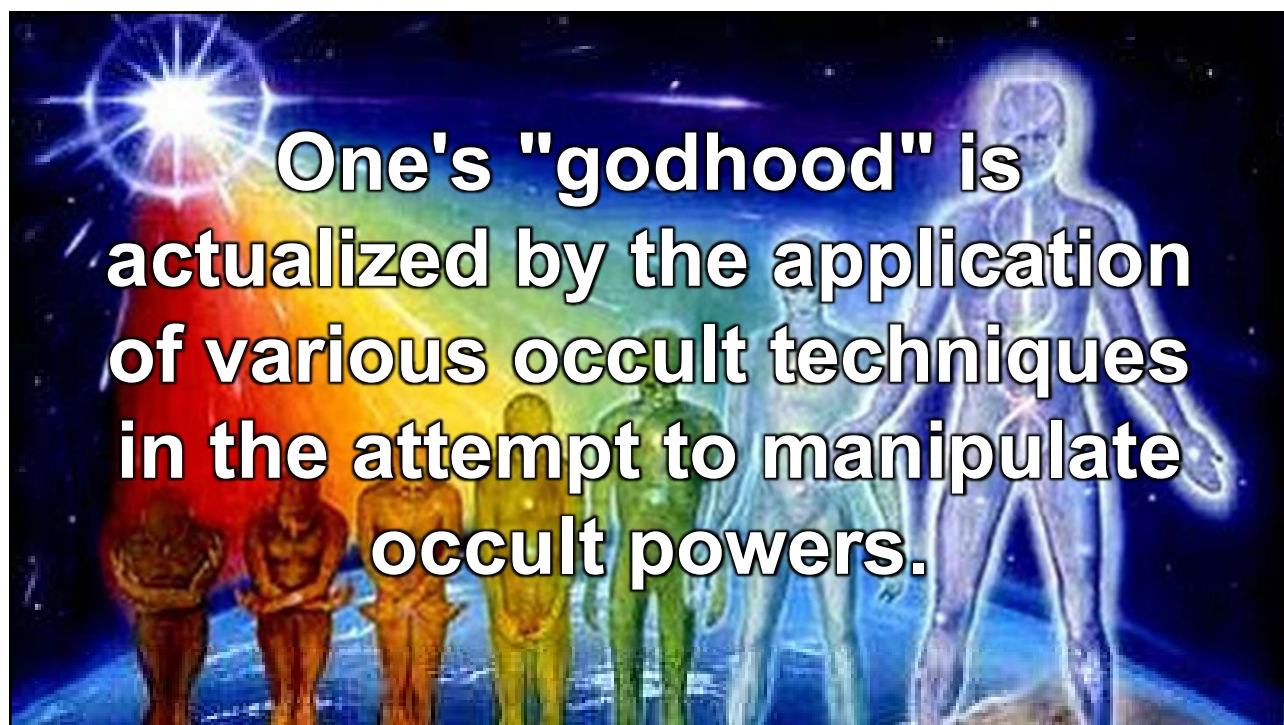


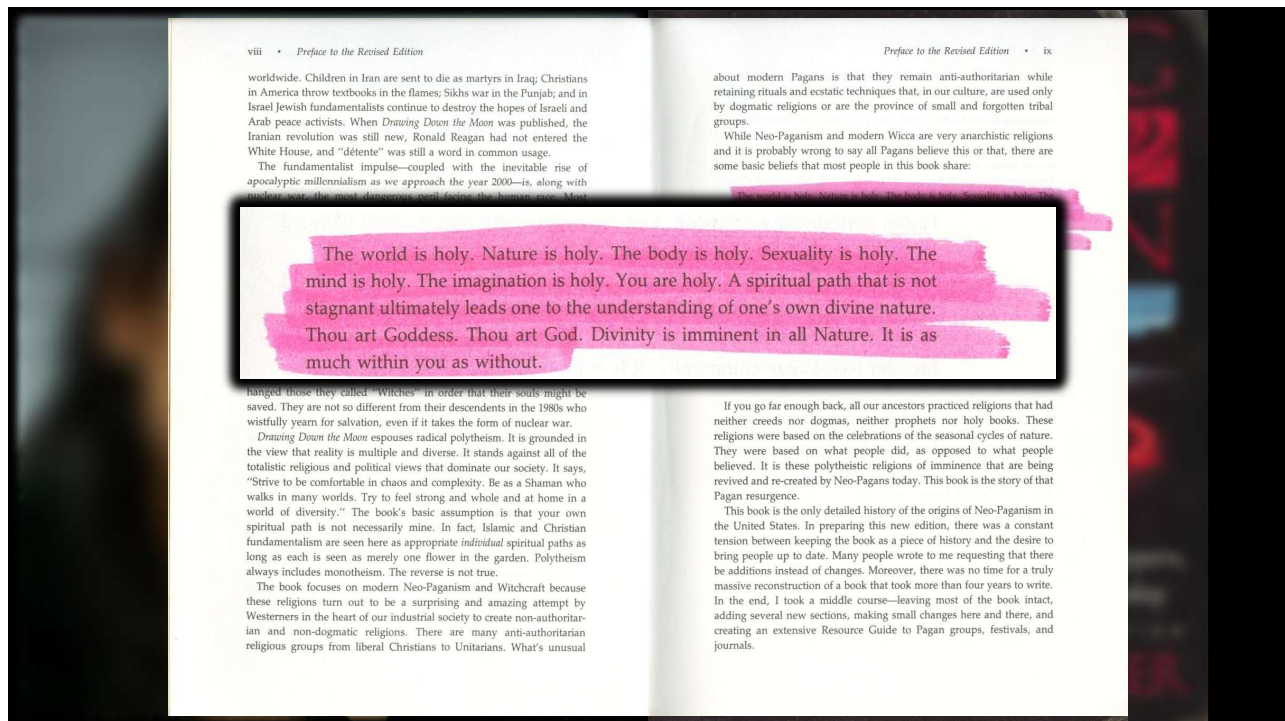
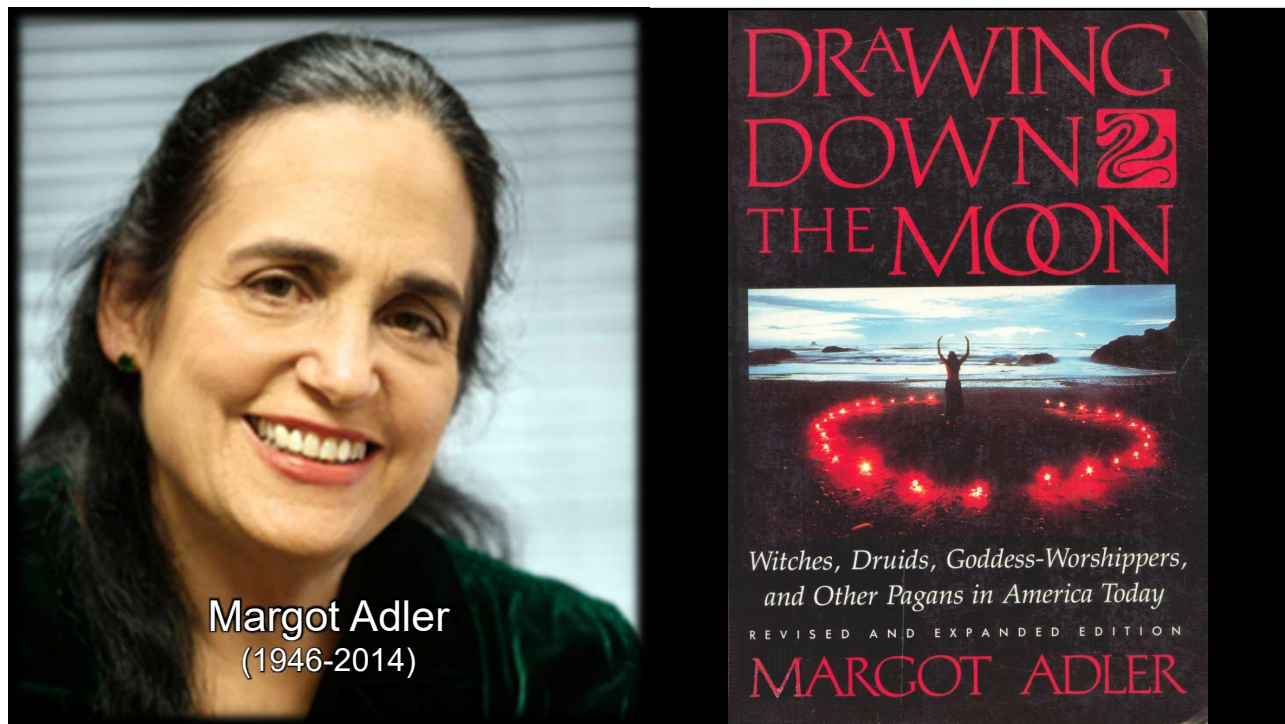






Human Divinity





In our quest for deity, the occult attempts to deceive humans into thinking that we can be like God in His fundamental attributes.

❧Counterfeiting God's Omniscience❧

clairvoyance, fortune-telling, mind reading, ESP, Ouija Board, Tarot Cards, crystal balls, dowsing rods, palm reading, spiritism, necromancy, channeling, etc.



☞Counterfeiting God's Omnipresence☞

astral travel, out-of-the-body experience,
time travel, remote viewing

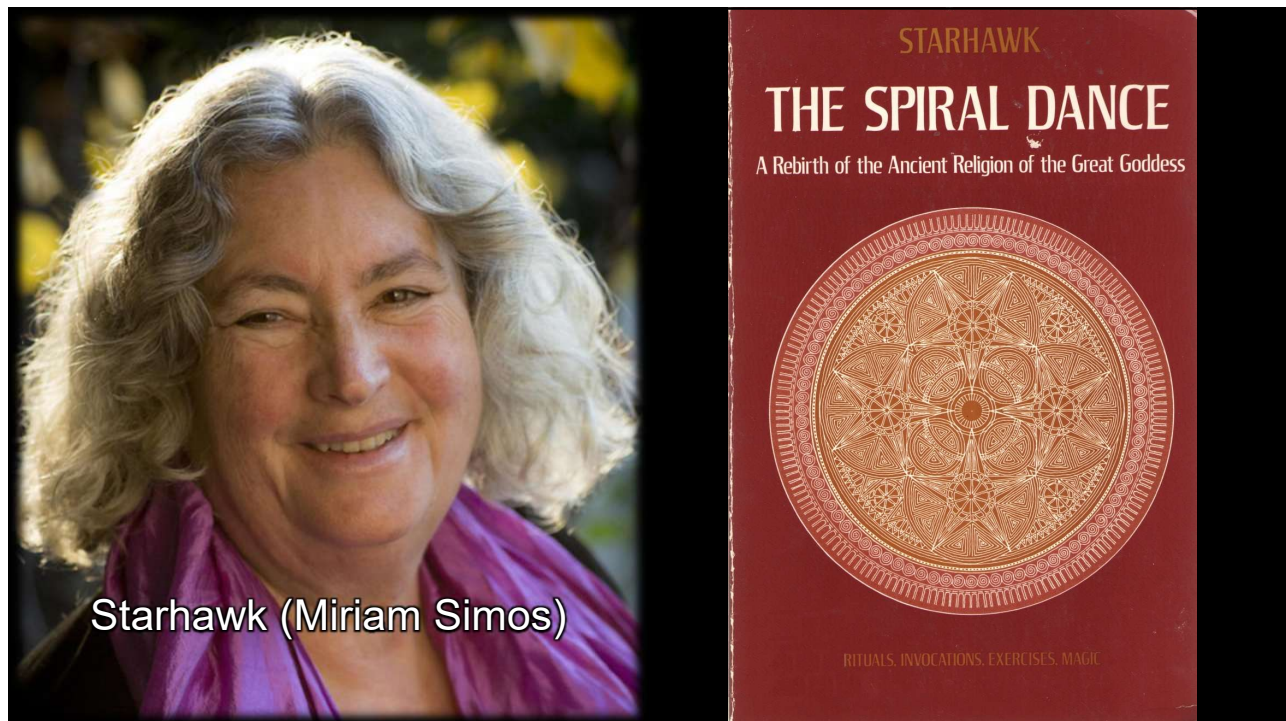


☞Counterfeiting God's Omnipotence☞

psychokinesis, mind power, mind control, spells,
incantations, visualization, creative imagination, guided
imagery



Witchcraft Is Humanistic



Starhawk (Miriam Simos)



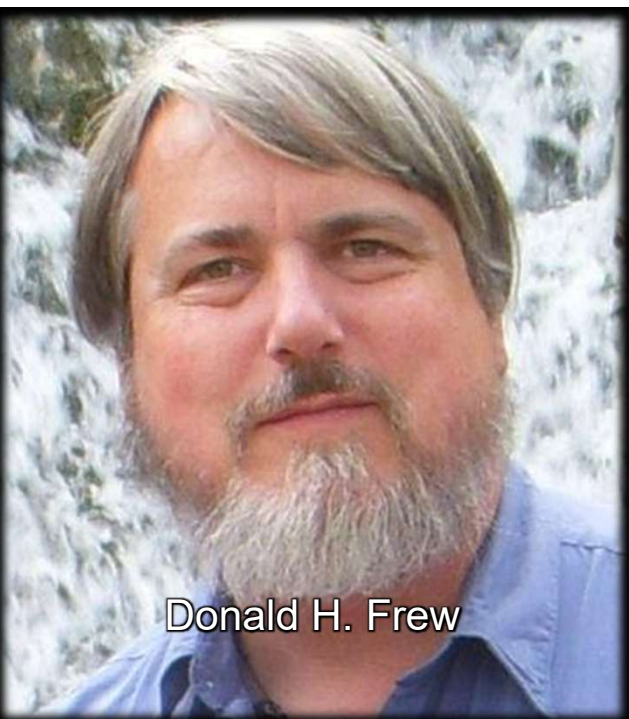
Starhawk (Miriam Simos)

"We can open new eyes and see that there is nothing to be saved from, no struggle of life against the universe, no God outside the world to be feared and obeyed."

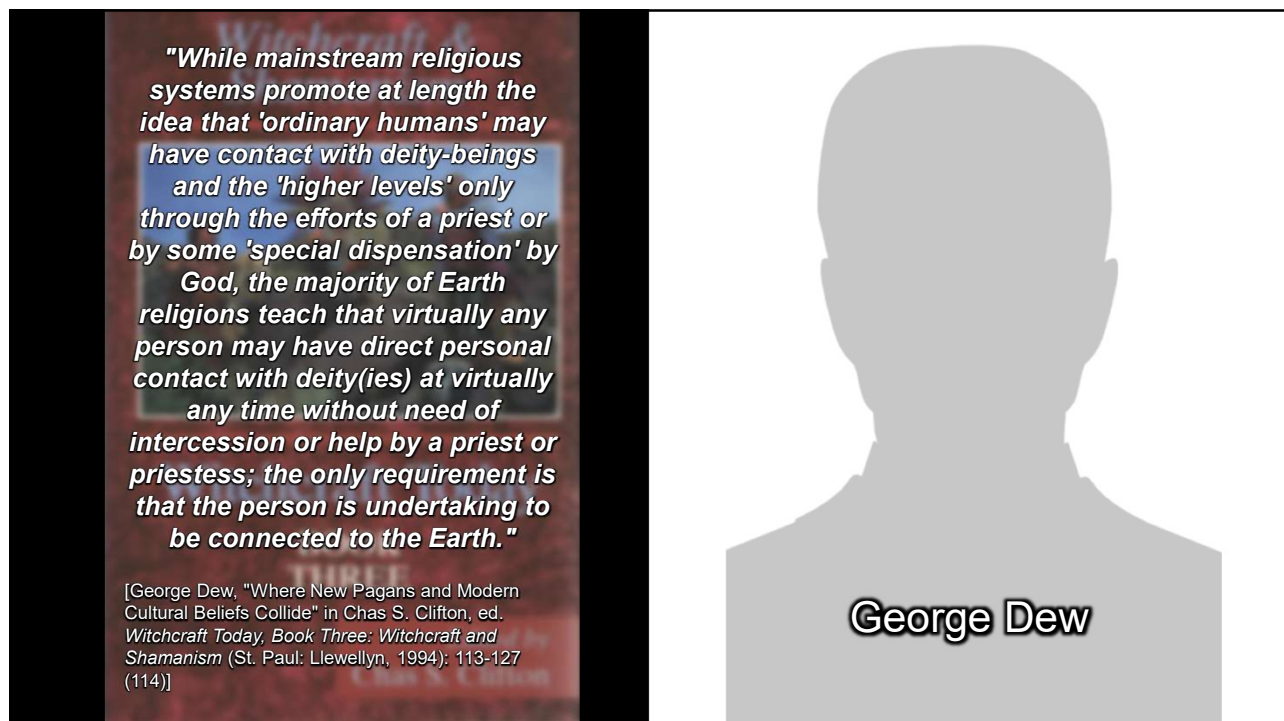
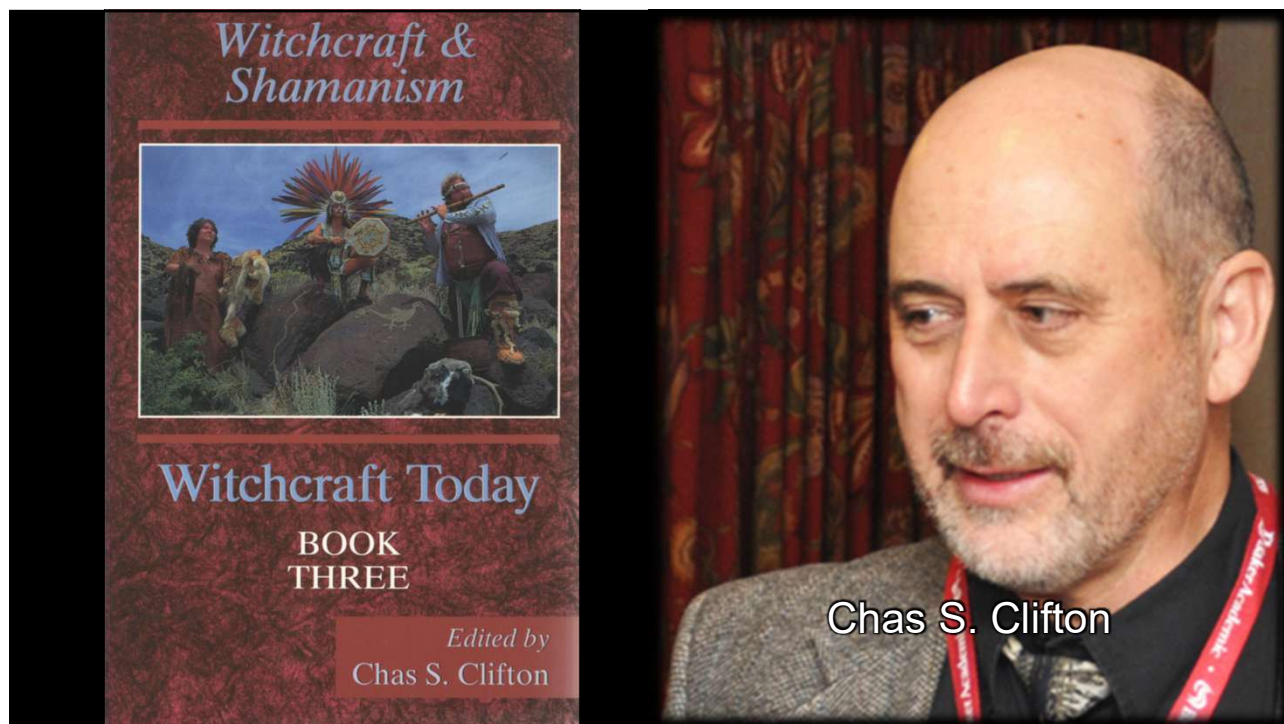
[Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* (San Francisco: Harper and Row Publishers, 1979), 14, emphasis in original]

"How can we achieve salvation, then? We're not even trying to. We don't understand what there is to be saved from. The idea of salvation presupposes a Fall of some kind, a fundamental flaw in Creation as it exists today. Witches look at the world [around] us and see wonder, we see mystery."

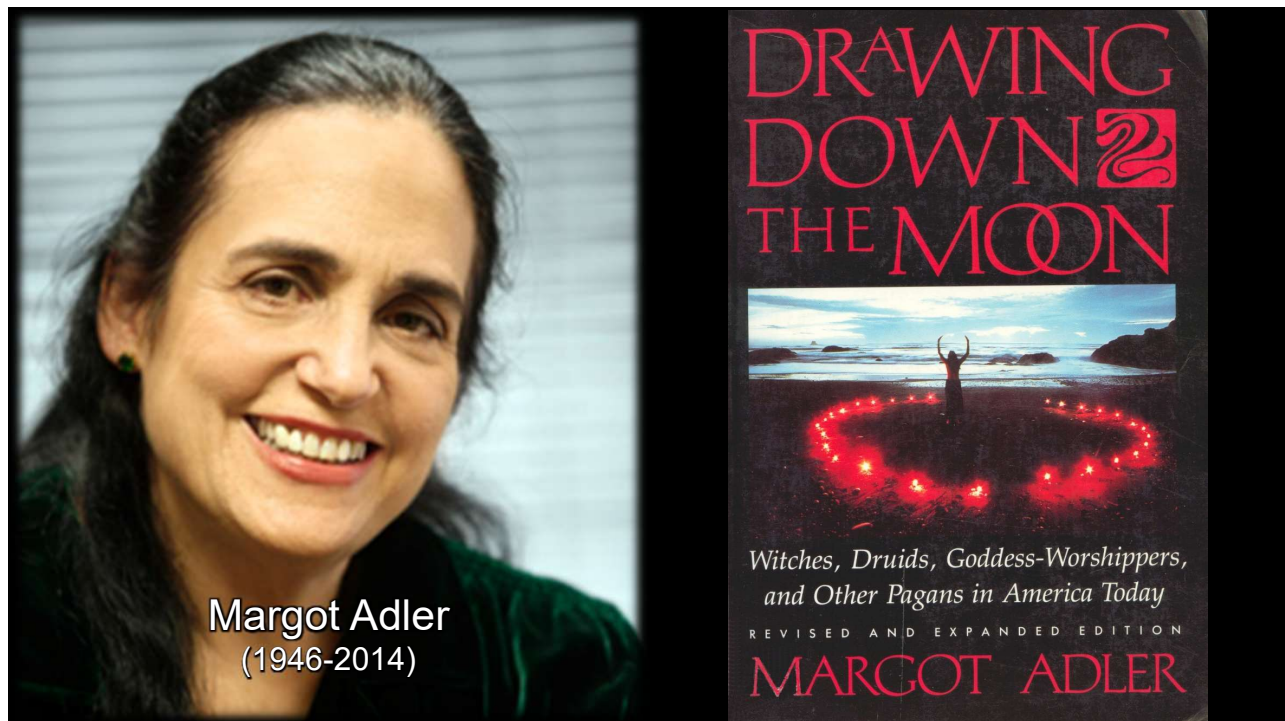
[Donald H. Frew, "Pagans in Interfaith Dialogue: New Faiths, New Challenges," accessed October 20, 2004; available from <http://www.cog.org/pwr/don.htm>]



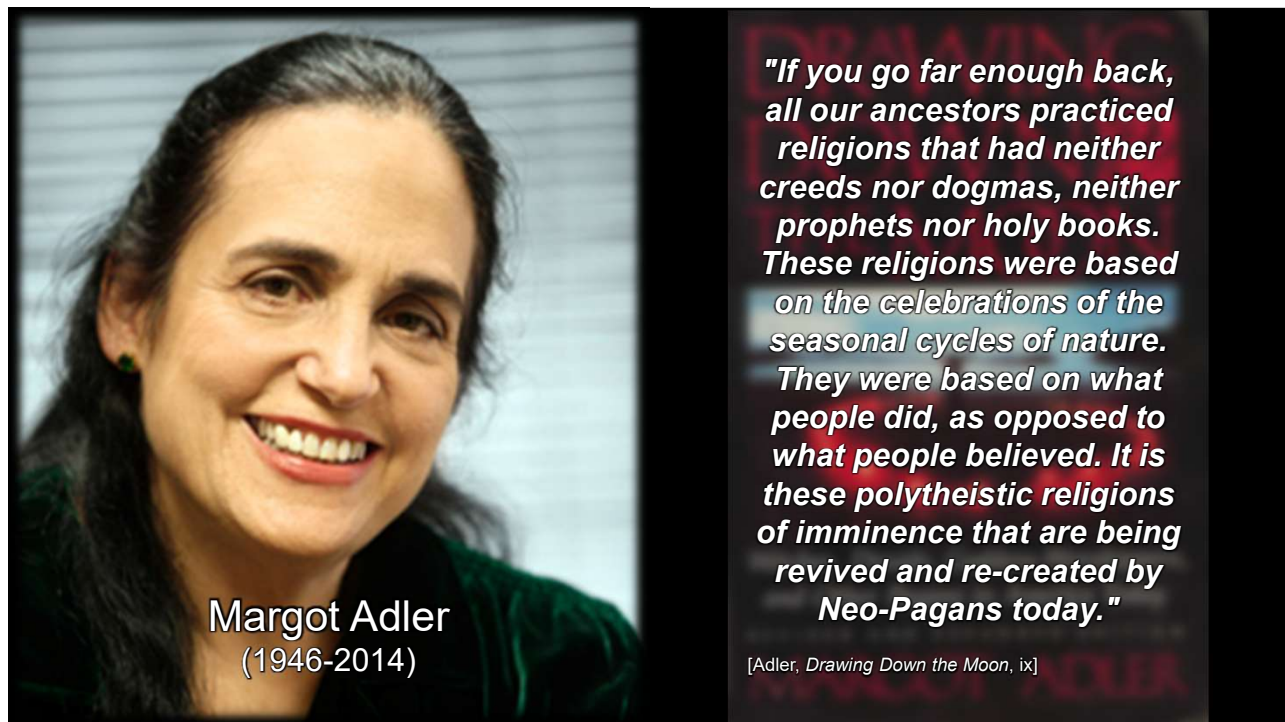
Donald H. Frew



Witchcraft Is a Practice



Margot Adler
(1946-2014)

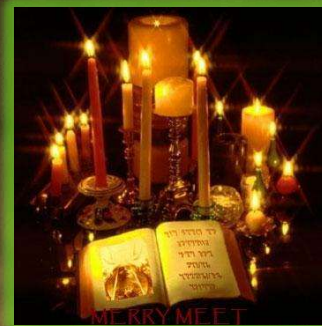


A look through Witchcraft material at the local bookstore will reveal that much of it deals with various rituals and activities that can be perfected in order to manipulate and utilize this cosmic or psychic force to do one's bidding.

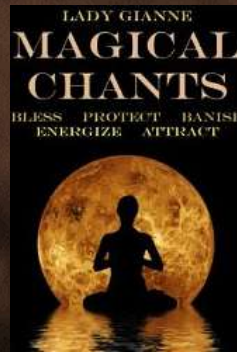
One will find chapters on:
*the various clothing to wear
 (robes, jewelry, horned
 helmet, when one is not
 working naked or "skyclad");*



One will find chapters on:
 the various tools to use
 (candles, herbs, tarot cards,
 talismans, fetishes)



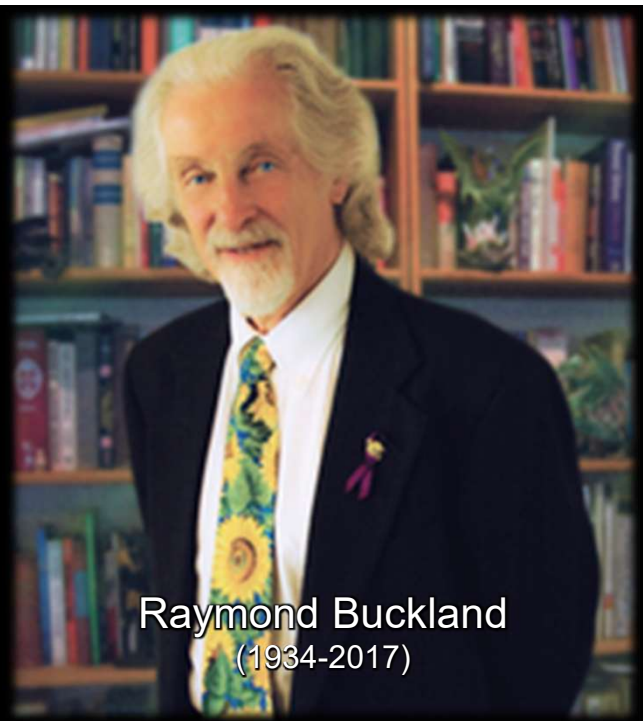
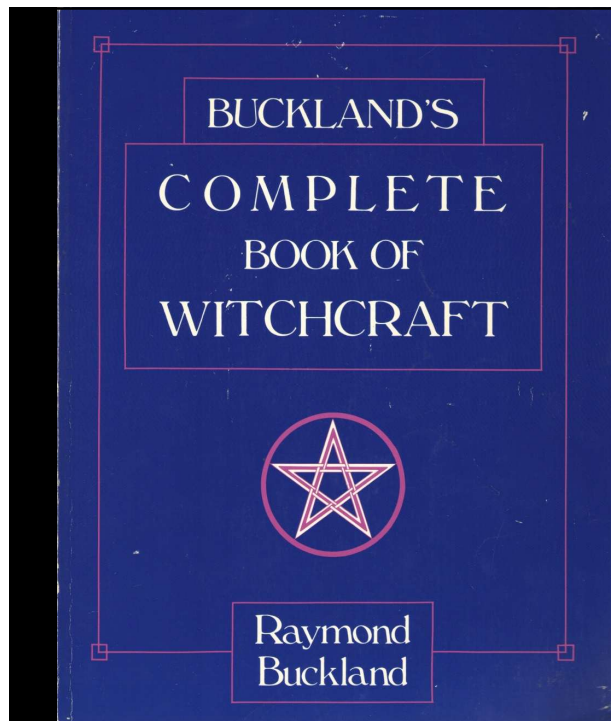
One will find chapters on:
the various rituals to perform
(spells, incantations,
chanting, music, dancing)



All of which enable the practitioner to become open to these forces (if they exist outside) or to conjure up these forces (if the originate from within).

One will learn how to:

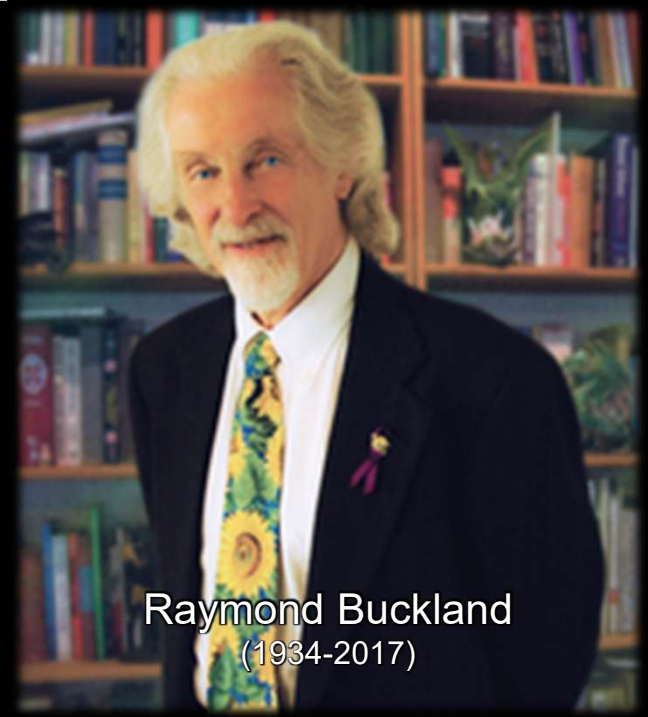
- interpret dreams
- meditate



Raymond Buckland
(1934-2017)

"So, what is meditation? Quite simply it is a listening ... listening to the Higher Self or, if you prefer, the Inner Self, the Creative Force, the Higher Consciousness; even the gods themselves. It can be all of these. Properly used, meditation opens the door to individual growth and personal advancement. Of all the techniques of advancement in the psychic and spiritual fields, meditation is by far the most effective. Coincidentally, it is also the most simple. And it can be practiced alone or in a group setting."

[Raymond Buckland, *Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft* (St. Paul: Llewellyn, 1990), 79.



Raymond Buckland
(1934-2017)

One will learn how to:

- interpret dreams
- meditate
- have out of the body experiences
- speak with the dead
- heal
- read auras



All of these activities are designed to do two things: to enhance the well-being of one's self or those around them and to actualize one's own divinity.



What
Witchcraft
Is Not

Witchcraft Is Not Satanism

∞ Comparisons ∞

Both are occult religions.



Witchcraft



Satanism

∞ Comparisons ∞

Both stand in stark contrast to Christianity in their repudiation of the role of Jesus in effecting the salvation of mankind in as much as both deny that mankind is in any need of salvation.



Witchcraft



Satanism

∞ Contrasts ∞

What criminal activity that can be associated with occultism is usually associated with some form of self-styled Satanism.



Witchcraft



Satanism

Contrasts

Satanism is more often associated with an attitude of self-aggrandizement rather than a sense of community that characterizes most Witchcraft.



Witchcraft



Satanism

Contrasts

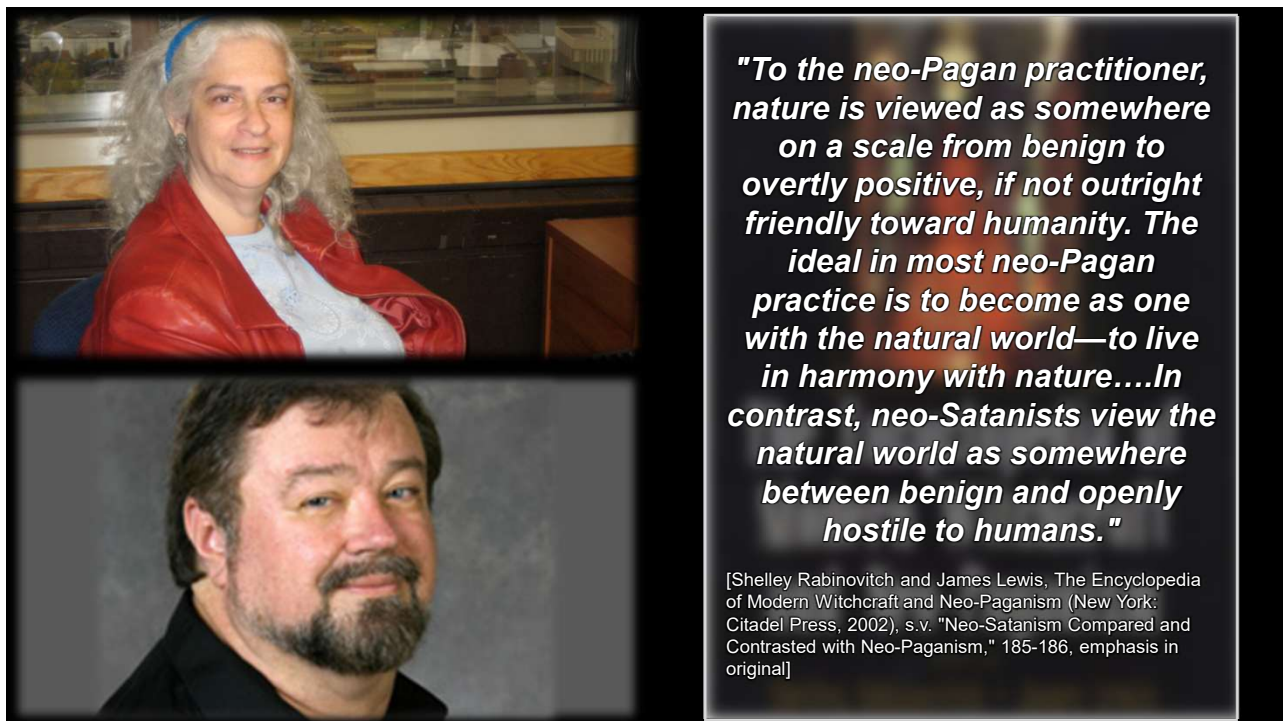
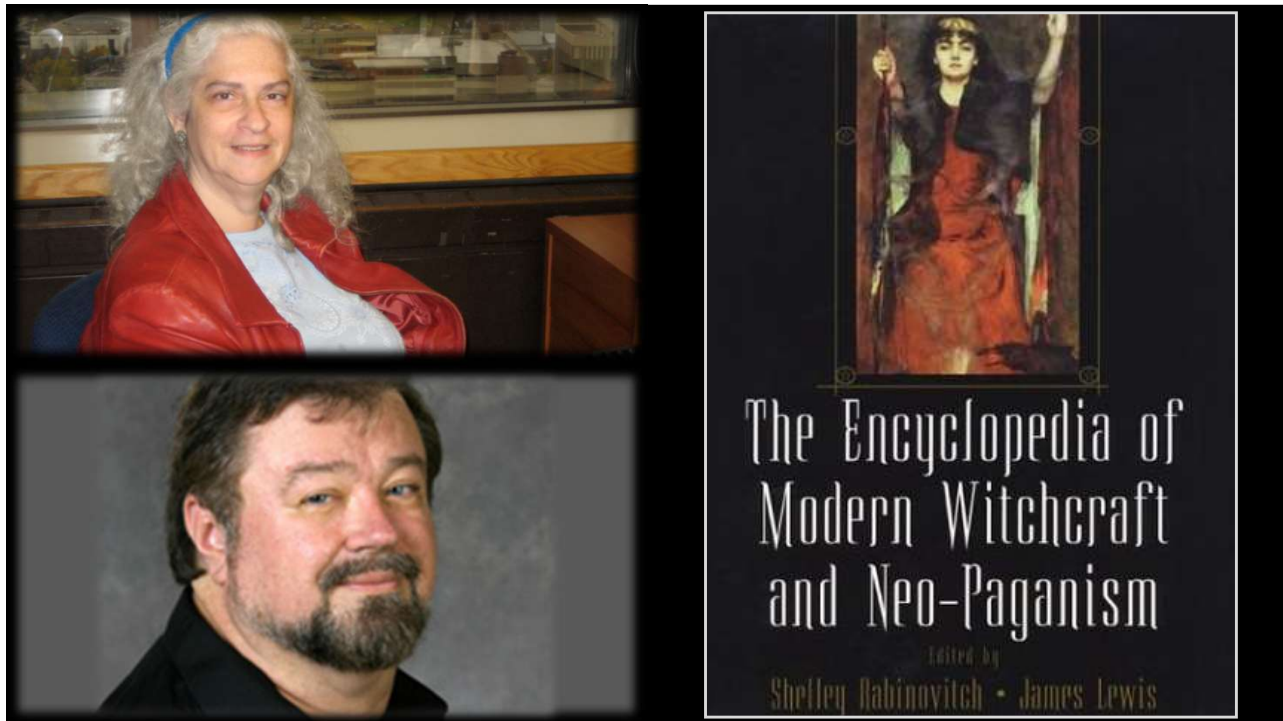
They differ somewhat in their respective views of nature and humanity.

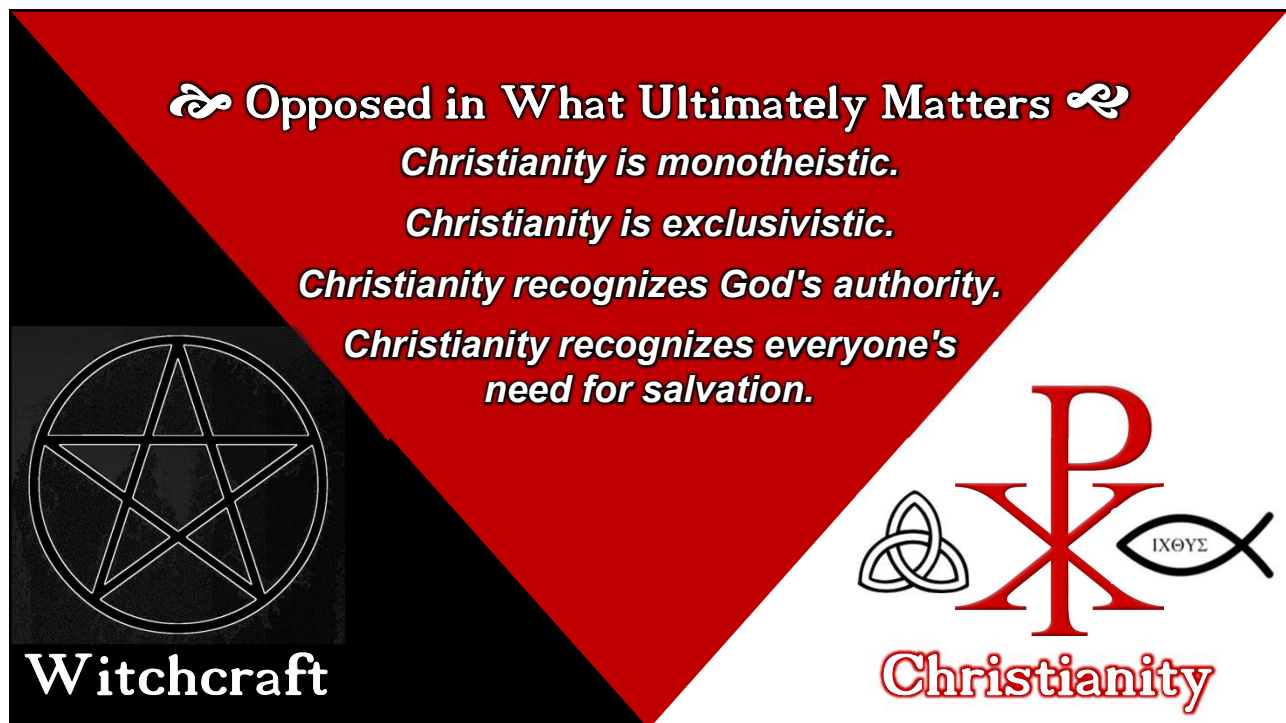


Witchcraft



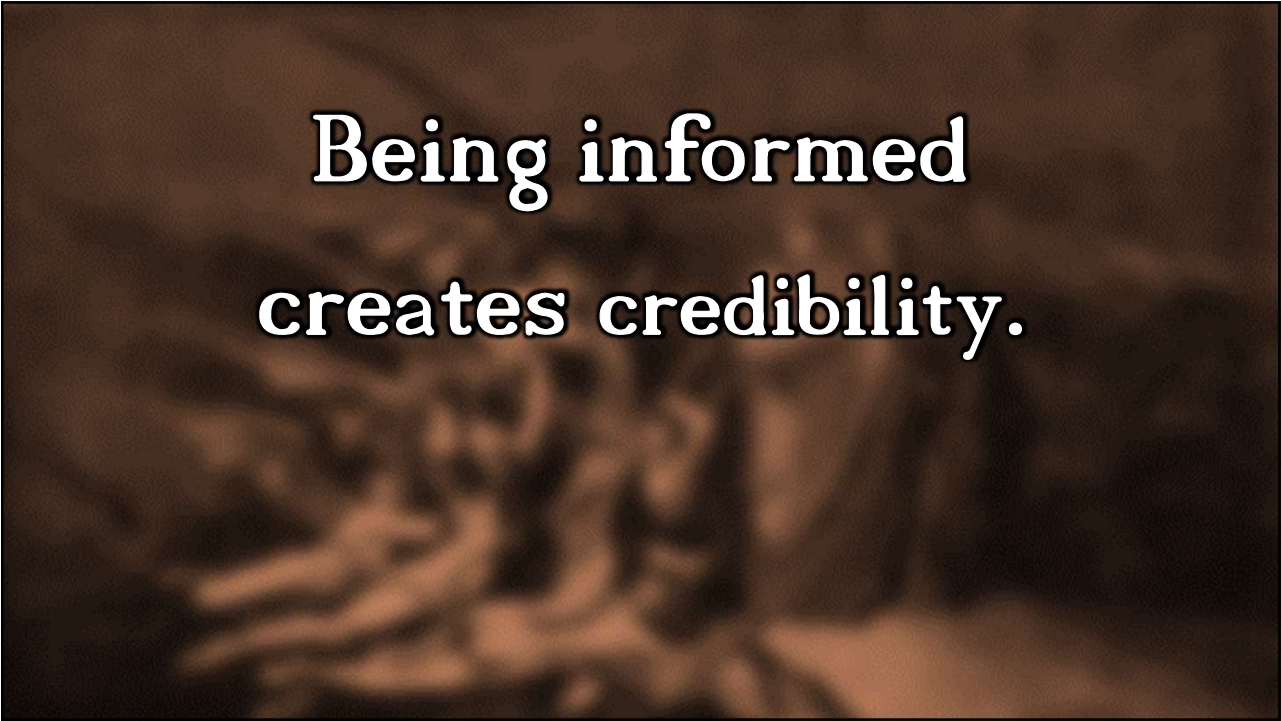
Satanism



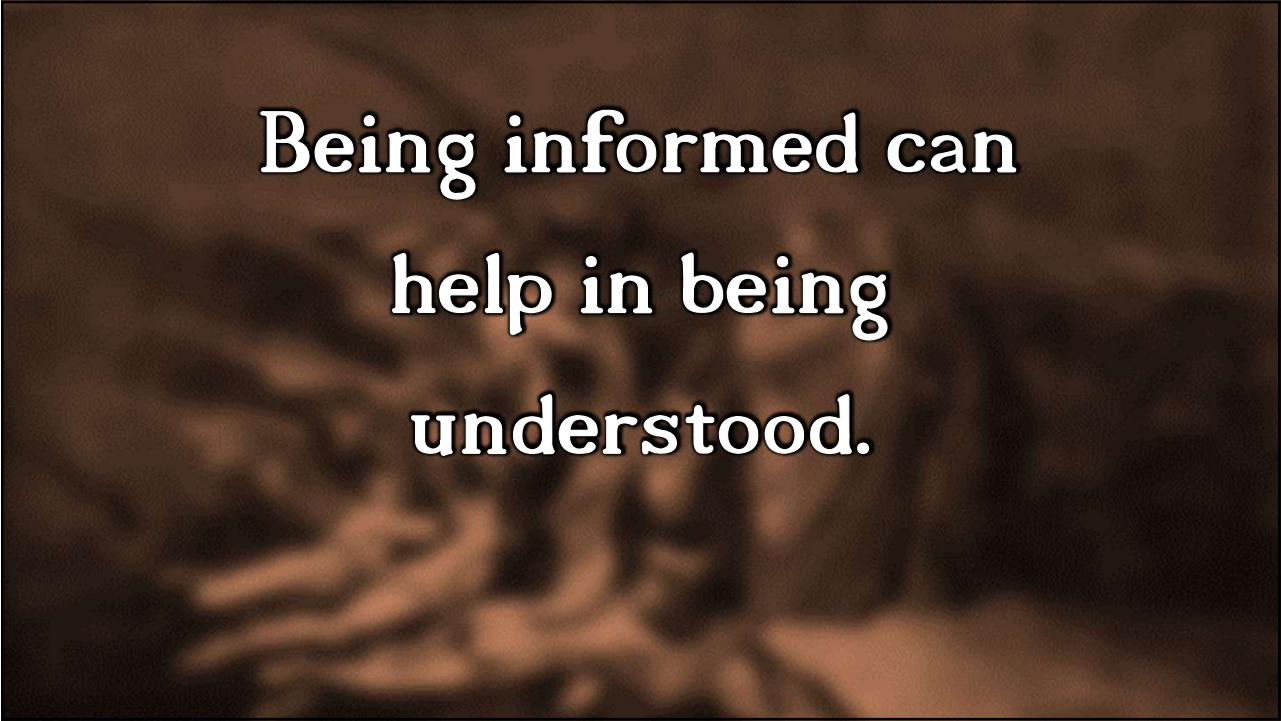




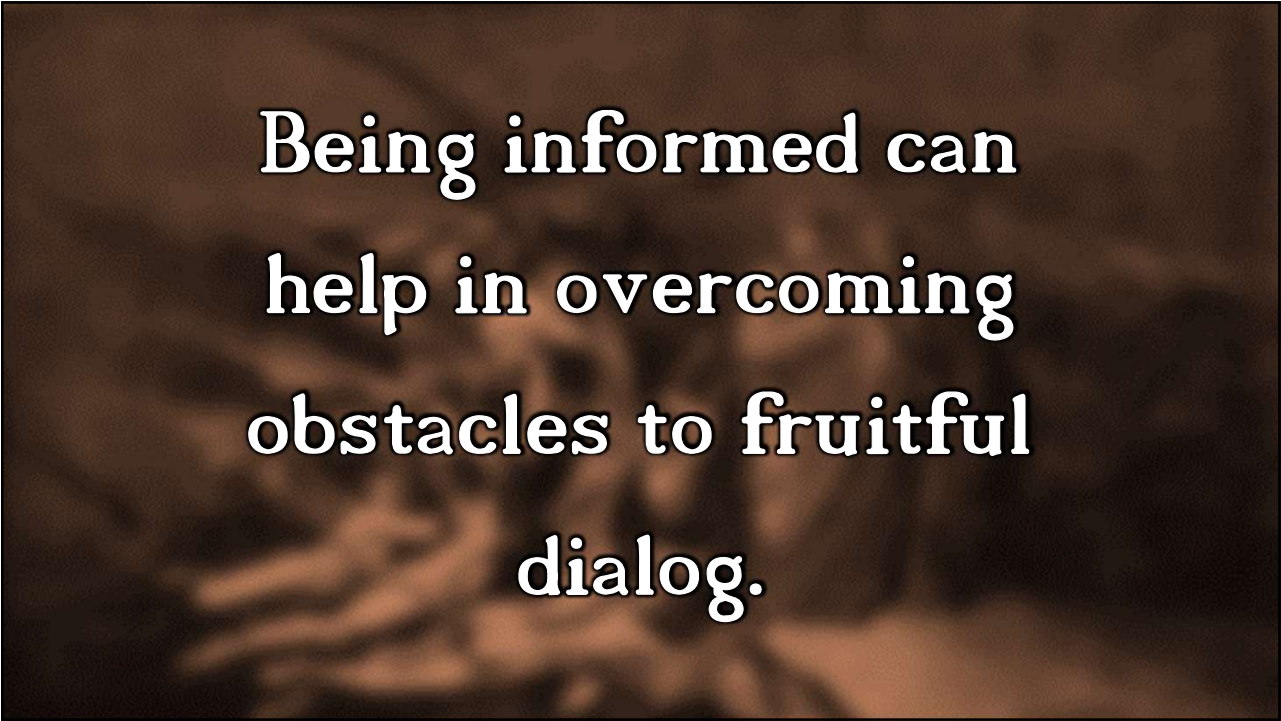
Responding to Witchcraft



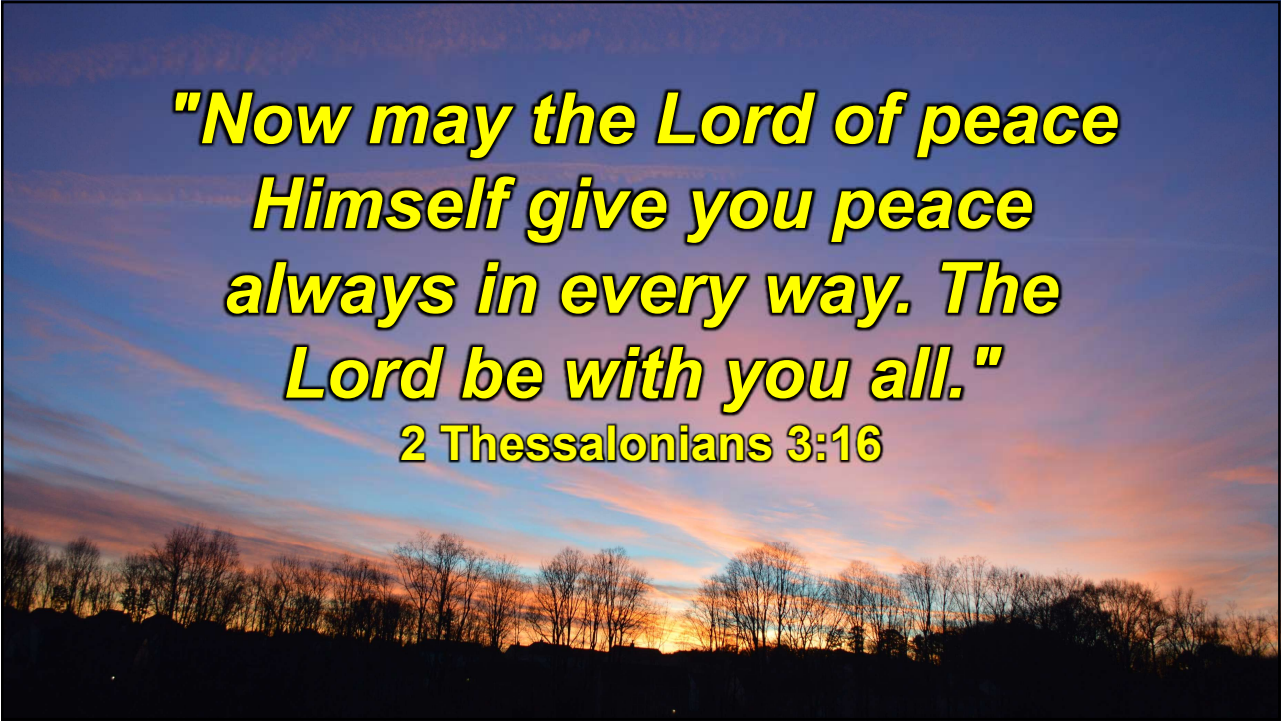
Being informed
creates credibility.



Being informed can
help in being
understood.



Being informed can
help in overcoming
obstacles to fruitful
dialog.



***"Now may the Lord of peace
Himself give you peace
always in every way. The
Lord be with you all."
2 Thessalonians 3:16***